

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

*Members of the public also had the opportunity to join the meeting via
Zoom*

8:30 AM

June 5th, 2025

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Public Works Director Peter Rice
Fire Chief William McQuillen
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Jillian Harris, Planning Department
Chairman Andrew Bagley
Vice Chairwoman Erica Wygonik
Jane Mitchell-Pate
Mark Syracuse
Mary Lou McElwain

Members Absent:

Dave Allen (alternate)

City Staff Present:

Eric Eby, City Engineer
Mike Casad, Parking General Foreman
Tyler Reese, Associate Engineer
Sam Kinkaid, Engineering Intern
Jefferson Lane, DPW Administrative Assistant

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:06:33] Mary Lou McElwain moved to accept the financial report dated April 30th, 2025, seconded by Bill McQuillen. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

[00:06:44] There were four speakers in the public comment period: Tyler Garzo of McKinley Road expressed his opposition toward the Mayor's 30-minute parking plan; Jess Sears of the Broad Street area raised concerns about continuing busy traffic on Broad Street and inquired about any budget-friendly traffic calming measures being implemented; Kelly Shaw of Banfield Road raised

concerns of tractor trailers & heavy-duty trucking traveling down Banfield, despite an existing ban for those vehicles, and ultimately requested increased signage in the area to redirect trucks; Mark McNabb of Baycliff Road spoke on his support of the Mayor's parking plan, concerns of construction operations occupying spots at Hanover Garage, as well as his support for Item C of New Business.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

- A.** [00:27:30] Chapter 7, Article III, Traffic Ordinance, Limited Parking. Discussion and recommendation to City Council on two alternatives: 1) Conversion of twenty-five 15-minute spaces to free 30-Minute Resident Parking Spaces in Downtown Metered Parking Areas; or 2) 15-minutes of free parking for residents in any metered space using the ParkMobile application. A discussion around the two options developed, citing a variety of variables including effects on parking revenue, administrative burden, and long-term viability. Chief McQuillen motioned to forward the two alternatives to City Council and let them choose from those options, seconded by Mark Syracuse. A roll call vote found two in favor and seven opposed – the motion failing. Erica Wygonik introduced a motion to advise City Council that the PTS Committee believes we have a well-functioning system and that a drastic change such as this requires further evaluation, and the committee has concerns about both options. Mary Lou McElwain seconded the motion. A roll call vote found eight in favor and one opposed.
- B.** [01:03:18] Chapter 7, Article V, Bicycle Regulations, discussion of need for local restrictions, enforcement and regulations on E-bikes. Director Peter Rice expressed his concerns for e-bike safety in city parks and on-road. Deputy Chief Maloney displayed an in-progress pamphlet the Police Department is drafting for e-bike safety, spoke on the presence of enforceable laws for e-bike use, and is continuing to explore safety measures.
- C.** [01:15:04] Porter Street, request to consider closing the section between Church Street and Pleasant Street to vehicular traffic, by resident and adjacent property owner. Erica Wygonik moved to refer to City staff for review and report back at future meeting, seconded by Mark Syracuse. The motion passed unanimously.
- D.** [01:15:48] Pierce Island Off-Leash Dog area, request for signage alerting drivers to use of area, by residents. Mark Syracuse moved to refer to staff for recommendation and report back at next meeting. Erica Wygonik moved to amend the motion to place on file, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** [01:16:57] Columbia Street, request to prohibit parking on one side of Columbia Street, by resident. Mark Syracuse moved to place on file, seconded by Erica Wygonik. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A.** [01:17:13] Police monthly accident report

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A.** [01:20:22] Mary Lou McElwain inquired on the progress of signage indicating private parking lots. Chairman Bagley informed that the request is being reviewed by the Legal Department.

X. ADJOURNMENT

[01:20:52] Erika Wygonik moved to adjourn, seconded by Mark Syracuse. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Andrey Bagley adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jefferson Lane
Administrative Assistant II, Department of Public Works