

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONFERENCE ROOM A
CITY HALL, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 1 JUNKINS AVENUE

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

8:30 AM

June 1, 2023

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Steve Pesci called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Vice Chairman Steve Pesci
Public Works Director Peter Rice
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Fire Chief William McQuillen
Stefanie Casella, Planning Department
Erica Wygonik (Alternate)
Harold Whitehouse
Mary Lou McElwain
Mark Syracuse

Absent

Chairman Andrew Bagley

City Staff Present:

Parking Director Ben Fletcher
City Engineer – Parking, Transportation and Planning Eric Eby
Associate Engineer Tyler Reece

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:02:46] Peter Rice moved to accept the Financial Report dated April 30, 2023, and place it on file, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **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.

[00:03:06] There were sixteen speakers: Anne Poubeau, Martin Ryan, Claire Prout, Randall Leach, Bill Blum, Elizabeth Bratter, Beth Lamontagne-Hall, Becky Vardell, William Davis (Z), Rick Becksted (Z), Anna Leijon-Guth (Z), Teresa Hill (Z), and Nancy Johnson (Z) gave feedback regarding the mini-roundabout trial at Bartlett and Thornton Streets. Liza Hewitt voiced support for keeping speed limits on Islington and Middle Road at 25 mph. Ms. Hewitt also expressed concerns that the jersey barriers downtown with screens and/or plantings on them are obstructing traffic views. Carl Diemer requested speed bumps on Aldrich Road.

[00:43:40] Peter Rice made a motion to bring item VII.A. forward after the State Street presentation, seconded by Mark Syracuse.

V. PRESENTATIONS

[00:44:40] State Street 2-way traffic modeling, by Wall Consulting Group.

[01:04:15] Peter Rice moved to allow questions outside of public comment on the presentation, seconded by Harold Whitehouse. Councilor Beth Moreau and Planning Board Chairman Rick Chellman spoke.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. [01:15:41] Bartlett Street, report back on mini-roundabout at Thornton Street. Mark Syracuse moved to continue the pilot for 30 days with observation and documentation, seconded by Peter Rice. **Motion carried 9-0.** Eric Eby will prepare a frequently asked questions document.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

A. [01:33:31] Court Place, request to relocate handicap parking space, by South Church. Peter Rice made a motion to relocate handicap parking space on Court Place, as shown on plan. Seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed on unanimous vote, 9-0.**

B. [01:33:49] Chapter 7, request to raise the threshold for boot and tow for unpaid parking tickets from the current \$125 to \$250. Peter Rice moved to approve raising the threshold for boot and tow for unpaid parking tickets, from \$125 to \$250. Seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed on a unanimous vote, 9-0.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- B. [01:37:33] Islington Street and Middle Road, speed limit trials. Peter Rice moved to keep speed limits at 25 MPH, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**
- C. [01:38:01] Loading Zones, approval of change in parking hours at select locations. Peter Rice made a motion to approve the change in parking hours at specified loading zones. Seconded by Erica Wygonik. **On a unanimous vote motion passed 9-0.**

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [01:40:01] Monthly Accident Report from Police.
- B. [00:40:31] The Mayor's bike ride will be held on June 11, due to rain on the original date.
- C. [01:41:01] Islington Street reconstruction Phase 2 begins June 5.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

[01:41:37] Erica Wygonik inquired about the work being done at Summer and Middle Streets.

X. ADJOURNMENT

[01:42:16] Harold Whitehouse moved to adjourn at 10:10 a.m., seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **On a unanimous vote, motion passed 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr
Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works