

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 17, 2022 – 3:00 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
 Finance Director/DCM Scott Smith
 Director of Public Works - Michael Bobinsky
 City Engineer - Amber Hall
 Deputy City Clerk – Ammy Ramsey

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Messier, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

ROAD RESURFACING – REVIEW ADDITIONAL STREETS

Councilor Witham explained that the low bid we received, from Pavex Inc., came in under the allotted budget, at the last meeting the Public Works & Environment Committee requested City Staff look at additional streets to include in the scope of work.

City Manager Belmore stated that City Staff prepared a list of potential additional streets to the FY2022 paving list, and worked with Pavex Inc. to obtain a cost to pave the additional Streets. Based on staff's review with Pavex, the total additional price is \$312,404.00 including contingency. Belmore also stated that the City Staff included the estimate of \$2,200.00 for fogline stripping along the proposed resurfaced section of Rocky Hill Road from Otis Road to Whippoorwill Way.

City Engineer Amber Hall mentioned that they looked at streets near the area of the base bid to come up with the additional streets. Amber stated that the Mt. Vernon section was a smaller street in the original bid so they looked at other streets in that vicinity. The additional cost for paving above their bid price is mainly based on the way they have to pave on the steep hilled sections. There is an additional \$10,000.00 allowance for drainage and curbing on Noble Street.

Councilor Witham mentioned that the overall cost is \$865,333.00 of the budgeted amount of \$900,000.00 for FY2022 paving, and any funds left will be encumbered for future paving.

Councilor Vincent inquired about any special requirements for paving on a steep hill for drainage. Amber mentioned they do have allowances for the way they have to pave on inclines and around the drainage areas. There was also some discussion pertaining to the manhole covers and stormwater grates.

Councilor Messier expressed his concern about inflation and the rising price of oil and having another contingency plan for that potential increase in cost. Finance Director Scott Smith stated that the 10% contingency on the memo is for the additional streets only, and that they are going to recommend a 10% contingency plan on the original bid as well.

There was also some discussion pertaining to the milling and how that will affect the appeal of the granite curbing. Engineer Hall stated that they do have to do some milling and they will taper into the curb so the granite curbing will still maintain appeal.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to sponsor a Resolution to award the FY2022 paving contract to Pavex, Inc. of Methuen, Mass including the additional streets and fog line stripping, and award the crack-sealing bid to Connecticut Sealcoating of Bethlehem, Ct. for a total cost of \$865,333.00 with a contingency amount of \$51,000.00 totaling \$916,333.00. Councilor Messier seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilor Witham thanked City Staff for adding the additional streets so quickly.

Finance Director Smith stated that there will be 2 Resolutions being brought forward to City Council, one for paving and one for crack-sealing.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Messier inquired if fog line stripping is still being done. Councilor Witham stated that is done all over the City and that this in particular area of Rocky Hill Rd. it has not been done in the past. Messier also mentioned that the potholes are starting to appear around the City. Councilor Witham mentioned that once the weather starts to cooperate the Public Works Dept. will be repairing those. It was suggested that some cold patching should be done now.

Councilor Witham also mentioned that the wheel ruts on West High and Willand Drive will need to be repaired as well.

Councilor Pepin mentioned doing some ditch work at 36 Otis Road because there is a natural spring that ends up running down the road and the ice has been building up and is higher than the road. Public Works Director Bobinsky stated they will go look at that and see what they can do.

Councilor Vincent inquired about Walton's Way and if the City owned that road or if Walmart does because there is a sewage structure that is at a tilt and in need of repair. Bobinsky stated he believes that the road is private but he will investigate on who is liable to fix that.

City Manager Belmore stated that Mr. Baker purchased Prince's Garage and after having the building demolished they discovered an excess of contaminated soil. Belmore mentioned that they would like to apply for a Brownfields Grant to help with the cost of removing that soil but in order to get a grant from the EPA it needs to be owned by a municipality or a not-for-profit company.. Mr. Baker is inquiring if the City would like to open a dialog to see if the City and Mr. Baker can enter into an agreement for the City to own the property to be able to apply for the grant and then sell it back to him. The other option for Mr. Baker is to create an LLC or Non-Profit and apply. There were some concerns brought forward about the property sitting the way it is right now, and if the City might be stuck with the property that the City will have to expend money on. The consensus of the Committee is to continue an open conversation to see if there is an appropriate path to assist Mr. Baker.

City Manager Belmore stated that the CIP included an engineering design on a section of water line on Main Street and is wondering if the Committee would like to delay until next year considering all of the current projects. The consensus of the Committee is if city staff is prepared to recommend that we delay this project one year the Committee is agreeable to that.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Vincent. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey Deputy City Clerk