

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
FACILITIES & STREETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2019
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 114**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:56pm by Committee Vice Chair Anna A. Turcotte.

City Councilors Present: Lawrence McWilliams (Ward 5); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); David C. Morse (Ward 1); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President)

City Councilors Absent: Ann E. Peoples (At-Large)

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (Legal Counsel); Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Jennie Franceschi (Director of Planning & Code Enforcement); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Arty Ledoux (Public Services Director of Operations); Janine Roberts (Police Chief); Michael Sanphy (Mayor)

AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE VI, PARKING SCOFFLAW ORDINANCE

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Chief Roberts, who stated that current regulations in the parking scofflaw ordinance are ineffective. Public Services and Public Safety are required to issue several violations to the owner of a parked vehicle before the vehicle may be towed. Once a parking ticket is issued, the vehicle owner has ten days to respond, which causes a further delay. The proposed ordinance amendments would focus on repeat offenders and would allow officers to take more timely action to address a parking violation.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Committee Vice Chair Turcotte, Mr. Bryant, Councilor Foley

Motion to refer the ordinance amendment to Council for action.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Chau

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

UPDATING UNIFORM TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, AMENDING OUTDATED LANGUAGE

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Ms. Franceschi, who stated that staff reviewed the Uniform Traffic Ordinance (UTO) as part of the Downtown Parking Study and found that some places in the UTO haven't been updated since 1964. Staff are reviewing the UTO to compile a list of needed updates and corrections and wished to give the Committee an update on this process.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Committee Vice Chair Turcotte, Mr. Bryant, Councilor Foley, Councilor Chau

Motion to refer this matter to Council for action when a final draft is ready.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.
Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

LINCOLN STREET – SPEED STUDY UPDATE

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Mr. Dudley, who provided an update to the Committee on this item. He stated that a request for a speed study was submitted to the Maine Department of Transportation, as requested. Maine DOT has stated that they will conduct a speed study in the fall and would have results by January 1st.

No further action was taken on this item.

RIVER STREET – ESTABLISHING A TWO-WAY STREET

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Councilor Foley, who stated that he and Mr. Dudley held a meeting with the River Street neighborhood to listen to and discuss concerns about speeding. During this meeting, it was proposed that making River Street a two-way street might be appropriate, as there is no historical reason for maintaining this street as a one-way street. During the neighborhood meeting this plan was acceptable to residents, but since then feedback was received indicating that neighbors would not want this change.

Mr. Dudley noted that neighbors expressed concerns that the street was being used as a two-way street instead of a one-way street and had proposed to make it a two-way street on a trial basis to reflect existing practice. In addition, Mr. Dudley noted that a yellow line had been installed on River Street several weeks ago as a result of a discussion which came out of that neighborhood meeting, where neighbors expressed a concern about cars cutting the corner. Mr. Dudley noted that complaints had been received about this yellow line, and it would be gone by the spring if neighbors don't wish to keep it.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Committee Vice Chair Turcotte, Don Vellani (6 Reserve Street), Rae Dragon (28 River Street), Donna Merrifield (9 Reserve Street), President Rairdon

Ms. Holmes read into the record comments submitted via email from the following individuals: Brittany Sampson, Nicola McDowell, Patrick Conway, Marwa, Marion

Motion to leave River Street as a one-way street.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Foley.

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Mr. Dudley, Rae Dragon (28 River Street)

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

OAK STREET – ALLOWING PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREET

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Councilor Foley, who noted that he was contacted by Bruce Tuttle via email in June, asking about allowing more parking on Oak Street. This request was reviewed by staff, who made a recommendation to establish parking on one side of Oak Street between Seavey Street & Lamb Street.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: President Rairdon, Ms. Holmes

Motion to forward the staff recommendation to Council for action.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by President Rairdon.

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Ms. Holmes, Councilor Foley, Mr. Bryant

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

DUNN STREET – ESTABLISHING A NO-PARKING ZONE

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Chief Roberts, who presented a proposal to establish a no-parking zone on one side of Dunn Street, from the Riverbank Park access road to the Presumpscot River. She noted that this end of the street is much narrower than the rest of the street, and establishing a no-parking zone would allow public safety vehicles to access homes at that end of the street more easily.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Councilor Chau, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Bryant, Philip Spiller, Jr. (76 Sawyer Road)

Motion to forward the staff recommendation to Council for action.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by President Rairdon.

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

HASKELL STREET – TRAFFIC & SIDEWALK CONDITIONS

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Councilor Chau. Councilor Chau brought this item to committee on behalf of resident Dan Neuville, who had concerns about both traffic and sidewalk conditions on Haskell Street.

Mr. Dudley noted that the Public Services Department is currently repaving a section of Haskell Street from Pine Street to Forest Street. There are currently two small sections of sidewalk that don't connect to anything, and the plan is to remove these portions of sidewalk during the resurfacing project. Mr. Dudley also noted that he would like to conduct a speed study after the paving project is completed and expects that speed on this portion of Haskell Street will increase.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Evan Justice (173 Haskell Street), Dennis Marrotte (41 Falmouth Street), Dan Neuville (145 Haskell Street), Chief Roberts, Committee Vice Chair Turcotte, Councilor Foley, Councilor Chau

Ms. Holmes read into the record comments submitted via email from the following individuals: Larry Bruni

It was determined that this item should stay in committee, and that Mr. Dudley should report back to the Committee once the speed study had been conducted.

FOREST STREET – SIGNAGE & SPEED CONTROL

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte gave the floor to Mr. Bryant, who gave an overview on the traffic concerns on Forest Street. He noted that Forest Street is a State-designated highway, and by-design it is a cut-through street. Mr. Dudley noted that the current legal speed limit is unposted 25 mph. To post the speed limit, a speed limit study would need to be conducted. Mr. Dudley was given guidance by the

Maine DOT that a speed limit study on Forest Street would raise the speed limit to at least 30 mph. For these reasons, staff recommend that no further action be taken on this item.

The following individuals provided comments and/or questions: Leigh Myrbeck (Forest Street), Mr. Dudley, John Lynch (139 Forest Street), President Rairdon, Bill Childs (138 Tolman Street), Rebecca Dillon (222 Forest Street), Chief Roberts, Committee Vice Chair Turcotte

It was determined that this item should stay in committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bryant noted that the agenda included a request to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6(E) to discuss the City's legal rights and duties, but that this item could be discussed at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Vice Chair Turcotte announced the meeting to be adjourned at 9:42pm.