

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
August 19, 2015
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chair
Councilor Peter Lachapelle (excused)
Councilor Jake Collins
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Donald Hamann

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
John Storer, PE, Director of City Services
Deputy Chief Scott Dumas, P.D
Michael Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Tetu-45 Pine Street
John Bozak – 20 Woodman Street
Brian Marshall – 17 Woodman Street
Scott Laughlin – 9 Granite Street
Kathy Auclair – William Allen – Neighbor

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Public Input**

Mr. Tetu of 45A Pine Street spoke regarding the no parking area in front of 45 Pine Street located at the intersection of Waldron Avenue. He stated that a recent decision by this board, The Public Safety Committee, has taken away his ability to park in front of his residence. He stated that he had called the DPW and was told that it was done because of safety concerns with sight distance for school children walking in the sidewalks. Mr. Tetu stated that the cars causing the problems are parents dropping off kids and picking up kids at the Maple Street School. He stated that if the City is going to restrict parking at crosswalks then it should be done at all locations not just at this area near the school. He stated that there are other crosswalks in his neighborhood and around the City that in his opinion are just as dangerous and more. He stated he would provide pictures if necessary. Councilor Lachapelle stated that in the area of Maple Street there is a traffic problem at drop off and pick up times for children attending school. Councilor Lachapelle further stated that the situation is not unique to the Maple Street area, it is happening at most of the schools all over the City. Councilor Lachapelle stated that the schools were built at a time when children were walking to school and now that this is not the case there is insufficient street width and parking available to accommodate all of this traffic. Councilor Walker stated that safety is the important issue and the decision made for that area was for the safety of children that are forced to walk out in front of

parked cars to peak around them to see if vehicles are coming down the street. Mr. Tetu again stated that he is not happy with the no parking area in front of his residence and he stated that the Public Safety Committee should look for alternatives or make it the policy city wide. He also stated that it was an arbitrary decision made, and he referenced that the City Councilor living in the same neighborhood is allowed to park in front of his house which is has a similar position to an intersection. Councilor Lachapelle stated that they could look at the area again. Mr. Tetu stated he would be back for next month's meeting.

2. **Traffic Flow at William Allen School**

There were many residents of the William Allen School area present. Mr. Bozak of 20 Woodman Street passed out a memo with pictures to the Committee. See Attachment -1. He stated that he and many of his neighbors have concerns regarding the traffic pattern set up around the school to accommodate parents dropping off and picking up students. Mr. Bozak stated that prior to construction, which is now past the 2 year mark, parents were entering the school for pickup from Granite Street. He stated that for construction purposes this was changed to the current pattern using Myrtle and Woodman Streets to allow for pick up on Davy Anne Locke Lane. Mr. Bozak stated that now the school has stated that the plan is to continue with this method to facilitate bus traffic. He stated that for the 4-6 buses using the front entrance, this plan is disrupting numerous residents who are unable to get out or into their homes at the time that cars are all lined up. He stated some parents are lined up as early as an hour and half prior to pick up times and some refuse to move for 1-2 hours as they are picking up kindergarten and older kids, which get out at different times. Mr. Laughlin from 9 Granite Street stated that the disregard and disrespect in the area has nearly come to physical blows. He stated he has difficulty getting out to go to work every morning. He is asking that the Committee look into some type of change. Councilor Walker stated that staff and the school department have been working together to try to alleviate the problem, but the problem is not going to go away. He referenced the previous topic of the Maple Street school. He stated the large number of parents dropping off and picking up is a problem at all schools and it is not going to go away. Ms. Auclair stated that she has concerns for parents allowing children to exit vehicles on the left side, which puts them in the roadway. Councilor Walker stated that the Committee could make the entire area no parking but that would interfere with home owners who need the on street parking. Mr. Bozak suggested parking by permit only between certain hours. Councilors Walker and Lachapelle stated that this Committee could address parking issues and safety issues in numerous ways, but the School Department sets the policy on how the kids enter and leave the property. Mr. Hopkins stated that the School Department is going to start the first day of school with parent notification letters and staff assistance out in the driveways. The letters will state that

cars cannot line up prior to certain times, and staff will be out there to remind them. Mr. Hopkins stated that the letters would also address exiting the cars on the right side for safety. Mr. Marshall from 17 Woodman Street stated that he like the idea of permitted parking, but he also suggested the School Department encourage drop off at a designated area such as Woodman Park on Charles Street. Mr. Tetu suggested the City purchase properties and build parking lots. Mr. Hopkins stated that the notification letters may be written to encourage parents to use alternate areas for drop off for the older grades, but for parents of kindergarten and 1st and 2nd graders that would be a safety concern. Councilor Walker suggested that the topic be discussed at next month's Public Safety Committee meeting. He stated that by that time the school will have been in session for several weeks and Mr. Hopkins suggestions may have had an impact. Councilor Collins suggested that Mr. Hopkins involve the newspapers in bringing attention to this matter. He stated that typically there is a back to school article and that the topic of safe and considerate parking around schools could be addressed. Mr. Hopkins stated that he would see if he could get the press involved.

3. **North Main Street/ Dewey Street Crosswalk**

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He stated that Mr. Harrington has sent an email expressing concern for safety at this crosswalk. Mr. Harrington also supplied the picture below to show where the parking spot abuts the crosswalk to show how close a car is to the crosswalk. He stated that because the parking spot is so close, the pedestrians cannot safely exit the sidewalk because they cannot see around parked cars, nor can the vehicle operators see the pedestrian until they are in the street.



Councilor Gates made a motion to recommend the full council approve a parking sign that state no parking from here to the crosswalk. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Ten Rod Road / North Main Street Intersection**

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He stated that Mr. Harrington has sent an email expressing concern for safety at this intersection. He stated cars are exiting CVS Parking lot to go straight onto Ten Rod Road or are turning south toward town. Mr. Harrington further noted that cars are exiting Ten Rod Road and going straight to CVS or turning north to Rt11 Farmington Road. He would like to see a delayed green arrow for cars exiting the CVS in order to move traffic through safely. Mr. Bezanson stated that he would have staff look to see if a delayed green light is an option with existing equipment.

5. **Other**

Church Street / 125 – Councilor Lachapelle stated that there is a bush on the green space that is growing and causing a safe site distance problem. Mr. Bezanson stated he would have staff cut it back.

Liberty Street No Parking Sign – Councilor Lachapelle stated that there is a no parking sign on this street that he would like to have the PD enforce. Deputy Chief Dumas stated that he would pass the concern on.

Wakefield Street Union Street intersection – Councilor Lachapelle stated that cars are exiting and entering from the corner parking lot to and from Union Street. He stated this is causing a problem because as cars are rounding the corner they are watching for that traffic and they are not seeing the yield sign on the island. He suggested an additional yield sign to be placed just prior to the corner on Wakefield Street. After a brief discussion the following motion was made.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend the full council approve a yield sign to be placed just before the intersection of Union Street on Wakefield Street. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Downtown Speeding – Councilor Lachapelle stated that he wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention that the speed limit is 30 mile per hour through the downtown and he is not sure of how fast traffic is moving but it seems a lot faster than that at times.

Whitehall Road Railroad Crossing – Councilor Collins noted that the bump was substantial and he appreciates the DPW working with the Railroad to correct the issue. He stated that it has slowed the traffic down some. Mr. Storer stated that the field supervisor for the railroad will be back on Monday and that he would be in contact to get the situation corrected.

98 Hansonvill Road - Deputy Chief Dumas stated that Mr. Brown had shown concern for speeders and the dedicated patrols had not observed any speeders. He stated this issue is closed.

North Main Street – Dominoes cut through – Deputy Chief Dumas stated that 4 summons for using this parking lot as a cut through had been issued and he is leaving the issue open.

Madison / Roy Street Speeding Concern – Deputy Chief Dumas stated that there was one summons issued but stated that is typical and he was closing this issue.

Charles Street Crosswalk and Speeding – Mr. Bezanson stated that the DPW had received a concern about safety in this crosswalk and speeding on Charles Street and suggested the speed trailer be place in the area. Deputy Chief stated he would follow up.

Councilor Gates made a motion for adjournment at 8:12 PM. Councilor Collins seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, City of Rochester Office Manager.