

Public Works Committee Actions

CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2008

ATTENDANCE: William Krummel, Chairman; Douglas Hempstead, Kelly Straniti (7:30 p.m.); Fred Bondi (7:39 p.m.); Andrew Conroy (7:44 p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Public Works Director

OTHERS: Diane Cece, Lou Shulman, Norwalk Transit District, Larry Rutenberg, Robert Wagner

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Krummel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced that there was not a quorum present.

Mr. Krummel then called the Public Hearing on proposed changes in Department of Public Works rates and fees to order at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Straniti joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Krummel asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on the increase in the tipping fees. There was no one present who wished to comment. Mr. Krummel repeated the question two additional times. There was no member of the public present who wished to comment.

Mr. Krummel then closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Krummel said that the last few meetings had run late because there had been quite a few comments and discussion from the public. He then explained that from now on, the audience comments would be confined to the Public Input of the meeting and that there would be no interaction between the public and the Committee.

Mr. Larry Rutenberg said that he would like to get an update on Agenda Item #11 and also asked whether the City was on schedule or permits were still pending.

Mr. Bob Wagner said he was interested in an update on the one of the project along the Five Mile River, but his primary concern was those who had to be evacuated from their

homes during the flooding. He asked if there was any way possible to address the residents who actually had to be evacuated. Mr. Wagner said that he hoped that there would be some kind of plan to address the safety concerns.

Ms. Diane Cece suggested that in the past Committee members would make a motion to move the discussion about the project

Mr. Bondi joined the meeting at 7:39 p.m. A quorum was now present.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS 10 AND 11 TO ACCOMMODATE THE PUBLIC PRESENT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Alvord said that the Buckingham Lockwood project has been on schedule and members of the DPW staff had a meeting in Hartford today about the permit. From this point on, the schedule will be dictated by the DEP.

Mr. Krummel asked about the easements for Olmstead Place. Mr. Alvord replied that his department had not yet received the appropriate documents from the Legal Department.

Mr. Krummel asked what the status was on Five Mile River. Mr. Alvord said that House Bill 656 had not made it out of committee and that the session ends tomorrow. The City has no money allocated to this project at this time. The Capital budget does not have any funds for this project, nor does the Operating Budgets

Mr. Conroy joined the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Bondi reported that he had heard that the Democrats had pulled this item out of this budget and he did not understand why.

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord what the next step would be. Mr. Alvord explained that there would have to be involvement by Darien and New Canaan for the watershed study. Mr. Bondi reminded everyone that the State was to commit \$250,000 for the plan. Mr. Alvord explained that all three parts would have to be done at one time. Discussion about creating a timeline followed. Mr. Alvord said that he believed that the legislation had been worded incorrectly from the start and now the legislation could be drafted correctly. Mr. Bondi said that this year the focus had been Buckingham Lockwood, Olmstead and Mary Austin. The Five Mile River had not even been considered. Mr. Hempstead said that he would like to know what the next steps that Norwalk would need to take. Mr. Alvord said that he could draft something up. Mr. Krummel asked if there were any sediments that could be removed. Mr. Alvord said that the dredging of some of the ponds would not have a significant impact. Mr. Bondi said that he believed the removal of the dam had an effect. Mr. Alvord explained that no matter how high the dam wall was, because there was no flood gate, the extra water would always just flow over the top.

APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday March 4, 2008 (tabled at meeting of April 1).

**** MR. BONDI MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4TH MEETING**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 4, paragraph 3, line 2: please delete the following line:

“Mr. Hempstead said that they flood about the same amount of times that they do on Olmstead Place.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (HEMPSTEAD AND CONROY) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (BONDI AND STRANITI).**

2. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday April 1, 2008.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1ST MEETING.**

A discussion then followed regarding the following paragraph, in which Mr. Hempstead was quoted.

Ms. Cece pointed out that regarding the Tentative Schedule update for Stormwater related work in the minutes; she had asked Mr. Hempstead how many homes had been flooded on Noah’s Lane and Mary Austin Place. She said that she believed that the flooding that took place at those locations was primarily yards and streets. Ms. Cece stated that Mr. Hempstead had replied he believed that the amount of flooding at Mary Austin and Noah’s Lane was about the same as it was at Buckingham and Olmstead. Ms. Cece also noted that she had requested a listing of the homes that had flooded on Mary Austin and Noah’s Lane.

Mr. Hempstead said that he felt that since the statement “Mr. Hempstead said that they flood about the same amount of times that they do on Olmstead Place.” in the March minutes was incorrect and he wished to have it stricken from the record. Ms. Cece pointed out that she had, in fact, made that statement during the April 1st meeting. Mr. Hempstead said that he respectfully disagree with Ms. Cece’s statement about having the sentence stricken from the record. He said that he was not present at that meeting and would like to have it noted that he did not have the opportunity to respond to her comments.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE CLARIFICATION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (BONDI AND CONROY) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (STRANITI AND HEMPSTEAD).**

3. Approve proposed revisions in Public Works rates and fees.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS RATES AND FEES AS NOTED IN 94-10 OF THE CITY ORDINANCES:**

DESCRIPTION CURRENT FEE PROPOSED FEE

ACCEPTABLE SOLID WASTE \$82/TON \$85/TON

BULKY SOLID WASTE \$82/TON \$85/TON

Mr. Hempstead said for the record that Stew Leonard's owns a waste permit, which allows them dump at the Transfer Station. Mr. Conroy stated that he was the secretary for the Sixth District and if the tipping fee exceeds \$85.00, the garbage would go elsewhere.

**** THE MOTION TO INCREASE THE FEES AS STATED ABOVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute a License Agreement with the Norwalk Transit District for the use of a portion of Burnell Boulevard pursuant to easement rights acquired by the City.

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Lou Shulman asked to speak and said that he had two questions that he saw in his copy. Mr. Alvord said that there had been an update in the language in the licensing agreement. Mr. Alvord said that the Committee was authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract. He then gave a brief overview of the contract points. Mr. Shulman said that he would need the licensing agreement to move the project forward. Mr. Krummel had some questions about the details of the easement. Mr. Bondi asked about the Stamford bus parking by the entrance to the underground parking. Mr. Shulman said that there were plans to integrate the Stamford bus into the plan. Mr. Bondi then said that there were problems with passengers being discharged from the Stamford bus on Belden Avenue. Mr. Shulman said that there were plans to correct this situation.

**** THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK TRANSIT DISTRICT FOR THE USE OF A PORTION OF BURNELL BOULEVARD PURSUANT TO EASEMENT RIGHTS ACQUIRED BY THE CITY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an agreement with Third Taxing District to enroll the City Hall emergency generator in the Load Response Program.

5.b. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an agreement with Third Taxing District to enroll the Public Works Center emergency generator in the Load Response Program.

** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE ITEM.

Mr. Krummel said that there was a le

