

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

April 21, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
Councilor Kenneth Vincent
Councilor Martin Pepin

Committee Members excused: Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chairman

Administration/Staff present: City Manager – Bob Belmore
Director of Public Works – Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer – Amber Hall
Public Works Foreman – Gerry Vachon
Deputy City Clerk – Ammy Ramsey

Others present: Britt Eckstrom, PE – Wright-Pierce Engineering

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Councilor Pepin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 3-0.

CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN DRAFT

Britt Eckstrom from Wright-Pierce Engineering presented a Complete Streets Project presentation for the Committee explaining the project goals, considerations, and the components for Constitutional Way. Ms. Eckstrom mentioned that around 70% of the plan is set which includes the replacement of sanitary sewer and water pipes, installation of a new storm drain treatment system, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, and streetscape that is consistent with High Street.

Councilor Witham mentioned that there does not appear to be any parking loss or gain with the redesign.

Ms. Eckstrom also mentioned that the water main for domestic and fire services will be replaced and the sewer main is being relocated in the roadway. Councilor Witham inquired about the old sewer lines being abandoned, and Ms. Eckstrom stated that they will be properly taken out of service so there will be no issues in the future.

Ms. Eckstrom mentioned that they are introducing some stormwater treatment systems in the streetscape which are two tree box filters and one media box filter. Ms. Eckstrom explained how

they are beneficial for stormwater treatment and that they find more communities moving towards these types of streetscapes as regulations change regarding treatment of stormwater in the future. Councilor Witham mentioned that stormwater management should be something this Community should continue to move towards more improvements.

Ms. Eckstrom stated that the design will be completed by June 2023, and the construction timeline of the project is estimated around 7 months.

Councilor Vincent expressed concerns regarding the road travel width and having enough room for two lanes of travel and parking. There was some discussion pertaining to the current layout of Constitutional Way and the changes that will be made to accommodate for adequate travel and parking lanes. City Manager Belmore stated that during conversations at the staff level with Wright-Pierce to address this concern, they made adjustments to the width of one sidewalk by eliminating a green strip placement to ensure adequate travel lane width.

Councilor Witham stated he is fine with the design with the implementation of the green tree box filters and likes the wider sidewalk and the street lights on the sidewalk and not in the parking spaces as well.

Councilor Witham mentioned that the parking lot at Shiva Market on the sidewalk side of Constitutional Way has a retaining wall that appears to be failing and feels that this would be the time to address that issue. Manager Belmore feels that the repair is the responsibility of Shiva Market and he will have staff look into that.

The Committee thanked Ms. Eckstrom for the presentation and look forward to the presentation being presented to the full City Council. CHAPTER 32, WATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

City Manager Belmore provided a red-line version of an Ordinance amendment for the Committee to review. Public Works Director Bobinsky mentioned a recent situation where an additional connection was discovered and the property owner wanted to meter the usage to better track the utility usage for each unit. Director Bobinsky explained that this amendment will allow for some flexibility when situations arise like this one.

There was some discussion pertaining to the billing and payment process and it was determined that this amendment will not change anything with the billing and payment process and the Committee members were in support of the proposed amendment.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to support the Chapter 32, Water Ordinance Amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-0.

PRIVATE WAY SIGNAGE

Councilor Witham stated that City staff worked with a sign vendor to get a cost estimate for the addition of a “private way” sign for private ways would be \$60.00 per sign and the recommendation is to purchase 16 signs. City Manager Belmore mentioned getting permission to attach the sign from the property owners who may own the road sign and pole.

There was some discussion pertaining to some of the streets listed not being a private way, and Director Bobinsky stated that they will double check the list for accuracy, particularly Wells St.

Councilor Pepin mentioned that it may be a good idea to put the sign cost for private roads into the agreement when applying for road approval, and Councilor Witham stated that might be addressed at the Planning Board level. City Manager Belmore mentioned getting approval from the E-911 Committee as well as another option

Councilor Pepin made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of 16 “private” or “private way” signs. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-0.

SIDEWALK REPAIR – WINTER PLOW DAMAGE

Councilor Witham mentioned that during the winter sidewalk plowing some sidewalks sustained damage and is hoping that the Public Works Department can address these issues. Public Works Director Bobinsky mentioned that the ground over the winter was soft and never really froze which contributed to the damage and he will be addressing those spots for repair. Director Bobinsky also mentioned some lawns were damaged Foreman Vachon stated that they are aware of the sidewalk damage and will be addressing those areas as soon as they are able. Foreman Vachon mentioned a handicapped ramp on Verona Street and the damage on Buffumsville Road has a significant amount of damage so these areas could take longer.

Discussion continued concerning the unusual amount of damage the winter storms have caused throughout the City and how it has affected the Public Works Department work assignments. Director Bobinsky informed the Committee that the normal brush pick-up for this time of year is usually around 40 or 50 households, but this year the crew picked up from approx. 180 households in four days.

UPDATES ON TAP & MCAQ

City Manager Belmore referred from a memo in the meeting packet from Public Works Director Bobinsky. The TAP Grant project has made progress and the campus connector path is complete except for the realignment change behind Maplewood Elementary School. The High Street sidewalk work is underway and the Memorial Drive bump outs are scheduled for the week of April 24th. Manager Belmore described some details concerning a part of the path that the Public Works

Department needed to contact the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for an environmental study due to the path's proposed resign in a wooden area, the need to check for any endangered bats or reptiles. Manager Belmore also stated that the path pavement was decreased to 5' as well to deter vehicle traffic in that area. Councilor Vincent mentioned that he would rather see bollards instead of boulders in the areas adjacent to parking travel lanes.

Public Works Director Bobinsky stated that CMAQ is requesting an extension for the completion of the 6 traffic signals on High Street, and explained that they are experiencing delays in receiving the equipment. Director Bobinsky informed the Committee that the extension will be until October 31, 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Vincent inquired about the catch basin at Blackwater Road and High Street, and Public Works Foreman Vachon stated that he will get some staff out and repair a few smaller repairs in that area and then they will make that larger repair. Public Works Director Bobinsky ensured the Committee that they are monitoring the issue to ensure it's not getting worse.

Councilor Witham inquired about a manhole on Drew Street and High Street that needs some attention as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey Deputy City Clerk