

Protection Committee Report

February 5, 2020

Meeting: January 16, 2020, City Hall, Council Chamber

In Attendance: Councilor Diano Circo (Committee Chair), Councilor Patrick Wynne (Committee Member), Councilor Diana Scully (Committee Member), Police Chief Nason, Police Sargent Gaudet

Discharging of Firearms on City Property

The Committee discussed conflicting ordinances related to the discharging of firearms in the City which need to be clarified. It's not clear in current ordinances if hunting is allowed at the Res. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that the issue be sent to the Ordinance Rewrite Committee for review. Chief Nason will provide the specific ordinances for review.

Water Street 15-Minute Parking

The Committee continued conversation about the location of 15-minute parking spaces on Water Street. There was agreement that it makes sense to continue to have two (of the current four in the City ordinance) 15-minute spaces in the current location in front of Boynton's Market (west side of Water Street, first two spaces north of Union Street), but that the other two spaces would be better placed on the east side of Water Street, possibly the first two spaces south of Warf Street. The Committee agreed to make this proposal to the Council (and the Ordinance Rewrite Committee) for consideration.

EMS Response

The Committee discussed changes in EMS response being implemented by the City of Augusta. A new response structure will have EMS services dispatched from the Leighton Road station rather than the downtown Hartford Station. The new response structure could increase response times for parts of Hallowell, including Granite Hill Estates, The Woodlands, and outer Central Street.

School Zone Traffic Enforcement

The Police Department has received complaints about the school bus stop on Winthrop and Pleasant Street. There have been reports of vehicles going around the bus during pick-up. Chief Nason will look at opportunities for police visibility in the area during pick-up. He will also touch base with the busing company to see if pick-up on Pleasant Street is possible rather than on Winthrop Street.

Hallowell Fire Department Parking

Committee discussed a request from the Hallowell Fire Department to designate the seven parking spaces in front of the new fire department on Coos Lane for Fire Department use only. The Committee recommends that the Council send the proposal to Ordinance Rewrite Committee.

PSAP/911 Services

The Police Chief updated the committee on the status of PSAP/911 services. He recently met with the City of Augusta and the Department of Public Safety. The State has proposed to transfer Hallowell and

Augusta 911 calls to Houlton due to staffing issues at the Augusta call center. Chief Nason and the Augusta Police Chief are comfortable with the change and do not believe it will affect services.

Winter Parking Ban Signage

The Police Department has received complaints that there isn't enough signage making folks aware of the winter parking ban. Currently information on the parking ban is posted on the City Facebook page and through Nexel (subscription service). The ban is in affect all winter from midnight to 6am. Council input is needed to determine if additional signage should be purchased and installed. The Police Department estimates that 20-30 signs would be needed. They would be placed on downtown light posts.

Dispatch Increase

The Police Chief notified the Committee that there will be a 10% increase in the police and fire dispatch contract this year. The current cost is \$30,000. The increase is due to recently negotiated wage increases for dispatchers.

Next Committee Meetings (Generally the third Thursday of each month)

- Regular Monthly Committee Meeting, January 16, City Council Chamber, 6pm
- Regular Monthly Committee Meeting, February 29th, City Council Chamber, 6pm