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Melissa J. Lewandowski
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Shaun P. Toohey
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HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS 01830-5843

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 – 6PM

A Public Safety Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6PM in Room 202, City Council Chambers.

Committee Members: Chairperson McGonagle, Councilor Basiliere and Councilor LePage

Also in attendance: President Sullivan, Councilors Lewandowski, Michitson and Ferreira

Councilor McGonagle called the meeting to order. He explained that we are here to discuss two items that are on our agenda.

Doc. 33-F Motion by Councilor Basiliere to send resident winter parking concerns and offer suggestions for improvement.

During the committee meeting, Councilor Basiliere proposed shortening the city's winter parking ban by two weeks at the start of the season, moving the start date from December 1st to December 15th. He explained that recent years have seen fewer early snowstorms, and the city already has safeguards in place, as the Mayor can declare a snow emergency at any time if needed. The proposal was reviewed and supported by the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Public Works, all of which agreed that the current system has worked well for public safety. Sergeant Kevin Lynch confirmed the Police Department's support, noting that officers issue warning flyers before ticketing begins each winter. President Sullivan suggested also ending the ban two weeks earlier, on March 15th, to mirror the delayed start, emphasizing that the city could still handle late storms through emergency declarations. Councilor Ferreira raised the idea of translating the parking warning notices into multiple languages, to improve communication with residents. Sergeant Lynch responded that due to space limits on flyers, including a QR code linking to multilingual information might be a better option. The committee agreed to bring the proposal to the full council for consideration, including the two-week delay, the possible early end date, and multilingual outreach efforts, with the understanding that any changes could be made on a one-year trial basis.

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Motion by Councilor Basiliere to modify the winter parking to begin on December 1st for a one-year trial and that the body of the council the entire council consider whether we also take two weeks off the end, knowing that we do have safe guards in place. And that we look into the use of a new notice and QR codes for what other languages it might be prudent to do those in. Second by Councilor LePage. **3 YEAS, 0 NAYS** **PASSED.**

Doc. 33-P Motion by Councilor Ferreira to send for review as to what our local strategies are for traffic and safety as well as looking into these intersections for public safety (Amesbury Line Road/Merrimac Road)

Councilor Lewandowski discussed ongoing safety concerns at a dangerous intersection where residents had reported frequent speeding and poor visibility. After visiting the site with other councilors, she confirmed the hazards and thanked the police for increasing enforcement in the area. City Engineer John Pettis explained that a consultant had recommended temporary, low-cost improvements, including flex posts and new pavement markings to better define lanes and improve sightlines. These posts will be installed for about a month before winter to collect traffic data and evaluate their impact. John Pettis also noted that a long-term solution, such as reconfiguring the intersection or installing a roundabout, could be considered in the future but would be more expensive. President Sullivan raised concerns about the number and cost of posts, and John Pettis assured him they could be reduced if needed. Sergeant Kevin Lynch supported the plan as the most cost-effective option. Several councilors, including Basiliere, Ferreira, and Michitson, expressed optimism that these low-cost measures could significantly improve safety and potentially be used in other problem areas, with Councilor Ferreira suggesting possible grant funding for similar pedestrian safety initiatives. During public comment, a resident raised concerns about aggressive winter parking enforcement during mild winters, prompting Chairperson McGonagle to note that enforcement has generally been fair and that the issue could be revisited if necessary. The committee ultimately voted to move forward with implementing the flex post traffic-calming plan at the intersection.

Chairperson McGonagle: I need a motion and a second to implement the decision with the poles.

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Councilor LePage: So, moved.

Councilor Basiliere: Second.

3 YEAS, 0 NAYS **PASSED.**

Motion by Councilor Basiliere to adjourn. Second, Councilor LePage

3 YEAS, 0 NAYS **PASSED to Adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. McGonagle
Councilor Michael S. McGonagle
Chairperson