



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
FACILITIES & STREETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2020
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**



CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by City Council President Gary Rairdon.

City Councilors Present: David C. Morse (Ward 1); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President); Elliot Storey (Ward 5); Claude Rwaganje (At-Large)

City Councilors Absent: Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large)

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services); Melanie Fernald (Deputy City Clerk); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Michael T. Foley (Mayor); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Janine Roberts (Police Chief)

SPEED ON FOREST STREET

Rairdon gave the floor the Mayor who explained that the administration is recommending a speed study, but that there are risks associated with this. The Mayor then gave floor to Dudley, who explained in further detail.

The speed study performed by the City in June/July, concluded that 85th percentile speed is 34 MPH. Spoke with someone at DOT, who said that a State-conducted speed study needs to be completed to change a speed limit. Would hesitate to do increased education or enforcement without having the proper speed limit posted. First option, as he sees it, is to remove the signs (which means that it would be 25 MPH due to urban compact zone law), could do some dynamic speed signs, and targeted enforcement with officers. Second option is to have DOT do the speed limit study, would expect the result to be higher (30-35 MPH). if it comes back higher, the City would be required to post the higher speed sign.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments and questions. The following individuals spoke: Rairdon, Dudley, Chau, Morse, Storey, Rwaganje, Roberts, Mr. Smith (Forest Street resident)

Motion to refer this item to the City Council with the recommendation that the City engineer take down the current speed signs.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by President Rairdon.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke Chief Roberts, Councilor Morse, President Rairdon, Councilor Rwaganje

Motion failed. (Vote 2-4)

Ayes: Chau, Rairdon

Nays: Morse, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje

Motion to refer to City Council to approve the recommendation of Administration to perform a State speed study.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Storey.

Foley clarified that the motion would be to authorize the administration to conduct a speed study and then report back to the committee.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried. (Vote 5-2)

Ayes: Morse, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje

Nays: Chau, Rairdon

STREET LIGHT AT 23 EVERETT STREET

President Rairdon gave the floor to the administration, who asked Daniel Tucker of 23 Everett Street to the microphone to outline his concerns. Mr. Tucker stated that the area is dark at night and that existing light poles don't cast enough light. The poor visibility is a safety concern and has been to blame for several fender-bender accidents involving the unlighted pole. Mr. Tucker is asking for an additional streetlight at 23 Everett Street.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments and questions. The following individuals spoke: President Rairdon, Mr. Dudley, Councilor Storey, Councilor Chau, Mr. Tucker, Councilor Rwaganje

Motion to direct the Administration to add reflective strips to the existing pole, and to take no further action.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Morse.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm.

Moved by Vice President Turcotte, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.