

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

October 18, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
Councilor Matt Gerding
Councilor Richard R. Michaud

Absent: Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent
Councilor Martin P. Dumont

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Finance Director Scott Smith
Public Works Director Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer Amber Hall
Deputy City Clerk Ammy Ramsey

Public present: Glenn Patch, Atlantic Broadband Construction Manager

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. He asked that the record show that the Mayor had appointed Councilor Michaud as a temporary Member of the Committee for this meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Councilor Michaud made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 2-0-1, Councilor Gerding abstained.

REQUEST OF SUR TO CONTINUE CEMETERY ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK BEYOND MORATORIUM DATE OF NOVEMBER 15

City Manager Belmore referred to the memorandum he received from Public Works Director Michael Bobinsky stating that SUR Construction is requesting to work beyond the November 15th moratorium on the Cemetery Rd. Complete Streets Project. Belmore informed the Committee that the following 3 items are the anticipated work activities to be completed by the end of November and the final wearing course asphalt on the entire length of Cemetery Rd. is planned for the spring of 2022.

- Base Pavement from Maple Street to Memorial Drive: 11-19-2021
- Curb installation from Maple Street to Memorial Drive: 11-23-2021
- Completion of paved sidewalk, and possibly driveway apron tie ins from Maple Street to Memorial Drive

Councilor Witham inquired about low temperatures for paving, City Engineer Amber Ferland stated that the safe temp for paving is 40° and rising and also that the curing time is not long after it is rolled. There was also some discussion pertaining to the driveway and sidewalk tie ins having quality control to ensure

those are done properly. Belmore stated some of this work needed to be completed so that snow plowing operations would not be hindered.

Councilor Witham mentioned a concern that was brought to him by some residents about the W. High Street sidewalk connecting with the sidewalk on Cemetery Road and the line striping on the intersections of W. High Street and Cemetery Road, and Maple Street and Cemetery Road. Bobinsky and Ferland stated they will look into and address these concerns.

Councilor Gerding made a motion to recommend to the full Council approval of the request from SUR Construction to work beyond the moratorium date of November 15th. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 3-0.

NADEAU STREET COMPLETION CLOSE OUT

City Manager Belmore stated that the Nadeau Street project has been certified completed by the City Engineer Amber Hall. Belmore explained some steps that were taken for the project and presented some photos for the Committee to review. Belmore also explained that they will be going to the Planning Board because there are some new drainage easements and a new hammer head turn around and they need to get planning board to sign off so that the new plan can be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Councilor Witham mentioned he has driven the road and thinks the residents will be happy with the results. Witham also confirmed with Finance Director Scott Smith that there was a savings of around \$10,000.00 from the original estimated budget. Smith also mentioned that the Betterment Assessment has been recorded and will begin to be billed this coming tax bill.

ROAD RESURFACING PROPOSAL & ESTIMATES

Councilor Witham stated that the Committee at the last meeting reviewed potential streets and their condition noted in the Pavement Management Study and gave some suggestions regarding which roads should be resurfaced for FY2022 season. Public Works Director Michael Bobinsky presented a FY2022 Preliminary Street Paving List that included the details for the street, treatment, and cost. The proposed base paving is \$890,000.00, High St. project is \$480,500.00, and the crack sealing is \$50,000.00 totaling \$1,420,500.00.

City Manager Belmore stated that the total available is in the amount of \$1,149,611.00. Belmore noted that he requested City Engineer Hall to come up with a cost estimate for Willand Drive because the Planning Board would be receiving some Betterment Extraction Funds in the amount of \$20,774.00 related to the sports dome project and the road is in terrible shape. Hall suggested a mil and overlay for Willand Drive and her estimate is around \$190,000.00.

Councilor Witham mentioned that we should consider the timing the High Street work with the TAP Grant that is hopefully starting next season and put Willand Drive off until FY2023 after the Dome

construction is completed. There was some further discussion pertaining to sidewalk repairs, crack sealing, and timing for projects.

Councilor Gerding made a motion to sponsor a Resolution for full Council consideration of the proposed road resurfacing for FY2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 3-0

ATLANTIC BROADBAND REQUEST TO WORK BEYOND THE WINTER MORATORIUM

Councilor Witham stated that the City received a request from Atlantic Broadband to work past the Winter Moratorium. City Manager Belmore stated that Glenn Patch from Atlantic Broadband is requesting permission to allow Consolidated and Eversource to replace utility poles that are needed to place Broadband wires on after the November 15th moratorium. This will allow Atlantic Broadband to complete the network infrastructure build currently underway.

There was discussion pertaining to all the double poles around the City. Glenn Patch informed the Committee that if this request is not granted that the project would have to be pushed out, and the issue with that is they would have to move onto another town and the return to finish Somersworth would be unknown.

City Manager Belmore inquired about areas where underground wires were placed such as in his neighborhood and the damage to the immediate surrounding area that was caused by the equipment trenching to install new conduit. A couple areas were mentioned to Mr. Patch and he stated that he will notify the contractor who did the replacement and get those areas repaired.

Councilor Michaud made a motion to recommend to full Council to allow Atlantic Broadband to work beyond the moratorium. Councilor Gerding made an amendment that no poles in roadways and sidewalks only to poles off paved roadways and sidewalks. Councilor Michaud agreed with the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 3-0

CONSTITUTIONAL WAY AND MAIN STREET COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN

City Manager Belmore stated that there was a meeting with the engineer's from Wright-Pierce and there were a few questions for this Committee to get some clarification. Finance Director Smith inquired about the sidewalk buffer area on Constitutional Way being stamped concrete instead of grass. The consensus of the Committee was to go with the stamped concrete. A bike lane was discussed but it was determined that there would be not enough space for a bike lane. There was further discussion pertaining to Main Street and having some trees or shrubbery in a median. Parking was also discussed and would be left as is. Gerding asked about some trees along Constitutional Way and on Main Street on the former GE side of the Street.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Gerding inquired about intersection of Cemetery and W. High Street grass area becoming larger since the road was directed differently and who is responsible to maintain that new area. Director Bobinsky stated that the property is City owned but usually the abutting property owner mows the area when they mow their lawn.

Councilor Witham inquired about the area where there is a gap in the sidewalk between Cemetery Road and West High Street and asked why that area of sidewalk wasn't connected. He also stated that the intersection of Cemetery and West High is confusing right now and asked if the contractor was going to place any traffic markings to clarify. Director Bobinsky said he would go back and look at the plans and follow up with the consultant engineers about the sidewalk. Also, he will discuss having some lines placed in the intersection to clarify traffic movements.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Michaud made a Motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dumont and passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk