

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

March 7, 2024

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Steve Pesci called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Acting Chairman Steve Pesci
Public Works Director Peter Rice
Stefanie Casella, Planning Department
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Erica Wygonik
Dave Allen
Fire Chief William McQuillen
Mary Lou McElwain

Absent

Mark Syracuse
Councilor Andrew Bagley

City Staff Present:

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

Selection of chairman was delayed due to Councilor Bagley's absence.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:06:33] Peter Rice moved to accept the financial report dated January 31, 2024, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. Motion carried 8-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

[00:07:13] Sherry Bransima, Lenore Weiss Bronson and Nancy Johnson (Z) spoke regarding Woodbury Avenue traffic calming.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. [00:17:48] Woodbury Avenue, request for reconsideration of speed cushions, by City Council. Bill McQuillen moved to refer to City Staff for further review and development of alternatives, seconded by Peter Rice. Motion carried 8-0.

B. [00:23:10] E-scooters and E-bikes, review of current City ordinances. Peter Rice made a motion to work with Legal to adjust the language in the City Traffic Ordinance, Section 7.301 H. to address electric bikes and scooters. Seconded by Erica Wygonik. Motion passed 8-0.

[00:25:55] Peter Rice left the meeting early due to conflicting obligations.

Mary Lou McElwain made a motion for staff to report back on State RSA changes regarding e-bikes and e-scooters, seconded by Bill McQuillen. Motion carried 8-0

C. [00:30:13] Market Square bus bay parking, interim review of temporary parking spaces. Bill McQuillen made a motion to change the two 15-minute spaces in the bus bay to Zone A spaces, making all four spaces Zone A spaces. Seconded by Dave Allen. On a roll call vote, motion passed 4-1, with Steve Pesci and Erica Wygonik abstaining.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

A. [00:38:37] Police monthly accident report

B. [00:39:21] DOT Route 1 project update

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

[00:44:35] Mary Lou McElwain requested an update on RV and camper overnight parking.

Mary Lou McElwain also noted that the crosswalk lights on State Street are still not in sync and that the pedestrian crosswalk lights at Pleasant Street and State Street are going on when there are no pedestrians. Erica Wygonik mentioned that the pedestrian lights at Pleasant and State Streets also appear turned, possibly due to the windstorms.

Erica Wygonik requested that the mobile crosswalk sign at Little Harbour Road be put back.

Steve Pesci asked that the center line marker and flashing beacon at Maplewood Avenue by the railroad crossing also be put back in place.

[00:47:21] Mary Lou McElwain addressed the letter from Elizabeth Bratter. Eric Eby noted that the City does not put up mirrors for traffic but that we may be able to add more paint to prevent use of the center area at the Bartlett and Cate Street intersection.

[00:48:36] There was discussion regarding the railroad overpass. City staff have submitted paperwork to the Federal Railroad Administration for obligation of the grant.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Erica Wygonik moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m., seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr
Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works