

City Council Committee Reports for 2021

DATE: Aug 18, 2021 **RECORDER** **McCauley- Chair** ____

COMMITTEE **Public Safety** _____

| Councillors Attending | | Others Attending | Address |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Barry N. Connell | | <i>Diane Gagnon</i> | <i>City Engineer</i> |
| Joseph H. Devlin | | <i>Jon-Eric White</i> | <i>City Engineer</i> |
| Afroz Khan | | <i>Public</i> | <i>As noted in notes</i> |
| Byron J. Lane | <i>m</i> | | |
| James J. McCauley | <i>m</i> | | |
| Heather L. Shand | | | |
| Charles F. Tontar | | | |
| Bruce L. Vogel | <i>m</i> | | |
| Christine E. Wallace | <i>x</i> | | |
| Sharif I. Zeid | <i>x</i> | | |
| Jared J. Eigerman | | | |

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION TAKEN

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Approval of Prior Minutes 7/1, 7/14</i> | <i>Approved 3-0</i> |
| <i>APPL 44 8-9-21 Block Party Atkinson b/w Strong & Boardman 9/25</i> | <i>Approve 3-0</i> |
| <i>APPL 45 8-9-21 Maritime Days 9/10-9/12 at TCHMM</i> | <i>Approve 3-0</i> |
| <i>APPL 46 8-9-21 9th Annual Coast to Cure Bike Ride 9/11</i> | <i>Approve 3-0</i> |
| <i>APPL 47 8-9-21 Block Party Middle St b/w Center and Fair 9/18</i> | <i>Approve 3-0</i> |
| <i>COMM 339 8-9-21 High St Pavement Markings</i> | <i>Hold in Committee</i> |
| <i>COMM 340 8-9-21 Police Marshal Contract</i> | <i>Recommend to R&F 3-0</i> |
| <i>ORDR 271 8-9-21 Merrimac St Striping Plan (Ashland o Broad)</i> | <i>Approve 3-0</i> |
| <i>ODNC86 8-9-21 Loading Zone – Liberty St</i> | <i>Hold in Committee</i> |
| | |
| | |

Recording

Your cloud recording is now available.

Topic: Public Safety Committee Meeting

Date: Aug 18, 2021 05:56 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Copy the link below to share this recording with viewers:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/y7AoSkMk20YnI4PllvBEzcRp_Dm72NvQPH0z3k63-HcPsbld2drjfoMW9w6ruPv7.IN0Vr_hnSINy03XA Passcode: jGH?z0iC

Agenda Items

Approval of Previous Minutes: 7/1, 7/14. Vote to Approve and Post on City Website 3-0

APPL 44 8-9-21 Block Party Atkinson b/w Strong & Boardman 9/25

Review of Application, Chris Edmonds gave an overview: For residents to get together post Covid, 9/25 (rain 9/26), 4-8pm, tables, music-radio speakers only

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for review and approval 3-0

APPL 45 8-9-21 Maritime Days 9/10-9/12

Review of Application, Mike Laurano gave an overview: 3 events on back lawn + 1 city-wide event.

Friday: Trivia Night, Pizza, Porterman, Beer/Wine 80 tix, Sat: Day Treasure Hunt throughout City, Night: Pirate Party (100tix), Sunday Eve: Cocktails & Sunset (J Tavano). No road closures, Police Details.

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for review and approval 3-0

APPL 46 8-9-21 9th Annual Coast to Cure Bike Race 9/11

Review of Application, Diana Flahive Dir Of Comm for NE BioLabs (sponsor). Race has 4 routes, only 1 goes thru Nbpt (100 mile route). No road closures – expect 10 riders from 12-2pm

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for review and approval 3-0

APPL 47 8-9-21 Block Party Middle St b/w Center & Fair 9/18

Review of Application, Danielle Nelson gave an overview: For residents to get together post Covid, 9/18, 4-9:30pm, tables, music-radio speakers only. Cnclr Vogel suggested they post sigs to alert any non-residents of the event.

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for review and approval 3-0

COMM339 High St Pavement Markings

Review of Drawings from City Engineer: Diane Gagnon.



T1134_Newburyport
_Concept Plan (002).p

Plan has been reviewed by our vendor TEC. Design is to raise awareness, slow traffic.

Materials: Median-stamped concrete (vs cobblestones—2x price), and epoxy paint (vs Thromplastic) as it will weather better. Location of electronic radar signs need to be re-assigned (currently in Newbury!)

Review of suggested Edits from Abutters (Kim Turner, Jivonne Alley).

Similar design-slightly thinner median, adjust stripping to allow for more parking. Same materials.

Committee Comments:

Cnclr Lane: likes concept and suggested changes. Reiterates his ongoing point that this is \$70k invested in just 1 neighborhood, and he'd like to see this type of investment in all wards.

Cnclr: Vogel: Likes concept and suggested changes. Ask is if we can limit the signage to only what is need.

Cnclr Zeid (W1): Sees W1 in attachment is North Side, W2 n attachment is South Side. Sees plan as consistent with our goals of calming traffic. Would like to see another version with the plans combined.

Public Comment:

Ken Itrato (27 High St), In favor of action on traffic calming. Plans are a good step forward

Stacey Brandon (Allen St). Good plan, slow drivers down, radar sign should clarify speed limit

Jennie Donahue (18 Cherry St). In favor, properties have been hit in the past.

Public Comment: 2 written

From: Stephanie Niketic <niketic@airkiosk.com>

Date: August 18, 2021 at 3:17:14 PM EDT

To: James McCauley <mcCauleyward5@gmail.com>, Bruce Vogel <bruce@vogelatlarge.com>, Byron Lane <byron@byronlanenbpt.com>

Cc: Sharif I Zeid <sharif@reachsharif.com>, Jared Eigerman <JEigerman@cityofnewburyport.com>, Geordie Vining <GVining@cityofnewburyport.com>, Andrew Port <APort@cityofnewburyport.com>

Subject: Public Safety Committee - High Street from Allen Street to Marlboro Street - August 18, 2021

*City of Newburyport
Public Safety Committee*

Dear Chairman McCauley, Councillor Vogel, and Councillor Lane:

Regarding your discussion tonight about traffic calming measures on High Street between Allen and Marlboro, I am sorry I will not be able to attend, but hope you will consider my written comment.

The plans I have seen for tonight's discussion are the same plans TEC presented in 2019. I had understood that earlier this year there was serious consideration for a solution which is cheaper and more appropriate for this historic road: landscaped medians. No widened sidewalks, no industrial (cobblestone or otherwise) islands, no re-engineered roadway. Landscaped medians.

This simpler plan is what I hoped for, and I am dismayed it is not presented.

I am in complete sympathy with residents on this stretch of High Street. I am grateful for the amount of effort they have put in, with Ward 1 Councillor Zeid, to get something done about the traffic dangers. I live on another part of High Street, but frequently walk this stretch to reach the rail trail.

If this type of over-engineered, highway-like plan were to be proposed for the part of High Street I live on, I would fight it tooth and nail. Actually, as I did, with residents city-wide, against similar MassDOT plans in the 1990's.

Please, let's go for a solution which is both economical and aesthetic.

I apologize for this late submission, and thank you,

*Stephanie Niketic
93 High Street
Newburyport*

From: ted-allie@comcast.net

Date: August 18, 2021 at 6:13:05 PM EDT

To: mccauleyward5@gmail.com, bruce@vogelatlarge.com, byron@byronlanenbpt.com, GVining@cityofnewburyport.com, APort@cityofnewburyport.com

Cc: niketic@airkiosk.com

Subject: Revisions to lower high street

I just heard about possible revisions to High Street near March's Hill. I do not know why a meeting of this significance, effecting revisions to historic High Street was not publicized earlier. This reminds me of the SRTS meetings that the public was not aware of until the conceptual plans were unveiled.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight, but I implore the City Council to take a conservative approach and look at something such as landscaped medians. This would be less expensive and more appropriate for High St. Please do not allow TEC to overengineer this project as they did with the SRTS project. That was definitely overdone; and in my opinion a waste of money without any evidence that this area was a problem of the magnitude envisioned. I understand that the folks who live in this area have been subjected to some individuals who have no sense of courteous driving and are driving around that curve much too fast. Please do not attempt to resolve this problem with something that is detrimental this section of historic High Street.

I agree with members of the Preservation Trust that a good hard look should be given to the historic impact of changes such as those being considered for High Street. Thank you for considering my comments on short notice. Hopefully I will be able to attend the next meeting if it is posted in the paper with more lead time.

Sincerely,

*Frederick T. Jones, Jr.
18 Dawes St.
Newburyport, MA. 01950*

Hold in Committee until we get undated drawings.

ASK is: Have the 2 plans combined, identify any price differences, identify parking lost/kept.

COMM340 Police Marshal Contract

Committee was given an updated contract from the Administration. Contract is consistent with the appointment, consistent with COLA and Accreditation Bonus.

Public Comment: In writing:

On Aug 17, 2021, at 2:30 PM, Amanda A <abbotta@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Councilor McCauley,

First thank you for your service to the town of Newburyport. I am writing with concerns about the upcoming discussion of the City Marshal's contract to be held during your meeting tomorrow evening. I urge that the council table this agenda item, and keep it in committee until all the relevant information is reviewed. I am particularly concerned about the broad protections within the proposed contract including the length of the term of renewal (5 years), and the vague language around grounds for discipline or discharge. Also, I do not feel that this contract should be renewed prior to the election of the new mayor.

I participated in the zoom conversations coordinated by the DEI committee and human rights commission about policing in the community, and about the flying of the thin blue line flag on public property. I also had a phone call directly with Marshal Murray. I do not feel that he came to these discussions with an open mind or really heard the community's concerns. Nor has there been any changes to policing based on community input. I have witnessed many police departments across MA respond in sensitive and positive ways. I urge the city council of Newburyport to think about the culture of its police department, and respectfully ask you to consider if Marshal Murray is the best person for this job at this time.

Please do not move forward with this very generous contract until the city marshal has a plan in place to demonstrate how to address these weaknesses.

*Thank you for your time,
Amanda Abbott*

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for R&F 3-0

ORDR271 8-9-21 Merrimac St Striping Plan (Ashland to Broad)

Committee was given an updated drawing from City Engineer Jon-Eric White.

Draft plans can be found in the City Council packet

here: https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif7106/f/agendas/city_council_packet_pt.2_aug_09_2021reduced_0.pdf

Review of Drawing: Conclr Wallace

.

Public Comment: In writing:

Committee: Vote to Recommend to CC for Approval 3-0

ODNC 8-9-21 Loading Zone – Liberty St

Sponsor not present, several questions.

Committee: Vote to Recommend to Hold until Sponsor in attendance 3-0