

**Protection Committee Report**

September 3, 2020

**Meeting:** July 8, 2020, Zoom

**Note:** Meeting was initially scheduled and briefly held via Zoon on June 18<sup>th</sup> but was forced to be rescheduled to July 8th due to technical issues with Zoom.

**In Attendance:** Councilor Diano Circo (Committee Chair), Councilor Patrick Wynne, Councilor Diana Scully (Committee Member), City Manager Nate Rudy, Police Chief McMaster, Fire Chief Owens

**Welcome Chief MacMaster**

The Committee formally welcomed the new Police Chief.

**Mayflower Road Speeding Discussion**

The Committee discussed concerns from residents on Mayflower Road about speeding. The Committee agreed that a speed limit sign should be installed on Mayflower Road.

**High & Winthrop Street Pedestrian Safety**

The Committee revisited earlier discussions about pedestrian safety at the intersection of High and Winthrop Streets. Currently there isn't a sidewalk or crosswalk at this intersection making it difficult for those in the neighborhood around Central Street to cross Winthrop Street or access the elementary school. Improving pedestrian safety at this intersection remains a high priority for residents in the neighborhood around Central Street. One proposal discussed was potentially having a sidewalk installed on the south side of Winthrop Street from the High Street to the Elementary School. This would prevent the need for residents to cross Winthrop Street.

**Hallowell Police Department Training Guidelines**

As directed by the City Council, led by the Police Chief, the Committee reviewed the Police Department's physical restraint policy and reviewed sensitivity and bias training measures. The Department's guidelines are found in the Policies/Personal Rules and General Orders documents. The Committee requested that these documents be placed on the City website to provide easy public access to the information. The Committee agreed to continue discussing possible public oversight options focused on reviewing public complaints, and incidents of use of force, high speed pursuits, and forced entries.

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

## **Protection Committee Report**

September 3, 2020

**Meeting:** August 2, 2020, Zoom

**In Attendance:** Councilor Diano Circo (Committee Chair), Councilor Patrick Wynne, Councilor Diana Scully (Committee Member), Police Chief McMaster, Fire Chief Owens

### **General Police Department Updates**

Several new officers have been hired including a Sargent, a patrolwoman and patrolman. The Chief has been focusing staff time on residential neighborhoods as much as possible over the past couple of months. The Chief is exploring the possibility of purchasing body cameras for officers.

### **General Fire Department Updates**

The Fire Department has applied for a \$590,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant for a new basic pumper truck. They've also applied for \$9,000 for new pagers (since the meeting the City found out that the grant for pagers was awarded).

### **Public Oversight Discussion and Update**

The Committee continued its discussion about possible oversight structures focused on the Protection Committee as the entity that would work with both the Police and Fire Departments to review formal public complaints and formal reports on use of force, forced entry and high-speed pursuits. The Committee Chair reported that the City Manager is working with the City Solicitor to provide examples of how other communities are handling these issues and providing guidance on how to appropriately handle any confidentiality issues that could arise. The Committee expressed support for continuing the discussion and reviewing information from the Manager and Solicitor when they are available.

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

- Regular Monthly Committee Meeting, September 17th, Zoom, 6pm
- Regular Monthly Committee Meeting, October 15th, Zoom, 6pm