



*City of Rochester, New
Hampshire*

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street □ Rochester, NH 03867

(603) 332-1167

www.RochesterNH.gov

March 13, 2024

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting **March 20, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Minutes from February 21, 2024 Public Safety Meeting pages 1-5
3. Public Input
4. Lowell Street- Street Light between Westview and Royal Crest page (kept in committee)
5. Meaderboro Rd/ RT 202A- Intersection (kept in committee)
6. Traffic Circle /Walnut St- Signage/ Speeding (kept in committee)
7. Portland St/ Salmon Falls Rd- Accidents & Salmon Falls Rd- Traffic Speed and Enforcement (kept in committee)
8. Salmon Falls Rd- Traffic Speed and Enforcement
9. Jamie Drive- Signage (Prescott Estates MHP) (kept in committee)
10. Hanson Street- Going Wrong Direction
11. Rt 125/ Oak St Intersection- Traffic Light Timing page 6
12. Other

cc.

Mayor and City Council
Chief Gary Boudreau
Deputy Chief Andrew Swanberry
Fire Chief Dennis Dube
Mr. Jarrod Norris
Mr. Timothy Goldthwaite
Ms. Lisa Clark

**Public Safety Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Timothy Fontneau, Chair
Councilor Bryan Karolian, Vice Chair
Councilor Chuck Creteau
Councilor Kevin Sullivan

Members Absent

Councilor David Herman

Others Present

Deputy Chief Andrew Swanberry, PD
Jarrod Norris, P.E. Assistant City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician

Councilor Fontneau brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from January 17, 2024 Public Safety Meeting Councilor Creteau *MOVED to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.*

2. Public Input

No public present for input.

3. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion, Chestnut Street-Speed Control & Rangeway Drive

Councilor Fontneau summarized items 4, 5 & 6, these are open items kept in committee for a few months and are from the prior session. He asked if there is any new information on these items. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated he had no new information and would keep these in mind for the speed patrols moving forward. Councilor Fontneau recommended removing these three items from the agenda. He said that removing them doesn't mean that the items cannot be brought up again if a resident has an issue again. ***Councilor Creteau MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

4. Lowell Street- Streetlight between Westview and Royal Crest

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. He asked if Deputy Chief Swanberry had anything new on this. Deputy Chief Swanberry said this was discussed and he believes that this is an eligible location. Mr. Norris stated that for the 18W fixture it is \$201 plus some additional administrative and installation costs. Councilor Fontneau said at the last meeting there was a concern with the residents in the area, with the

streetlight shining in their homes. Councilor Fontneau stated that the email said that there have been a few accidents in the area and pedestrian traffic has increased in the area. Councilor Fontneau asked does the committee want to request a streetlight installed. Councilor Sullivan said they did discuss it last month and no one showed up for or against it. Mr. Norris stated that the cost for a new light is less than \$500. Councilor Creteau said to be clear this is an existing pole that the light would be installed on this would create better light for the area. The two draw backs he sees are it would be \$500 and anyone in the general area may not like a light shining into their house. He stated the opposite of that is we have a higher level of safety due to traffic and it meets compliance. Councilor Karolian said this was an email received that does not state who requested it. Councilor Sullivan suggested keeping in committee to see if someone will come forward in in the next month on the issue. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

5. Charles Street- Flashing light / Signage

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Swanberry said this was for the intersection of Charles Street and Knight Street it brought up at last month's meeting. Extra patrols were done in the area, ten traffic stops were made no summons were issued, three stops were for stop sign violations. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated that they hope even when they are not proactively patrolling the area that there will be a lingering effect. Councilor Creteau asked Deputy Chief Swanberry in his professional opinion does he see a need for a flashing yellow light. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated he does not have any data showing that is a particular dangerous Intersection, there are a lot of people on foot in that area and that keeps traffic slow at times. He stated that only three out of the ten stops were stop sign violations he doesn't believe the data supports it. Councilor Karolian asked if the City has a metric or a way to measure car verses cyclist and pedestrian's accidents and fatalities. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated that he has that data available, but it would take him a little time to run. He said he could do it and have that available for the next meeting. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

6. Chamberlain Street- Sidewalks

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. Councilor Creteau said that he took a drive over to the area between Chamberlain School down to Whitehall Road. The resident that discussed this with the Council last month said he has had at least ten incidents that have happened while walking over the last few years. Councilor Creteau said he went back over today to review the area and met a woman walking her dog, he stopped and asked the women her thoughts and she said that she has had multiple times she has had to get off because cars coming too fast. He said this area is not ideal for walking a dog or just walking yourself. Councilor Fontneau asked if Public Works has looked into this area, if it is in the ten-year plan. Mr. Norris said this is not in any plan at this time. He did look more into the cost to put a sidewalk in this area

and after factoring in curbs and drainage and other obstacles it would be around \$800,000. Mr. Norris said this is more of a rural area and could become more urban developed in the future. This is not on the plan to fund in the near future, Mr. Norris said. Councilor Fontneau said that the City is required to plow and sand during winter and this can put a pause on adding sidewalks throughout the City. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

7. Meaderboro Rd/ RT202A- Intersection

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. Mr. Norris said DPW Director Mr. Nourse had requested \$500,000 for FY2025 budget to address the concerns at this intersection. There are three legs of this intersection that is State maintained, Public Works will work with the State. Councilor Karolian recommended to keep in committee to get updates regularly on the project. **Councilor Karolian MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

8. Traffic Circle/ Walnut St- Signage/ Speeding

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. Councilor Creteau said he lives at the third house and is seeing once they are off the circle they speed up and the first thing they see is a 30 mph sign. He would recommend that the sign changed to a 25 mph sign and a blind driveway sign so people understand people maybe backing out of their driveway from the apartment building, the first driveway on the right. Councilor Karolian asked if Public Works has an inventory of signs that are commonly used in the City. Mr. Norris stated there is an inventory of general signage available. With the image showing on the screen of the turn on to Walnut Street Councilor Creteau explain the concern the resident that spoke last month has. Councilor Sullivan stated he went to the area to view, and he agrees that is a tough spot for sure and would recommend taking off one section of the fence. Mr. Norris stated that after the last meeting they reviewed the location with the contractor, and they removed a panel of the fencing. Councilor Fontneau said that to change a speed limit this would need to be brought to the City Council. Councilor Karolian said that he has seen crosswalks with large wide humps, and this may be enough to get traffic to slow down, and easier than changing the speed limit. Mr. Norris stated that they did see the resident when they were out taking pictures of the fence and she was happy with the section being removed but still concerned with speeding. Councilor Creteau stated that he and his neighbors are still concerned with the vehicles coming out of the circle at an accelerated pace. His recommendation would be to decrease the speed limit to get people to slow down. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated they did do 23 direct patrols in the area and only made 5 stops and that is pretty low. He said he can get the speed trailer out there but would not be able to until spring to see what data they get. Councilor Sullivan said he would defer to the recommendation of the best approach from Public Works and/or the Police Department. Councilor Karolian requested Public Works to revisit this to see if the plow trucks cannot negotiate speed tables there. Mr. Norris stated they are working with an engineer that designed the circle and they can

reach back out to them for recommendations. Councilor Karolian said he would like to look into the requirements of changing the speed limit under the City's code and regulations. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Karolian seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

9. Portland Street/ Salmon Falls Road & Accidents Salmon Falls Road – Speed and Enforcement

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue and asked Deputy Chief Swanberry if he had any record of the recent accidents at this location. Deputy Chief Swanberry said that he does not consider this a major issue as far as traffic control. This is a four way stop and it is very visible as you are approaching. He said he can get direct patrols in the area as well as for the next item on the agenda Salmon Falls Road. Councilor Fontneau he agrees that he thinks this is distracted driving. He said he has heard of the concern at the intersection when there are two schools getting out at the same time with the increase of traffic. Councilor Fontneau said the current posted speed limits are not consistent on Salmon Falls Road and the committee should look at that in the future. Councilor Sullivan asked about traffic backing up at the East Rochester School during drop off and pick up times. Councilor Fontneau said that during the back up cars have to go around in the left lane and at the same time there are vehicles exiting the school taking a left heading up the hill. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Karolian seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

10. Jamey Drive- Signage (Prescott Estates MHP)

Councilor Fontneau summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated that someone would not be following the law whether it be speed or not using their turn signal. Councilor Fontneau said maybe they could add this when patrolling. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated that this is a road they patrol frequently it is a known cut around to get around downtown. They will add this issue to the roster. Mr. Norris stated that it appears that the area has good site distance. Deputy Chief Swanberry said he does not have any data on this, but he will look into it. Mr. Norris said he would be concerned there is always a risk when putting up a sign it can obscuring from something else or deterring from other signs on the street. **Councilor Creteau MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Karolian seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

11. Other

Councilor Fontneau asked if anyone has any other items. Deputy Chief Swanberry said that they did 16 direct extra patrols on Flat Rock Bridge Road as it was brought up last month. Councilor Creteau said a new business owner on Hanson Street said that in the first month of her being over there she has had four cars going the wrong way. Councilor Creteau is looking to get insight on why this may be happening so much in the last month. Deputy Chief Swanberry would think it is someone not familiar with town, he thinks it is properly marked. Councilor Fontneau asked if they

could get a follow up.

Councilor Karolian ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:01 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Ronda Boisvert, Administrative Assistant II

Ronda Boisvert

From: Timothy Fontneau
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:33 AM
To: Ronda Boisvert; Bryan Karolian
Subject: Public Safety

Here is the issue mentioned in my last email:

Issue: The intersection in Gonic where Rt. 125 (North/South) intersects with Oak St. (West side of intersection) & Colby St. (Eastern side). When the light turns green for the Oak St./Colby St. vehicles both sides are allowed to go at the same time. This doesn't work and there are many near misses with the left turning vehicles and the oncoming cars trying cross over straight. The overall feeling is that this intersection was not designed for "simultaneous" traffic.

Tim Fontneau
Rochester City Council Ward 1
603-332-0607

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