

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
November 14, 2019 – 4:00PM

Committee Members present: Councilor Dale R. Sprague, Chair
 Councilor David A. Witham, Vice Chair
 Councilor Martin Dumont, Sr. (Mayoral Appointment)
 Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
 Finance Director Scott Smith
 Director of Public Works Michael Bobinsky
 City Engineer Gary Lemay
 Deputy City Clerk Kelly Gagne

Other: Richard Michaud

Chairman Sprague called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Witham, to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2019 meeting. Motion was approved 3-0, Councilor Dumont abstained.

ROAD RESURFACING PLAN - BETA PMI UPDATE

City Engineer Lemay presented a map and a spreadsheet that was done using the data collected by BETA Group as part of the pavement management program. The map showed the streets that scored in the PMI low range. Lemay went over the list and grouped them to include neighborhood areas. He stated that a lot of the roads listed would most likely just need a shim and overlay.

Chairman Sprague stated that he drove some streets and he offered roads that he thought needed attention.

Manager Belmore brought up the thought of waiting to pave Buffumsville Road until the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades have been finished, in case they need to cut into the road for utilities and extra construction trucks will be prevalent.

Councilor Witham asked how the work from BETA was viewed by staff. City Engineer Lemay responded that they have been good, he has a few questions out to them regarding numbers and verifying the info he received.

Councilor Witham likes the idea of keeping Buffumsville Road off the list until the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades have been finished.

Chairman Sprague suggested putting the paving bids out in the winter to allow for spring paving. He would like to see some things added in the contract such as; the work needing to be completed by May-June and adding a timeline for final paving, also if the contractor didn't meet these mandates there would be a monetary penalty. Councilor Witham agreed. City Engineer Lemay updated the Committee that the paving work within the City is just about complete with just a punch list of items that they are addressing. The list includes drainage issues in some areas, striping and adding gravel to certain street shoulders.

Councilor Witham indicated that the curbing on Indigo Hill Road near First and Second Street needs to be repaired before the snow comes.

There was lengthy discussion on sidewalks within the City and how to begin to budget to repair them. Chairman Sprague suggested adding a separate line item dedicated to only sidewalks to help tackle repairing and replacing them. Other Committee members agreed.

There was a discussion on the timing for a bond for the Cemetery Road complete streets project

OBSTRUCTION PERMIT – MT. VERNON STREET

City Engineer Lemay received a phone call that the resident no longer needs this and has made other arrangements.

CITY ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 12 REVISION

Belmore stated that there are two suggested Ordinance revisions. The first being under permit required that strikes the City Engineer and adds Director of Public Works or designee. Additional, the change includes adding language that prohibits citizens from moving snow or ice onto a public road or sidewalk so as to block access to cars or pedestrians or block fire hydrants. Chairman Sprague questioned if this includes sidewalks that are not maintained by the City. ***Councilor Witham asked to add “winter-maintained sidewalks by the City” to the suggested Ordinance change.***

Director Bobinsky said the second change deal with how the City processes fees for trench permits, and is suggesting adding that any contractor that works in the right of way must be licensed by the City of Somersworth and must have liability insurance.

Chairman Sprague explained how Rochester processes their trench permits. He explained that he doesn't agree with the construction company paying the bond. He thinks it should be the homeowner or the business that pays the bond and he explained why.

There was discussion about the Ordinance change regarding bonding projects.

Chairman Sprague asked how damages done by contractors are recovered and suggested that something be added about damages done to City property.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent made a motion that the Public Works and the Environment Committee sponsor an Ordinance revision prohibiting citizens from moving snow or ice onto public roads or sidewalks maintained by the City so as to block access to City

roads and maintained sidewalks or hydrants and other small administrative changes. Motion Passed 4-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Witham stated that at a recent Planning Board meeting the Hall at Great Falls was looking to expand their hall and the capacity. During that meeting the topic of pedestrian enhancements was brought up because this addition would bring increased pedestrian traffic. He passed out a handout and spoke of his updates and explained where the crosswalks currently are in the downtown area. He suggested adding flashing LED edge lit signs powered by solar in front of the City Hall crosswalk and the crosswalk located by Forty-Five Market Street bakery. Manager Belmore stated the Planning Board is about to be approve the additional occupancy but that the reason this was tabled was to have a conversation with the Traffic Safety Committee on any pedestrian improvements.

Councilor Witham asked if we can nail down a cost to add these two signs before the next Planning Board meeting.

Councilor Witham would like an update from Staff regarding the Tri City Road widening project. Director Bobinsky responded that there was an emergency with a hit to a gas line; he stated they are about done. Engineer Lemay stated that they plan to loam and hydro seed after the Staples building where the granite curbing ends.

Councilor Witham informed staff that there is a signal cable pull box in front of the Irving Station on High St with cones around it. It should probably be addressed before winter or it is going to get pulled up. Director Bobinsky said he will look into this and take care of it.

Manager Belmore informed the Committee that an owner of a multi-level building is looking to update the building. The City was informed that the flashing overhead beacon at Franklin & Green intersection is out of code and would need to be moved higher or removed. Manager Belmore told the owner it would be a cost to him. He suggested that we just remove the flashing light however this topic is on the next Traffic Safety Committee agenda.

Councilor Vincent agreed that it is probably not needed. Councilor Witham is also fine with removing it and will need to be closely watched for people driving on Green Street. Councilor Dumont reminded the Committee that there is an elderly housing building right there.

Councilor Witham has been on Franklin Street approaching the intersection and feels there is not enough line of site due to cars parking on Franklin and Silver Street so close to the intersection. He suggested moving the no parking signs back to allow for a better line of site of the stop sign.

Chairman Sprague stated there is a flickering street light at the end of Page Street and that one is out. Director Bobinsky said he will address it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Vincent, motion passed 3-1 Councilor Sprague opposed. Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk