

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Tom Livingston; Darlene Young; Dominique Johnson; Nore Niedzielski-Eichner; Bryan Meek; Lisa Shanahan

STAFF: Valadares, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Daniel Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer; Darin Callahan, Assistant Corporation Counsel

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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 to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairwoman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Roll: Tom Livingston Darlene Young Dominique Johnson
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner Lisa Shanahan Bryan Meek
Barbara Smyth

At Roll Call there were seven (7) Committee members present. A quorum was present.

Chairwoman Smyth announced the resignation of Anthony Carr. She thanked him for his work for the city, particularly around flood mitigation and she wished him, his family and his loved ones all the best moving forward.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for the Honorary naming of Trinity Place to Bishop Joseph D. Clemmons, Sr. Drive began at 7:03p.m.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that Bishop Clemmons is still alive and that means if the Committee approves the honorary naming, it will require a two thirds vote by the entire Common Council and that is how the ordinance reads.

Diane Lauricella said she wanted to lift up and praise the nomination for Reverend Clemmons and the naming a street after Reverend Clemmons. She knows it's not traditional to give this honor to someone who is living but she feels he is worthy of this honor for all his great service to the community and she cited his work with Pivot Ministries and as a State Representative.

Rose Smalls said she was delighted to speak on behalf of her spiritual father and icon, Dr. Bishop Joseph D. Clemmons. She has known him since she was six years old. She said he is a great man and has always been positive. She thinks it is great that he was nominated and thinks it would be great for him to have his flowers while he is living because he has done so much for Norwalk.

Dr. Devale Hodge thanked everyone for the opportunity to share. He said it would be great to give him this honor while he can see it and acknowledge it and to know that his labors were not in vain. Dr. Hodge went over Bishop Clemmons's accolades. He asked if the street naming could be changed to Bishop Joseph D. Clemmons, Sr. Place.

Chairwoman Smyth read the honorary street naming request letter to the Committee from Dr. Devale A. Hodge, Senior Pastor (please see agenda backup for letter). Chairwoman Smyth closed the public hearing at 7:16p.m.

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.)

Diane Lauricella said that she wasn't going to speak until she heard the announcement about Chief Carr and then she wished him well. She said things like this could provide an opportunity especially when there is a need for improvements of certain programs. She said one of the things that has been lagging and she has years of experience in is the waste management and recycling program. She has been offering her services and suggestions for years. She looks forward to listening to a report of a search for the waste management and recycling professional. She said it is a very important part of public works. She would like to offer her assistance as part of the team to search for a new Waste Management Manager.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022.

There was no report on this item.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION**

2. APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF TRINITY PLACE TO BISHOP JOSEPH D. CLEMMONS, SR. DRIVE.

The Committee began to discuss changing the honorary naming of Trinity Place to Bishop Joseph D. Clemmons, Sr. Place instead of Bishop Joseph D. Clemmons, Sr. Drive.

Mr. Livingston said he is very impressed with his background and is glad they are going to do this while he is still living.

Ms. Young said it is a special honor to do this while a person is still alive. She said he is a kind man and she appreciates being in his presence. The honor is well deserved, and it is the perfect location. She said that his wife is also engaged in the community.

Chairwoman Smyth said that she doesn't know him personally but is very impressed with him.

The Committee agreed to change it to Place instead of Drive.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM AS AMENDED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS INCIDENTAL THERETO WITH METROPOLITAN REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC WITH RESPECT TO THE CITY'S GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENT RECORDED IN VOL. 8478, PAGE 249 OF THE NORWALK LAND RECORDS AND IN CONNECTION WITH METROPOLITAN REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC'S ELUR APPLICATION TO DEEP.

Chairwoman Smyth noted that Vanessa Valadares is now the Acting Chief of Public. She stated that this item is a general utility easement for Bates Court.

Ms. Valadares gave a brief summary about this item. A developer filed for the ELUR and the city has an easement on the parcel so it needs to be subordinated.

Mr. Callahan explained that this was the result of the abandonment of Bates Court adjacent to what is now MLK Drive and runs along the border of one Bates abuts MLK. The owner determined that for environmental purposes and compliance with DEEP regulations, they need to apply for an environmental land use restriction. Part of the process DEP requires is for the applicant to obtain from anyone holding an interest in the land to subordinate that land interest to the environmental land use restriction.

Mr. Meek asked why it wasn't recognized at the time of construction. Why is it being done after the fact.

Mr. Callahan responded because you cannot apply for one until after the property is developed.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK OPPOSED
MOTION PASSED WITH ONE OPPOSED

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GENGRAS FORD, LLC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2022 F-350 CREW CAB DUMP TRUCKS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$111,246.60.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4031 5777 C0313

Chairwoman Smyth said these trucks were approved in the capital budget and it is just the process of ordering them.

Mr. Livingston asked about hybrid vehicles.

Mr. Torre responded that they are not there yet with the electric vehicles. He looked into an electric sweeper and it was \$800,000.00 and the one (1) they have only cost \$260,000.00.

Mr. Meek asked about the decaling of the vehicles once they are delivered.

Mr. Torre responded that Northeastern usually puts in the radios in the trucks but once they get upgraded city-wide, they will install the radios and decal the truck themselves.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked Mr. Torre for always considering the environmental aspects of the purchases.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM CHIEF OF OPERATIONS & PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE AN ORDER ON CONTRACT, TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE & BOND, INC., FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION/OBSERVATION SERVICES, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$151,000.00.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 23 4021 5777 C0440
09 20 4062 5777 C0361
09 22 4062 5777 C0361
09 23 4062 5777 C0361
09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 14 4021 5799 C0315
09 22 4021 5777 C0315
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 21 4021 5777 C0318
09 22 4021 5777 C0318
09 23 4021 5777 C0318
13 40 10 5796 APW01
13 40 10 5796 APW05**

Ms. Valadares gave a brief explanation for this item. She said this is only to encumber funds to the purchase order. They have a lot of work going on and the in-house inspectors are busy so that is why they have the need for inspectors.

Mr. Meek asked for the number of in-house inspectors they have.

Ms. Valadares responded two (2) in-house inspectors. She said one (1) is a full-time permit inspector and the other one (1) of their inspectors is being used by TMP full-time for now as he is covering a couple of projects for them.

A discussion ensued about the number of full-time in-house inspectors and the need for more. The in-house inspectors are very busy with bid openings and other projects and it would be good to have an inspector at the worksite all day watching the contractor. There was confusion about whether they needed to fill two positions or not. There are no positions available at this time and they are simply contracting out one and a half inspectors to work on several different projects.

Mr. Meek asked if they would have any openings in the future instead of outsourcing inspectors and continue to budget \$1,000 a day for them.

Ms. Valadares said they only pay the contractors when they use them and they can use as needed for any project.

Mr. Meek asked if they were limited to just Dreamy Hollow and if not wanted to know where it is in the backup.

Ms. Valadares explained where and how the funding is used.

Chairwoman Smyth said that they have had these discussions in past meetings and often times by contracting out, they have a particular expertise that they need.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**
****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**
****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE OPPOSED**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Torre went over the report with the Committee.

Ms. Young asked about the trees being cut down by the exits, if they were State trees and if he knew how many were being cut down.

Mr. Torre responded yes they are state trees, he doesn't know how many were being cut down because the state does not provide that information.

Ms. Valadares added that at exit 16 is the median project but the part of the project that is beneficial to Norwalk is the drainage improvements. The city has been battling with the state for

many years and that would improve the quality of water going into the Norwalk River. The state is cutting the trees now for the project and they have received a commitment letter from the state and they have a very big landscape plan to put the trees back probably next fall. The city is also planning to plant hundreds of trees this fall.

Ms. Young asked if the trees that were cut down part of their canopy number.

Mr. Torre answered no. He stated that they are in the process of figuring out how all the planted trees will be watered after the two (2) year period. He said they are progressively thinking forward to make Norwalk's Canopy the best in the State.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if Mr. Torre had an update on how their trees are doing through the drought conditions and asked if there are any concerns about it.

Mr. Torre said there are absolutely concerns. He said all of their trees are affected by the drought.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about lanternflies and if he had any information on that.

Mr. Torre said he would get back to her on that.

Ms. Shanahan asked about the RFP that went out and if he had any information that he could share about it.

Mr. Torre replied no and that he will share any information about the RFP once he gets it.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JUNE & JULY 2022

Mr. Torre went over the report with the Committee.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – JUNE & JULY 2022

Mr. Torre went over the report with the Committee. He said the rest of the City is catching up to Rowayton at 51% to 49% Transfer Station.

D. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

Ms. Valadares and the Senior Civil Engineers gave a brief update on the status of each bullet.

1. CONSTRUCTION

- **DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
- **PM2021-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION**
- **RD2020-1 CONCRETE CURBS AND SIDEWALKS**
- **RD2021-2 CONCRETE CURBS AND SIDEWALKS**
- **DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE**
- **BR2021-1 EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF ROWAYTON AVENUE BRIDGE OVER KEELERS BROOK**
- **STATE OF CT DOT PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- **BR022-1 REHABILITATION OF BONNYBROOK ROAD OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK AND CANNON STREET OVER BETTS POND BROOK – DUE 9/28/22**
- **RNP2022-3 FREESE PARK RAILING REHABILITATION – DUE 8/25/22**
- **RNP2022-2 CALF PASTURE BEACH PARKING AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS – PENDING CC APPROVAL**

3. DESIGN

- **PROJECT 102-366 WEST CEDAR STREET OVER FIVE MILE RIVER**
- **STORM DRAINAGE EVALUATION AT SELECTED LOCATIONS**
- **DRG2022-1 LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE**
- **CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE**
- **VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT**

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the pump station on Woodward Avenue and the flooding that occurs there. She wanted to know the status of the sewer system and the differences between the sewer system and stormwater system and what might be the issues going forward.

Ms. Valadares responded that there are two (2) pump stations in that area, sewer pump station and storm drainage. She began to share her screen and explain what was happening in that area.

Ms. Johnson asked about the tree canopy with the median project.

Ms. Valadares responded that there is an agreement for them to put more trees than they removed back to that location and Strawberry Hill.

Chairwoman Smyth asked Ms. Valadares to inform the Committee about the Open House.

The Open House will be held on October 1, 2022 from 9am to 12noon at the Operations Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Shanahan moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:28p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD