

COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES, CHARTER & RULES
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022, AT 6:19 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL

Voting members present: Chairman Joseph Demers, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Robert Ferullo. Absent: Councilor Richard Gately and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen
Non-voting members present: President Michael Concannon, Councilor Joanne Campbell, and Councilor Charles Viola. Absent: Councilor Jeffrey Dillon

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Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2022; in favor, 3-0.

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Traffic Commission Order to establish no parking restriction on East Dexter Avenue: Chairman Demers asked Councilor DiMambro to elaborate. Councilor DiMambro said there have been complaints about the parking situation on East Dexter Avenue near Baldwin Avenue. He said there was a relevant email sent to the City Clerk on Sunday. He said some of the residents on East Dexter Avenue are having difficulty exiting their driveways. He said residents of the Baldwin Woods condominium complex are parking on the northerly side of the street. He said the Traffic Commission decided to put no parking signs on East Dexter Avenue from Chester Avenue to North Maple Street and he is asking for the order to be adopted. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to accept and make part of the permanent record an email from Joe Taschetta to City Clerk Lindsay Higgins dated Sunday, May 8, 2022, and entitled “parking,” along with 13 photographs of the East Dexter Avenue area taken and submitted by Councilor DiMambro; approved, 3-0. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to suspend the committee’s rules to accept comments from members of the council who are not on the committee; approved, 3-0. Councilor Campbell asked if the order has been reviewed by the City Engineer. Councilor DiMambro said this process started with complaints about line-of-sight issues with utility poles on East Dexter Avenue. He said it is difficult to see cars on the other side of the hill. He said East Dexter Avenue has experienced cut-through traffic to the Mishawum commercial area. He said when he was driving up East Dexter Avenue there was a car coming in the opposite direction, and the driver had to stop to let him by so she could navigate around utility poles and cars. He said City Engineer John Corey and Woburn Police Sgt. Charles Stokes and have also expressed concerns about line-of-sight issues. He said Woburn Fire Lt. Joseph Foley has expressed concerns about access to Baldwin Avenue for Ladder 1. He said DPW Supt. John Duran has expressed concerns about plowing the street because plows have a hard time navigating around vehicles. He said there was discussion by the Traffic Commission about placing no parking signs on East Dexter Avenue from Chester Avenue to North Maple Street, on the northerly side. He said combined with the winter parking restriction on the southerly side of the street, there will be no on-street parking in the winter on East Dexter Avenue. Councilor Campbell said if the Traffic Commission approves

something, it can go directly to the City Council without a committee recommendation. Chairman Demers said during the council's last regular meeting on May 3, the proposed order was referred to committee for further clarification. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and Councilor DiMambro to return to the regular order of business; approved, 3-0. Councilor Ferullo said he will support the ward councilor's request for a parking restriction but he is concerned passage of the order will have unintended consequences. He said if there a parking ban on East Dexter Avenue, people will just park elsewhere in the neighborhood. He said passage of this order is going to open the floodgates for similar requests. He said if he knows one thing from his career in law enforcement, it is parking. He said this is going to be a slippery slope. Chairman Demers said Councilor Ferullo's comments are duly noted. Councilor DiMambro said he is generally in agreement with Councilor Ferullo, but in this instance, a parking restriction is not a bad idea. Councilor Ferullo said this will only move parking elsewhere. Councilor DiMambro said hopefully plows will be able to clear the road in the winter. Councilor Ferullo said every action has an equal and opposite reaction, and in this instance he believes cars will end up elsewhere in the neighborhood. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to adjourn; in favor, 3-0. Chairman Demers adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees