

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 1, 2022 – 4:15 PM

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chair
 Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chair
 Councilor Kenneth Vincent
 Councilor Martin Pepin

Administration/Staff present: City Manager - Bob Belmore
 Director of Public Works - Michael Bobinsky
 City Engineer - Amber Hall
 Code Compliance Officer - Paul Crouser

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Vincent, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

ROAD RESURFACING AND CRACK SEALING BIDS

Manager Belmore stated that there were four bids for road resurfacing. Pavex, Inc. out of Methuen, MA was the lowest bid, with a bid of \$510,752K. Manager Belmore stated that all reference checks re: Pavex were positive.

Councilor Messier asked what the proposed budget was, and Manager Belmore stated it was \$900K.

Manager Belmore stated that re: crack-sealing, the winning bid is Connecticut Sealcoating, LLC. Director Bobinsky and Amber Hall stated that the contractor's references were checked and they all came back positive. Amber Hall further stated that CT Sealcoating bid a lower number than what the city estimated and also relayed that CT Sealcoating, in writing, stated that their proposal was a not-to-exceed figure which covered all City streets.

Councilor Witham addressed a resident concern regarding Sinclair Ave. Resident was in favor of a partial reclamation. Director Bobinsky and Amber Hall reviewed the request, and provided estimates for the work. Councilor Witham suggested a partial reclamation of Sinclair Ave., since the paving bid was well under budget. Councilor Witham then asked if anyone else would be in favor of this. Manager Belmore stated that per her memorandum, Amber Hall recommends against

reclamation and asked Ms. Hall to clarify. Amber Hall stated that a reclamation would require more equipment than what was included in the bid, so reclamation would require a rebid. She further stated 4" of asphalt would be needed for a reclaim making it a much more intensive project.

Councilor Messier asked if the paving scope of work includes mill/overlay, shim/overlay, or reclamation. Amber Hall stated that the City is pursuing shimming and overlaying of target streets.

Councilor Witham asked what the City should do with the remaining monies. Amber Hall said that Mt. Vernon St. is in need of repairs, as are the adjacent Prospect, Grove, and Highland Street.

Councilor Vincent posed the question of whether or not to use the remaining funds to repair additional roads, or to instead repair sidewalks.

Councilor Witham stated that the City has sidewalk repair reports for replacing existing City sidewalks in-kind, with the figure being around \$4mil for the entire City. The sidewalk analysis did not address sidewalk width, their composition, or the curbing – all of which are factors which add cost, and therefore, careful prioritization is needed.

Councilor Messier recommended keeping the funds separate, and not comingling repaving funds with sidewalk repair funds.

Councilor Witham brought up Noble St. - the upper portion of which is heavily trafficked, with cars parked along the side of the road which adds to the deterioration of the pavement's edge. Councilor Witham suggested making a wider shoulder to compensate for this, and grading of the road to accommodate for water runoff, because as-is, there is erosion from road water runoff.

Motion put forth by Councilor Witham to bring the issue of adding repairs of additional streets to the scope of work order to full City Council. All approve.

Regarding crack sealing, Amber Hall stated that Connecticut Sealcoating had the lowest bid, but also had the lowest average crack length estimation. Hall asked CT Sealcoating if they exceeded their linear total of cracks City-wide (an estimate of 36K feet) if they would abide by their quoted cost, and they confirmed they would not exceed budget, and that all road cracks would be included in their scope of work. CT Sealcoating's references include New Durham and Alton, both municipalities giving positive references, while stating that CT sealcoating does quality work and has never exceeded their approved budget.

Councilor Vincent moves to approve Pavex, Inc. and Connecticut Sealcoating bids – Councilor Witham seconds, motion passes 4-0.

CIP/CAPITAL PROJECTS

Manager Belmore stated that he has concerns regarding overburdening the City Engineer and other City Staff with all the on-going projects in the works at some level and he had included a list in the meeting packet. Manager Belmore mentioned the Library's ADA improvements, Main St. /

Constitutional Way Complete streets improvements, and the large dollar values of those projects that will be bumping up against one another .

Councilor Messier encouraged 3rd party review of these projects, and recommended implementing improvements to Main St. and Constitutional Way, as well as the Rocky Hill Rd. culvert.

Councilor Witham asked City staff for an estimated bid timeline for TAP grant projects. Director Bobinsky stated that the TAP grant project, as well as the High St. CMAQ grant are anticipated to go out for bid by late Spring of 2022.

SALMON FALLS ROAD HAZMIT GRANT

Manager Belmore stated that this project was put into the HazMit plan a few years ago, which included the elevating of Salmon Falls Rd. due to flooding.

Councilor Witham argued that this project is too substantial to justify its undertaking, and that there are other City projects more in-need. Councilor Vincent raised the point that even if the road were to be lifted, it might not solve the flooding issue.

Councilor Pepin does not support the project, as the City has no way to predict the water table level in the future, which could make efforts to raise the road moot.

Councilor Vincent motions to not accept the grant. Councilor Pepin seconds the motion. Motion to not accept the grant passes, 4-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore addressed a proposed Councilor's idea to have lane dividing line on High St. painted blue in support of local law enforcement. Manager Belmore raised concerns regarding the associated liability of changing the color from yellow to blue. Councilor Messier stated he doesn't think it should be blue. The Committee does not approve of the line as it does not conform to traffic safety regulations.

Manager Belmore addressed the issue of snow removal from the downtown area. Councilor Witham suggested tweaking the snow removal process, by focusing on the Green/Franklin St. area as opposed to the Main St. area by Aclara. He stated that the aforementioned area has heavier traffic flow and parking utilization, in addition to being a narrower street.

Councilor Messier suggested that the intersection of High St./Indigo Hill Rd. could benefit from additional snow removal to aid in visibility.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Pepin. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Crouser, Code Compliance Officer