

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 1 JUNKINS AVENUE

Members of the public also had the option to join the meeting over Zoom

6:30 PM

March 15, 2023

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Chairman Andrew Bagley
Steve Pesci
Erica Wygonik (Alternate)
Public Works Director Peter Rice
City Manager Karen Conard
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Mary Lou McElwain
Mark Syracuse
Fire Chief William McQuillen

Absent

Harold Whitehouse (excused)

City Staff Present:

Parking Director Ben Fletcher
City Engineer – Parking, Transportation and Planning Eric Eby
Associate Engineer Tyler Reese
Assistant City Engineer Zach Cronin

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:05:32] Karen Conard moved to accept the Financial Report dated January 31, 2023, and place it on file, seconded by Peter Rice. **On a unanimous vote, motion passed 9-0.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

This is the time for all comments on any of the agenda items or non-agenda items.

[00:05:42] There were six speakers: Jonathan Sandberg spoke regarding pedestrian crossing at Bartlett Street and Islington Street traffic signal. Petra Huda commented on Woodbury Avenue, as well as inquired about the cost of the Bartlett Street and Thornton Street roundabout trial. Kenneth Ferrer commented on Woodbury Avenue and spoke in support of changes at Market and Daniel Streets. Matthew Glenn (Z) spoke in support of Woodbury Avenue traffic calming, Sagamore Avenue shoulder improvements, and commented on the multi-use path under I-95. Justin Richardson commented on Woodbury Avenue pedestrian crossing. Anne Poubeau spoke in support of traffic calming measures on Woodbury and Sagamore Avenues and commented on the need for a flashing light at Bartlett and Cate Streets.

V. PRESENTATIONS

[00:18:44] Speed Limit Review Progress Report, by speed limit working group members.

Questions from the public were taken following the presentation. Alice Wahl had questions regarding the process of parking and traffic requests. Liza Hewitt requested more examples of road classifications and voiced support for a citywide speed limit.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

(No public comment during Committee discussion without Committee approval.)

A. [01:03:13] Daniel Street, request for lighted flashing stop sign at Market Square, by resident. Peter Rice moved to place on file, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion passed on a unanimous vote, 9-0.** The Committee is working on a comprehensive overview of Market Square.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. [01:03:45] Woodbury Avenue, request for traffic calming, by residents. Peter Rice made a motion to hold an additional public meeting to present the revised plan incorporating speed cushions. Seconded by Karen Conard. **On a unanimous vote, motion passed 9-0.** Eric Eby gave a brief review of the modified plan.

B. [01:16:35] Dennett Street, request for traffic calming, by residents. Mark Syracuse made a motion to approve a temporary bump-out north of Sparhawk Street, seconded by Karen Conard. Public outreach will be conducted prior to implementation of the pilot, and if there is negative feedback from the public, there will be a report back to the Committee prior to implementation. **Motion passed on a unanimous vote, 9-0.**

C. [01:23:21] Sagamore Avenue, request to slow traffic, by resident. Peter Rice moved to approve installation of an additional speed limit sign and speed feedback sign, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**

VI. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [01:24:36] Sagamore Avenue, update on cross-section improvement project. Presented by Assistant City Engineer, Zach Cronin
- B. [01:30:29] Monthly Accident Report from Police. Additional information was provided regarding the recent pedestrian accident at Congress Street and Maplewood Avenue.
- C. [01:34:54] Response to resident concerns regarding Chevrolet Avenue sidewalks and speeding, Gallagher's Place crosswalk on Islington Street, and traffic speeds on Miller Avenue near Spring Street.
- D. [01:37:36] Downtown parking study status update.
- E. [01:38:28] Bartlett Street at Thornton Street, update on temporary roundabout trial.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Lou McElwain moved to adjourn at 8:06 P.M., seconded by Karen Conard. **On a unanimous vote, motion passed 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr
Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works