

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

October 5, 2023

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Bagley called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

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

City Staff Present:

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:05:45] Peter Rice moved to accept the financial report dated August 31, 2023, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion carried 9-0.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

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

[00:06:07] There was one speaker: Esther Kennedy requested that the Parking and

Traffic Safety Committee meet with residents if in the future they are considering making changes to parking around Pickering and Mechanic Streets.

V. PRESENTATIONS

[00:07:32] Monte Bohanan presented downtown parking FlashVote survey results regarding downtown parking. The survey results can be found online at:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2023-10/PTS%20FlashVote%20Preso-%20PTS.pdf>

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

- A. [00:20:44] 293 Austin Street, request for temporary handicap parking space, by resident. Peter Rice made a motion to approve temporary handicap parking space at 293 Austin Street while parking is prohibited on Union Street during construction project. Seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed unanimously 9-0.** Eric Eby noted that there has been a change to federal handicap parking regulations to require a ramp at all new handicap spaces going forward. The change will not affect this parking space.
- B. [00:21:31] Chapter 7, Section 7-A.402, Bus Stops Designated, recommendation to update ordinance to reflect current conditions, by DPW. Mary Lou McElwain moved to postpone this item until the next meeting, seconded by Stefanie Casella. **Motion carried 9-0.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [00:28:09] High Street, report back and recommendation on proposal to remove parking spaces and loading zone between Congress Street and Ladd Street. Mark Syracuse moved to request DPW further evaluate how to provide parking on Congress Street between High Street and Market Street and report back. Seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed on a unanimous vote 9-0.**

[00:54:38] Peter Rice moved to suspend the rules and bring forward item D. under Informational, seconded by Erica Wygonik. **Motion carried 9-0.**

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- D. Hillside Drive pedestrian safety measures update.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- B. [01:00:20] State Street 2-way traffic study, report back on status. Peter Rice moved to accept the report and forward it to City Council, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed unanimously 9-0.**

- C. [01:02:28] Dennett Street traffic calming update. Peter Rice made a motion to place on file, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion carried 9-0.**

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [01:03:30] Aldrich Road speed humps installation
- B. [01:04:24] Bartlett Street railroad bridge grant award
- C. [01:06:08] Monthly Accident Report
- E. [01:07:17] Outdoor dining barrier removal will be done next week. Paving will then begin downtown.
- F. [01:08:01] Removal of Woodbury Avenue speed cushions and Bartlett Street roundabout

[01:08:26] Mary Lou McElwain would like to address electric scooter use on sidewalks on a future agenda.

[01:09:44] Erica Wygonik asked about the speed feedback sign at South Street and Clough Drive. She also requested that we get observational data on this intersection before bicycle and walking decline due to weather.

[01:11:48] Peter Rice mentioned that the City, together with the Parking Utilization Advisory Group, will be scheduling a public meeting to discuss and gather input regarding the current and proposed revised parking principles.

[01:12:54] Eric Eby mentioned that there will also be a public input meeting scheduled after the speed cushions on Woodbury Avenue and the roundabout on Bartlett Street are removed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bagley adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr
Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works