

MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

MAY 2, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Councilor Dale Sprague, Chair
Councilor Denis Messier
Councilor David Witham
Councilor Jennifer Soldati

Staff Present:

Bob Belmore, City Manager
Mike Bobinsky, Dir. of Public Works & Util.
Trish Harris, City Clerk

Chairman Sprague called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Messier made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 15th. Councilor Witham seconded the motion, which passed, 4-0.

AWARD BID FOR LAGOON CLEANING – WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Director Bobinsky said the lagoon cleaning is a maintenance function. RMI, Resource Management Inc. came in with the most reasonable bid. This will be funded in fy 16, out of the water fund. The material that they remove will be recycled; they will replenish the sand that has been skimmed off over the years. Recommend that we award the bid to RMI.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to award the bid to RMI, all in favor. 4-0

BIKE RACK AT TEATOTALLER AREA

Teatotlaller approached Director Bobinsky to ask if a bike rack could be installed in from of their location. The customer demographic would be likely to use that.

City Manager Belmore said they talked about this at the Finance Committee Meeting. The plan is to talk to the state for leftover funding in the TE grant. Also see if there is anything else that they would like to do in the downtown area.

Councilor Messier's concern is the location; the sidewalk is narrow. Will this block the road or walkway? It is ironic that they had to narrow the sidewalk to make room for the bike lane, and now they don't have room on the sidewalk for a bike rack.

Bobinsky said the design they are using is a smaller design. It will be drilled into the concrete, protected by sealant. It can be easily maintained around in the winter. He has looked at several options and at the bump out at the VFW.

Councilor Witham said he is for it.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to allow staff to move forward and look into funding from the TE Grant. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

MEMORIAL DRIVE/HIGH STREET PEDESTRIAN LIGHT

Traffic Safety Committee asked that this be reviewed.

There was discussion about repaving the area; bringing the hot top all the way to Franklin, look at the engineering of the traffic island.

City Manager said they have contacted the state for grant money. Approximate cost is \$40,000 for the lights and install.

WEED CONTROL

Director Bobinsky said the main objective is to protect the streets and walkways from weeds that can damage the walkways and streets.

They have been looking at alternative products. Recommend that they not use Roundup, but use Rodeo, which is less harmful on the environment, on the primary streets of the city. They would like to try an alternative known as Avenger, on the secondary streets.

The contractor recommends 2 applications, June and August, for a more comprehensive impact. A map was provided for a visual of the primary and secondary streets suggested. The street list is subject to adjustment. The cost is \$1,600 per application.

There was lengthy discussion about the safety of Roundup, Rodeo and Avenger. They are known to use glyphosate, a product that is probably carcinogenic. California has banned glyphosate. It is made by Monsanto.

Councilor Soldati said if we use these products, then we should take advantage of the water bills and notify the people on these streets that this will be used, and they may opt out.

Councilor Messier said he does not like to see weeds in the cracks around the city. He does not like the weeds in the city. These are our streets and we have a duty to maintain them. He uses roundup in his yard.

Councilor Witham said there are 2 main reasons that we need weed control' part of it is image and another part is premature damage to our infrastructure. It's good to look for an alternative. He thanked Director Bobinsky for his effort in finding something different.

Councilor Soldati said she doesn't love weeds either. She is happy that they have found the new product Avenger, but not happy that they are still using glyphosate.

There was discussion about bids and vendors. Dover and Portsmouth use this vendor.

SUPERFUND SOLAR PROJECT

There will have a resolution to go back out to bid.

City Staff was directed to explore the option of sending the power to PD or PW... was discussed at Finance Committee.

MISC.

There are cars parking on the sidewalk from High Street to West High. Could we at least make a line to delineate between the road and walkway?

Director Bobinsky said he and Captain Timmons walked the site about a month ago. It is a serious issue, also connected with the schools. They are looking into relining the area.

USS Somersworth Park needs a sign about dog feces. Director Bobinsky will look into a sign.

Director Bobinsky provided a memo to the City Manager with project updates, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed, 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk