

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
Norwalk City Hall  
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**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
June 2, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan; Manny Langella; Tom Livingston; Darlene Young; David Heuvelman; Greg Burnett

**STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Mike Yeosock, Assistant Director of Transportation

**OTHERS:** Diane Lauricella via teleconference

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Monique Cipriano at [mcipriano@norwalkct.org](mailto:mcipriano@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mr. Tsiranides called to order the Public Works Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. He stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. He announced all of the Committee Members by name and each member responded for attendance. A quorum was present. Mr. Tsiranides gave instructions on how the public comment will be addressed. Public comments via email or zoom video conferencing. Mr. Tsiranides began the meeting with Public Participation.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT (GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)**

Mr. Tsiranides opened public input 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. Mr. Manzi introduced Diane Lauricella and Mr. Tsiranides welcomed her to speak.

Ms. Diane Lauricella greeted the Committee with Good Evening. She said she wanted to speak to two (2) items on the agenda, one (1) is a question and the other is a statement. In regards to the company, JKB that is being hired to assist with the stream maintenance, she stated because she is aware that the conservation office is in need of additional hands on deck, she wanted to know if they have looked at the possibility of a part-time employee to assist with this project and other things that the Conservation Commission doesn't get to do or does not do currently. She said \$47,000 to \$48,000 could hire a part-time staff. Secondly, her main item has to do with the solid waste and recycling report. She would like to state that the Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition plans to continue to offer the City many ways to save money by reducing waste disposal tonnage. She said she emailed everyone except Monique and she will send it to her when she is done. She continued saying that they feel that a more comprehensive and efficient textile recovery program is needed as soon as possible in order to save money and provide reasonable alternatives to the low key programs offered to citizens today both by private and public entity. Currently, there are boxes spread around the City and that is one (1) way to do it but they know that at 93 a ton, heavy textiles especially shoes, sheets, bed spreads and clothes could really add to the weight. There are companies that recycle this material and use it for things like installation, rug mats that sort of thing. The Transfer Station does have two (2) boxes next to it but most of the people that are on curbside pickup don't even know that box is there. Used clothing shops such as Goodwill, pull out some textiles, mostly clothing but the sector and the waste management sector estimates that without a coordinated program there are still tons of textiles going into the garbage disposal. They feel that a robust public outreach program is needed and they want to help. She referenced the email she sent to the Committee stating that Simple Recycling is one (1) program and recycling is another and she wants them to advise her when a meeting could take place with one of the staff or any of the Committee members to move forward on the prospect of optimizing textile recovery in Norwalk. She asked that they please advise tonight or she will look forward to speaking to Anthony or Jessica or any of you. Thank you

Mr. Tsiranides thanked Ms. Lauricella. He asked if there were any other emails or call-ins made for public participation. Since there was none, Chairman Tsiranides moved to the next agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF CHESTNUT STREET FROM MONROE STREET TO MERRITT PLACE TO OFFICER CESAR RAMIREZ DRIVE.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**\*\*MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE

3. **SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF CHESTNUT STREET FROM MONROE STREET TO MERRITT PLACE TO OFFICER CESAR RAMIREZ DRIVE. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**\*\*MS. SYMTH MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 4A. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH A.M. RIZZO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS FOR STATE PROJECT 102-347 NORWALK TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE – PHASE 3 FOR A TOTAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,131,983.70 (BASE BID) AND \$42,270.00 (ALTERNATE A).**

**ACCOUNT NO.  
FEDERAL CMAQ AND TA GRANTS  
09 12 4021 5777 C0232  
09 16 4021 5777 C0232**

09 19 4120 5777 C0232  
09 20 4120 5777 C0232  
09 21 4120 5777 C0232  
09 13 4031 5777 C0514  
09 14 4021 5777 C0514  
09 15 4031 5777 C0514

**4B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH A.M. RIZZO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS FOR STATE PROJECT 102-347 NORWALK TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE – PHASE 3 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$413,198.00**

**ACCOUNT NO.  
FEDERAL CMAQ AND TA GRANTS**

09 12 4021 5777 C0232  
09 16 4021 5777 C0232  
09 19 4120 5777 C0232  
09 20 4120 5777 C0232  
09 21 4120 5777 C0232  
09 13 4031 5777 C0514  
09 14 4021 5777 C0514  
09 15 4031 5777 C0514

Mr. Carr gave a brief update before turning it over to Mike Yeosock. He stated that the project is basically a City Wide Traffic Signal Upgrade with various grant funding. It includes a lot of the adaptive signals and signalization. It helps to improve some of what they have in place already.

Mr. Yeosock stated it is a replacement of six (6) traffic signals at various locations around town on major corridors. Three (3) are located on New Canaan Avenue, two (2) on Route 1 and the other one (1) is on East Avenue/Wall Street. These will be improvements of the traffic signal, pedestrian improvements to make the intersections easier to cross and enhanced sidewalks and crosswalks.

Mr. Tsiranides asked Mr. Yeosock to speak on the federal funding.

Mr. Yeosock responded that there is about 3 million dollars in CMAC Federal Funds which is congestion, mitigation and air quality improvements. The rest of the funding will be City matching funds.

Mr. Livingston said that these are improvements to the signals then asked what does that mean, are they synchronized, he asked for more information.

Mr. Yeosock answered yes they are connected to their central traffic system so they are all fed back to City Hall and the traffic operations where they are monitored and there is video detection. Some of the main improvements, like at New Canaan, is to make that intersection a lot more pedestrian friendly so people can cross the street. Everything will be synchronized so pedestrians can get through those intersections.

Ms. Smyth asked what specifically will improve for the pedestrians, is it the timing of the lighting. She said he mentioned sidewalks and wanted to know what specific changes since those intersections are currently dangerous for pedestrians.

Mr. Yeosock agreed with Ms. Smyth and said they have tightened up some of the radius so cars can't make those fast right hand turns, adding additional crosswalks on all sides of the intersections and fixing the sidewalks.

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

- 5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND JKB CONSULTING, LLC, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION SERVICES AND SUPPORT, NECESSARY TO REMAIN IN COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES (EPA, DEEP, ACOE & CONSERVATION), DURING THE WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE PROJECT (DPW 2019-1), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$47,730.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 15 4027 5777 C0440  
09 17 4027 5777 C0440  
09 18 4027 5777 C0440  
09 19 4027 5777 C0425**

- 5B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, ANTHONY CARR, TO ADD ORDERS ON CONTRACT, TO THE CONTRACT AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND JKB CONSULTING, LLC, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,773.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 15 4027 5777 C0440  
09 17 4027 5777 C0440  
09 18 4027 5777 C0440  
09 19 4027 5777 C0425**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said that this contract is for environmental services for oversight during the construction or maintenance work at the five (5) locations that were previously approved and funded for sediment removal and that includes Friendly Road, Lloyd Road, June, Keelee and Hunter Lane. This specific contract is to ensure that the projects are constructed according to the approved plans by Connecticut DEEP and the Army Corps. He said a lot of this is specialized work and some things are outside the expertise of the Department of Public Works and felt it would be in the best interest of the City and the project to attain professional services to oversee such work. The consultant was involved with the design process and very familiar and intimate with the plans. This is very advantageous to the City.

Mr. Tsiranides added that it is great to see the project going forward. He said staying environmentally friendly is a good positive move forward while trying to remedy the problems

they are having with flooding in those areas. Mr. Tsiranides asked Mr. Carr if he had any thoughts about Ms. Lauricella's question.

Mr. Carr responded that they have collaborated with the Conservation Office throughout the entire process, with the permitting, approvals and even the pre-construction walk through so they are very aware of the five (5) areas where there will be dredging. There was not a discussion regarding employing any services to or from them nor did they offer that or indicate a need for such. He has spoken with Ms. Cherichetti and members of the Conservation Office and none of them expressed a need for assistance.

Ms. Valadares said she wanted to clarify that this environmental inspection services was a requirement from the DEEP and Conservation Permit. So as part of this permit, they have to have that person hired and not a staff person so it is a third party that is required to continue the dredging project. That was one (1) of the requirements of the permit. JKB was chosen through an open RFP process. There were seven (7) companies that responded to the RFP. An internal committee was created to evaluate all of the responses including one (1) member from the Conservation Office. After evaluating all of the participants and responses, JKB was chosen.

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

### **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

#### **A. DISCUSSION**

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

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated the first of the five (5) locations will begin work on Friendly Road on Monday. The second location will be Lloyd Road and that work will begin sometime in August. He turned it over to Ms. Valadares and Mr. Berndlmaier.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated that this is the watercourse maintenance where they are starting work on Friendly Road on Monday. The heavy pipe cleaning contract has finished its work on Surrey Road which is in the same neighborhood. The heavy pipe cleaning locations has progressed very far. They have Army Corp permits for Friendly Road and June Avenue area. They have gotten four (4) out of five (5) for DEEP approval out of those five (5) locations.

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

Mr. Berndlmaier said they are still under budget for the project. He stated that they have finished the heavy pipe cleaning in all locations except Bouton Street. They are working on Bouton Street right now, in the area underneath the railroad tracks. There is a lot of debris that gets in a culvert there. He said that is just a frequent maintenance issue that is too difficult to reach and manage. Once it gets to a certain

point, they use the heavy pipe cleaning contract to clean it up. They have taken a lot of sediment

out of the West Cedar Street area and was able to remove a lot of material from in the pipe system at Surrey Drive. They got some cobbles out of the system by Hunter. He said that all of these locations are where they are doing the watercourse maintenance as well. He said they are cleaning out the pipe systems that spills out into these watercourses so when they clean up those watercourses, they are trying to minimize anything that may come back. He said they have a good team of people working on this.

Ms. Valadares stated that they have cleaned 1500 inner foot of pipe and they have removed over 500 tons of debris.

Mr. Carr added that the locations were in bulk by neighborhood. He listed the locations stating they have cleaned out the culvert by James, Oak Hills Golf course and the adjacent property, Friendly/Saddle/Surrey Areas, and they are working on County Street.

Ms. Valadares said that Hunters Lane and North Taylor was close to 7 tons, West Cedar 367, Andrews Field was about 115 and Surrey as of today was about 15 tons which adds up to a little over 500 tons.

Ms. Young asked how long it would have taken to accumulate that amount of debris/sediment and what is the cause of it.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that it has been a long time since they had a heavy pipe cleaning contract and never to the scope of magnitude that they are dealing with this year's contract. The locations that they have been at would be localized problem areas that they have had in the past, not necessarily these locations. He said he believes this accumulation of materials has been over a course of decades especially in the watercourses. Mr. Berndlmaier said they receive a lot of complaints from residents in the Friendly Pond area. It is called Friendly Pond because if you look at an aerial photo from the sixties it looks like a pond which is now just a stream. Over the decades the wetlands have accumulated a lot of deposit and material and this is the first time we have been able to get through all of the permitting to get to do a thorough cleaning of the sediment. They hope to be able to reduce the amount of sediment going back into the system. Once they get everything cleaned up they hope to manage what goes back into the system better. He mentioned how they used to put sand on the roads in the winter and that is not being done anymore.

Mr. Heuvelman asked what is done with the debris from the cleanup.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that they follow their disposal process which is to bring the material down to their operations center and Ms. Paladino handles the disposal of the material.

Mr. Tsiranides said they stopped using sand quite a while back. He said a large factor was the sand and it should make a difference now that they are not using it.

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

There was no discussion on this item.

#### **B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MAY 2020**

There was no discussion on this item

Mr. Tsiranides said that Ms. Lauricella had a question at the beginning of the meeting. He thinks that throughout the week someone could get in touch with her with some of the answers to her questions.

Mr. Langella thanked the Public Works Committee for all the work they are doing. He said that he spoke with Ms. Lauricella and looked into their recycling operating model and it seemed fairly intuitive. He said that it seemed there were success stories from other cities with minimal costs to the City. Mr. Langella asked if they have explored that option before and if not, do they think it would be credent for the City to explore this as it pertains to the waste tonnage and knowing that textiles probably are a heavier component of that.

Mr. Carr said that they are looking into that. He said Chris Torre and Jessica Paladino have been speaking with Ms. Lauricella about this. He said the COVID Pandemic has slowed things up. It is definitely something to consider and they will look into it and give an update to the Committee at the July meeting.

#### **UPCOMING PROJECTS**

**ADJOURNMENT   \*\*MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:   Tuesday, July 7, 2020**  
**Public Works Committee**  
**7:00 P.M. Location TBD**