

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
March 3, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan; George Theodoridis; Manny Langella; Tom Livingston

**STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Jessica Paladino, Waste Programs Manager

**OTHERS:** Israel Navarro, Resident; Diane Lauricella, Zero Waste Coalition

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Tsiranides welcomed everyone and went over the public input item on the agenda. He informed all of those signed up to speak to keep their comments to three (3) minutes or under. He introduced the first speaker.

Israel Navarro, resident of Norwalk, stated he wrote the letter about the Honorary street naming for Officer Cesar Ramirez. He clarified that he did not ask for the street name to be changed but just the honorary name like what was done for Travis Simms. The reason he requested the honorary name change was because his father was very adamant about petitioning for this so he contacted Bob Duff and he suggested that he speak with Donna King and then he received a call instructing him to send a letter. He understands that in the By-Laws a person has to be deceased for at least one year. He has spoken to many people in the community about this and they really want to do this. Mr. Navarro said that as a young man he didn't appreciate the work Officer Cesar Ramirez did and Officer Ramirez spoke to him and changed his life as well as many others. He attended Side by Side School and he knows what Cesar Ramirez meant to the school district. He said that many people in the school district and the district of South Norwalk has felt the loss of not just a police officer but more like a friend or family member. He understands that the Mayor and the Police Department supports this and he asked the Committee to support it as well.

Mr. Tsiranides thanked Mr. Navarro for his comments. He explained that normally public input is about what is on the agenda. He said that he understands that this is very heart felt

and a compassionate issue across the City of Norwalk and a lot of people on the Council feel the same way. They are working on doing what needs to be done in order to have the honorary name.

Ms. Diane Lauricella thanked the Committee for allowing her and the coalition to give the presentation last month. She said they look forward to working with the Committee, Chief, Finance Committee and staff. Some of the things they mentioned last month, each topic could have easily been an hour each and so she apologized for being so enthusiastic and spent more time than was allotted. She suggested, instead of the three (3) minute public input there be a three (3) minute quiz on recycling called the three (3) minute recycler or put together new ideas of different waste streams under a different control. They are not there to do the work of the staff, State or vendor but would rather help them do an even better job and much more optimized job in cleaning up the waste streams and the like. Ms. Lauricella wanted to clarify in the minutes three (3) things. Betty Ball is a member of the Zero Waste Coalition. She spoke during public input because she needed to leave early. Skip the Plastic is a cherished member of their coalition. China sword means that recycling is not over. And she wanted to add that Norwalk what's in what's out recycling system needs clarification. She suggested that the Committee look at the packet and get back to her as there is a lot of information. She commented on Item #4 Food Scrap Collection Program, she wants to learn more about it and would like to ensure that this program is all over the City and not just in Rowayton. She said their coalition is available to assist in any way that they can.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020.**

There were three (3) changes to the minutes: Under Public Input change “Betty Ball is a Norwalk resident and a founding member of the Skip the Plastic Norwalk” to “*Betty Ball is a Norwalk resident and a founding member of the Skip the Plastic Norwalk and a member of the Zero Waste Coalition*”.

Under Information/Discussion Item A3 change “She mentioned China sword and said it means that recycling is over” to “*She mentioned China sword and said it means that recycling is not over*”.

Under Information/Discussion Item A3 change “She said in the packets they can see what is in and what is out, is a generic system that was put in place by Recycle CT because so many towns are different but in Norwalk on the website there is a Norwalk what's in what's out recycling system” to “*She said in the packets they can see what is in and what is out, is a generic system that was put in place by Recycle CT because so many towns are different but in Norwalk on the website there is a Norwalk what's in and what's out recycling system that needs clarification*”.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**

**\*\*MR. LIVINGSTON ABSTAINED**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED WITH ONE  
(1) ABSTENTION**

- 2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE AND BOND, INC., TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR DPW CAPITAL PROJECTS RELATED TO THE PAVING PROGRAM (PAVING, SIDEWALKS, DRAINAGE, ETC), FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$210,850.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 18 4021 5777 C0021  
                          09 19 4021 5777 C0021  
                          09 20 4021 5777 C0021  
                          09 19 4021 5777 C0318  
                          09 20 4021 5777 C0318  
                          09 20 4027 5777 C0302**

Mr. Carr reported on this. This proposal is to oversee construction, specifically paving for the 2020 calendar year between March 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Tighe & Bond is very familiar with their paving management program and have done a great job and this is to assist and support staff. Mr. Carr said they administer the contract meaning they deal with the contractors, any disputes and processing payments and Tighe & Bond inspects the work and quality control. Tighe & Bond keeps them informed.

Mr. Livingston said that he supports this as they have done this in the past. He asked about staffing and perhaps hiring someone for this work and if they have considered doing such.

Mr. Carr responded that they have requested an additional position for a junior engineer and that was not funded.

Mr. Keegan said that he did some investigating of what Tighe & Bond's Inspector does and he agrees with Mr. Livingston that this would be better served by a staff member.

Mr. Carr explained that it would be a better investment if there was a staff person however, Tighe & Bond have specialists in this kind of work.

Ms. Valadares said that they have been using the same inspector from Tighe & Bond for the past three (3) years so he is very familiar with the project and house standards and at the same time they have their junior engineers completing more engineering related work now opposed to just being outside doing inspections.

Mr. Carr said that if the junior engineers are out doing inspection services then they cannot be in the office learning design which is really good experience for engineers to have. He said they are trying to get that position funded.

Mr. Tsiranides said they will continue to try to secure funding for the position.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AT NO COST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT AS PART OF STATE PROJECT 102-350 NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL – PHASE 2.**

Mr. Tsiranides stated that this is a project they have been working on for a while now. He said that it is roughly 1+ miles long. He said they didn't know that they are required to have a parking lot and that is the reason for this item.

Mr. Carr said that part of this phase for Union Park is to have a patron parking lot. The proposed parking lot is on State property. The State's response is that they have no immediate plans for development so they will develop a lease agreement. That was their recommendation and Corporation Counsel reviewed it. The lease agreement can be terminated at any time and is much different than a permanent easement but as long as they have the lease, the State is responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Livingston stated that there is no parking lot yet.

Mr. Carr responded correct. He said it is part of the construction and will be part of the bid package which will be advertised in April 2020 and part of that package will include a proposed parking lot and reconstruction of that trail. The value of that contract is about 1 million dollars with an 80/20 match, 80% Federal funding and 20% City funding which was already allocated and previously approved in the capital budget.

Mr. Keegan asked where the parking lot is exactly.

Mr. Carr responded the address is 36 Riverside.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FOOD COMPOSTING KITS FOR PILOT FOODS SCRAP COLLECTION PROGRAM FROM SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2612 (RESERVE FOR RECYCLING SUPPORT), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00. *MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE SALE OF THESE COMPOSTING KITS WILL BE DEPOSITED BACK INTO THE SAME SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.***

Mr. Tsiranides stated that this is exactly what they have been talking about. He said they have been listening to the public and they are looking into different streams and ways of recycling. This is a pilot program and they are looking to launch it Citywide

eventually. He said that this is a step in the right direction and he complimented the team for all of their hard work and effort into this.

Mr. Carr said the end result is to reduce the waste stream. He said if someone compost their food scraps it becomes less in the garbage and at the transfer station. They have identified two (2) locations for the citywide program. The first location is in Rowayton at the Community Center and the second location most likely would be at the Transfer Station. People are familiar with the Transfer Station and it is conducive to the operation meaning there is staff there six (6) days a week. He explained how this could work. Rowayton is the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot area until July 1, 2020 because Rowayton has offered to cover the cost of the collection services from mid-May to July 1, 2020. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, there are funds budgeted to add a second location which will be at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Livingston said the 6<sup>th</sup> Taxing District is also offering to have staff supervise this effort.

Mr. Carr said that there should be people watching and helping out because some residents don't know where to put the food scraps or would illegally dump. He then asked Ms. Paladino if there was a fee from the collection service if the food scraps were not placed properly.

Ms. Paladino responded if the collection services find something other than the food scraps, they will charge a fine for the contamination because the food scraps would no longer be compostable.

Mr. Carr said it is a good initiative. He said that Ms. Paladino and Mr. Torre have done a great job. They both met with Scarsdale a few times and was educated on the dos and don'ts and they are ready to launch it. This is a reimbursable project. The Rowayton Garden Club has offered to assemble the kits.

Mr. Keegan asked about purchasing additional bags.

Ms. Paladino answered the bags come with the kits but if you would like to purchase extra bags, they could be purchased at the Transfer Station or Yard Waste Site.

Mr. Carr asked if a resident could purchase the bags at the Community Center.

Ms. Paladino responded that extra bags could only be purchased at the Community Center on the days the bins would be sold. Any time after that, a conversation with the IT Department would have to take place to discuss payment methods.

Mr. Carr said the two (2) days Ms. Paladino is referring to are April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Livingston commended the staff for putting in the work to get this initiative on track.

Ms. Paladino said Norwalk will sell the 6 gallon toter, 2 gallon toter for the kitchen countertop, 2 rolls of bags and the info kit at a cost of about \$25 each. The kits are on back order and should arrive by mid-April.

Ms. Smyth commended the effort as well.

Mr. Tsiranides thanked them for all the time and effort that was put in to this initiative. He said that this proves that we are listening to the public.

Mr. Carr said there will be more social media and a press release to follow through by Josh Morgan, Communications Manager for the City of Norwalk.

**\*\*MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

### **A. Discussion**

#### **1. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said they are trying to get the permits for the five (5) watercourses so they can dredge. They received approval from DEP and will meet with them on Friday to finalize the permits. Have not heard from the Army Corp.

Mr. Livingston asked where they are located.

Mr. Carr responded June, Hunter, Kellee, Friendly Pond Area and Lloyd. They have the ROW Entry Agreement and they will begin with Friendly Pond Area first. All of the five (5) applications are in to DEEP and Army Corp. This is for the removing of sediment from the waterway. The State decided to meet with them to help facilitate getting permits from Army Corp. It usually doesn't take this long. The contractor is waiting to do the work.

#### **2. HEAVY PIPE CLEANING CONTRACT**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said that National Water Main began work on Monday. They have completed Hunter and are now working at Oak Hills Golf Course. They have the contract.

Mr. Livingston asked why they are working at the golf course.

Mr. Carr said at 139 North Taylor, a resident has been experiencing flooding. The engineering staff is working with him and the golf course to alleviate the problem. The pipe that they are cleaning is a culvert that leads to a small pond and travels underground and pops out on the other side and that pipe is completely filled with sediment.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if they could see the video of it being cleaned.

Mr. Carr responded yes.

### **3. FLOOD STUDIES STATUS**

Mr. Carr reported on this. Woodard and Curran is about to conclude the drainage studies. They are the consultant retained for the citywide flood studies. The Flood Study should be available within the next two (2) weeks, not the full report but an executive summary. Woodard and Curran ran into problems and they learned that different combinations assist far better than any one system alone. He explained how the simulators work. They should have a full report by the end of May and recommendations within the next two (2) weeks. The consultant will come in for the April meeting to give a presentation.

### **B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT**

Ms. Paladino reported on this. She said it is trending as they budgeted for it. She went through the report line by line and explained it to the Committee. They collect \$85 a ton from commercial haulers and residents but pay \$91 a ton to City Carting, per contract, losing \$6 a ton. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the tipping fee goes up to \$93 a ton. The committee began to discuss raising the tipping fee. Currently, the City receives a \$17.50 per ton rebate of revenue from City Carting on their recycling.

### **UPCOMING PROJECTS**

There was no discussion on this item.

Mr. Carr made an announcement to the Committee that Vanessa Valadares has been promoted to Principal Engineer. He said that he looks forward to working with her for a long time and he is very impressed and glad she is working with them.

Everyone congratulated Ms. Valadares on her new promotion.

**ADJOURNMENT   \*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 7, 2020  
Public Works Committee  
7:00 P.M. Room 231, Norwalk City Hall**