

Public Works and Buildings Committee

June 18, 2015

Council Chambers

7PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Ralph Torr - Chairman

Councilor Ray Varney- Vice Chairman

Councilor Sandy Keans

Councilor David Walker

Councilor Donald Hamann

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor James Gray

Councilor Jake Collins

Dan Fitzpatrick, City Manager

John Storer, PE, Director of City Services (6/15/15)

Michael Bezanson, PE, Interim Director of City Services

Jennifer Hale, PE, Assistant City Engineer

Mark Hourihane, Representing Colonial Pines

Paul Moore, 27 High Street

Renda Cate, Art Esprit

MINUTES

Councilor Torr called the Public Works and Buildings Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approve minutes from May 21, 2015 meeting -

Councilor Varney requested a recommendation on last month's minutes.

Councilor Walker made a motion to accept minutes as presented for the May 21, 2015 Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haman. The Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input

Paul Moore of 27 High Street spoke of his request to tie his residence into the gas line on High Street. Mr. Moore stated that last fall he had purchased a new natural gas heating unit to replace his very old oil fired one. He stated that he had found out after the purchase that Unitil had been denied the permit to tie his home in due to the 3 year moratorium on cutting the pavement. When he spoke to Gretchen Young at the DPW she had told him to wait till next year to apply again as his road was paved in 2012. Mr. Moore stated that he had waited till spring and fortunately his old furnace made it

through another heating season. He further stated that he has recently been informed by Unitil that the permit to tie his home in had again been denied; this time by Mrs. Hale. Mr. Moore stated that he called the DPW and spoke to Mrs. Hale. Mrs. Hale explained that by policy she had to deny it again as the road will not be 3 years old until October of 2015. Mr. Moore stated he is at the meeting tonight to ask that the Public Works Committee recommend that the City Council waive the remaining 4 months and allow Unitil to cut the pavement to install the line. Mrs. Hale stated that Mr. Moore has accurately described the process and she stated that she has followed the proper process in denying him. She also stated that if the Council chooses to allow this to be done early; the City will probably get a better repair to the road surface in midsummer than we would if this is done in the colder temperatures in late fall, while everyone is rushing to complete work at the end of the season.

Councilor Walker motioned to recommend that the full City Council vote to waive the 3 year moratorium in order for Mr. Moore and Unitil complete the service tie in at 27 High Street. Councilor Varney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Renda Cate stated that she was here at the meeting to represent the Art Esprit Organization. She stated that she was here to explain this year's project to the Committee to see if there were any questions and to obtain feedback. She was unsure if she needed Council approval or if it was ok to proceed. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he believed that he could allow her to proceed but he wants to address any of the Committee's concerns or questions prior to allowing the organization to proceed. Ms. Cate stated that this organization had done many successful projects in the City. She mentioned the "The Shoes of Rochester", the "If these Rocks could Talk", and "The Mythology of Rochester" projects. Ms. Cate stated that this year's project involved pairing artists and poets together to paint art and haiku poems on the traffic signal boxes in the downtown area. Councilor Keans stated that she has been hearing about the project and that she is very much in support of it. She stated that the art would be a welcome change to the ugly boxes located everywhere. Councilor Varney asked how many boxes and at what locations. Ms. Cate stated that they would be painting as many as they can get completed in this season; starting in the downtown and working their way out. Ms. Cate went on to say that they would be putting out a request for artists and that all artist would be required to submit their rendering describing what they intended to paint prior to being approved. There was a brief discussion as to appropriate and inappropriate art. Councilor Keans suggested that the organization has done well in the past and that while art is subjective to both the artist and the viewer, there has not been any history of complaints. Councilor Walker inquired about maintenance and cost for the project. Ms. Cate stated that the cost is similar to the other projects that they have done within the City. She also stated that as part of the agreement with the City the artist and the organization will be made aware that, if necessary, the City may paint over any of the works of art due to graffiti or

maintenance. Mrs. Hale asked if there would be any type of materials affixed to the cabinets as she saw that it might be problematic to paint over affixed or glued on materials or there may be issues with things falling off. Ms. Cate stated that they would be sure that these are paint on only. Ms. Cate stated that this type of project is working successfully across the nation and cited Manchester and Boston as local examples. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that Ms. Cate could work with DPW staff to get the listing and location of boxes. He stated prior to signing off on the implementation he would require a specific inventory of the boxes and locations to be painted.

Mark Hourihane of 2 Vinewood Lane addressed the Committee. Mr. Hourihane stated that he wanted to thank the Council for their support of the sewer project in the Colonial Pines neighborhood. Councilor Torr stated that this project was previously the 4th item on the Committee's agenda and if there are no objections he would have that as the next item so that Mr. Hourihane could hear the discussion without delay.

3. Colonial Pines Sewer Extension Project.

Mr. Bezanson stated that he and staff had met with the Consultant on the project. He stated that the designs are at approximately 60% and that the first phase will be determining the process in which to get over the turnpike. Mr. Bezanson stated they were looking at going gravity by boring a new crossing under the turnpike. He stated that for long term cost and maintenance it is always better to go gravity sewer instead of adding another pump station to the system. Mr. Bezanson stated that with current funding he believed that it is possible to make the turnpike crossing in the Birch Street area and to start laying the initial pipes into the Colonial Pines neighborhood. Councilor Keans asked if this is the way this goes, how long until you are actually installing services. Mr. Bezanson stated that it is likely to be fiscal year 2017 & 2018. Councilor Walker asked if it would be less costly and quicker to go with a pump station using the current crossing of the turnpike. Mr. Bezanson stated that installing a pump station might save some upfront cost but it is more costly in respect to future maintenance. Mr. Bezanson stated that with the lead time on pumps, the time frame would probably not be any quicker even though we would be dealing with the state for permits to cross the turnpike if we went gravity. There was discussion of time frames and cost. Councilor Keans suggested looking at the area as a whole and making the decisions accordingly. Councilor Collins asked if the department had any idea how many homes would be likely to tie-in right away. Mr. Bezanson stated that he did not. Mr. Hourihane stated that the septic systems in the neighborhood are approximately 30 or more years old and that the cost for tie-ins to the City will be less costly than new leach fields. He stated that each year there are a couple of homes that need to fix failing septic systems and that they would obviously not tie in if they had completed the repairs. Councilor Keans stated that is why this should be done as soon as possible. Councilor Varney stated that it should not be rushed as the limited numbers of connections are not going to be what pays for this project as it is going to be the other users. Councilor Collins asked if all of the leach fields were in the back of the

houses as that will be more work to tie in. Mr. Hourihane stated that yes, many of them are in the back of the homes, but that some were build in the front with the expectation that the City would someday put sewer into the neighborhood. He used Juniper Street homes as examples. Councilor Gray stated that the City recently did a project on the drainage system to alleviate some of the groundwater issues in Colonial Pines. He stated that reducing the number of leach fields in this neighborhood will also alleviate some of the problems caused by high ground water tables. The Committee asked Mr. Bezanson to come back next month with estimates for pump station vs. gravity and time frame for each. They also asked for information as the status of the project for the siphon that has caused problems at the intersection of the Spaulding exit 11 ramp and the Old Dover Road.

4. Franklin Street /Western Avenue Project

Mr. Bezanson stated that he had met with the consultants to discuss the revised scope of this project due to the amount of funding available. He state that the scope of the project will not include the work proposed on the numbered streets and Adam's Avenue. The project will include the reconstruction of Franklin Street all the way to Chamberlain. It will include the Western Ave Pump Station, and Western Avenue reconstruction from Franklin Street to Friendship Street, including the culvert/bridge near the intersection of Friendship Street. Mr. Bezanson stated that he would get back to the Committee with a revised estimate next month and he wanted to prepare them for a possible need of a supplemental appropriation depending on the bid results. Councilor Torr asked if the pump station was necessary at this time. Mr. Bezanson stated that this pump station had been funded separately as it is the oldest Gorman-Rupp pump station in the state. Councilor Varney asked if the engineers were aware of the underground water problem near the cemetery. He stated that there has been an area that has been coming up for years. Mr. Bezanson stated that he would be sure they were aware of it.

5. Drainage Various Issues

Mrs. Hale stated that she had received several calls from areas around the City. She mentioned Ryans Circle, Flagg Road / Trinity Circle, Snow Street and Brenda Lane. Mrs. Hale stated that the areas discussed were typically on private property and that a process for educating people of the responsibility to maintain their private driveway and private road culverts would be helpful. Mr. Storer stated that he saw the need and would be working to develop hand outs or mailings for such issues. Councilor Varney asked if it was the same home owner on Ryan's Circle from previous meetings. Mrs. Hale stated that it was. Councilor Varney stated that the Committee informed him we would restore the drainage ditch in the City's right of way and that was all we were going to do. Mrs. Hale stated that she had read the minutes from previous meetings and that it was clear that the homeowner was informed that even after that work was completed it was likely he would still have water problems on his property. Mrs. Hale stated she was going to confirm that the work was completed with the positive pitch that was designed and move

on. Councilor Walker inquired about the Flagg Road / Trinity Circle complaint. Mrs. Hale stated that the message received from the resident of Flagg Road was that the work on Trinity caused a problem in their area of Flagg Road. Councilor Walker asked if there were still funds available from the surety taking. Mrs. Hales stated that there are some funds available. She also stated that she would need to look into this claim as well and that she may need to have elevation shots taken in a few locations.

6. Other

EDA Sewer Ext Project / Intersection of Salmon Falls & Milton Road – Councilor Varney asked if the Sewer EDA project was bringing the sewer to the business park on Amarosa Drive. Mr. Bezanson stated that it would bring the sewer on Milton Road to Amarosa Drive. Councilor Varney stated that the re-alignment of the Salmon Falls Road was funded with the FY2016 CIP and he asked if the two projects would conflict. Mr. Bezanson stated that it would not be an issue.

Salmon Falls Road Project area grass/lawn failures – Councilor Varney asked if staff had looked into the problem. Mr. Storer stated that they staff had looked into it and that as the project was completed nearly two years ago and that there was not a problem at that time the contractor would not have any responsibility for any necessary repairs to lawns. He stated that the final walk through was completed and that the loam and seeding had been completed as required. He stated that there were no complaints in 2014. Mr. Storer then informed the committee that it wasn't just this one home that had issue and that the other homeowners were likely to want assistance if we did repairs at this one home. He suggested cost in the area of \$300 to \$500 for each home that might require additional loam and hydro seeding. Mr. Storer also suggested that the City will be tightening up the specifications on future projects to be sure the best possible loam was being used. Councilor Varney asked if there were other homes in the area where the grass was successful. Mr. Storer stated that they were. Councilor Varney suggested some of the damage could be due to the heavy snow season and the salt damage. All Councilors and Mr. Fitzpatrick were in agreement that homeowners needed to take responsibility for their own lawns once the contractor had loamed and hydro seeded and after the snow / salt season.

Granite State Business Park Sign installation and electrical power supply – Mrs. Hale stated that the Economic Development Department had gone out to bid on the installation of the new signs at the Granite State Business Park and later determined that they needed an electrical service. Mrs. Hale stated she had been tasked with putting a bid together to supply that service and that it is now out to bid. Councilor Varney inquired about funding of the sign and electrical service. Mrs. Hale stated she is not aware of how the funding source was being determined as that was to be handled by the Economic Development Department with an agenda bill. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he had not reviewed the draft agenda bill yet, but would do so and the funding is to be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Bicycle Route / Painted lines in the downtown – Councilor Gray stated that a year ago he was asked by the Community Development Committee to have the Public Work Committee discuss and recommend the painting of bicycle lanes and lines in the downtown area. He said that he did bring it up and after a brief discussion it did not go anywhere. Councilor Gray stated that the discussion had come up at the Business Round Table recently and he would like it added to the Public Works and Building Agenda for next month.

Chesley Hill Road Reconstruction – Councilor Varney asked about this projects status. Mrs. Hale stated that the project is on schedule to be completed by July 30, 2015.

190 South Main Street – Councilor Keans asked about the status of this issue. She stated that the property owner was constructing a block retaining wall with in the City's right of way. She stated that the work has ceased but the project has been left half finished. Mrs. Hale stated that the Code Enforcement Officer had shut the project down but she is unaware of what else might be going on. Councilor Keans asked that the City Manager look into the status.

Fluoride Level – Councilor Keans asked if the City was compliant with the new guidelines for the fluoride levels. Mr. Bezanson stated that the City is aware of the new guidelines issued and that when he checked with the staff at the treatment plant he was informed that that we have been operating at that approximate level and that we will continue to do so in order to meet the recommendation.

Intake Iron & Disolved OXgen levels – Councilor Keans asked the cause of the recent flucuations and if this is an area to be concerned about. Mr. Storer explained that it is an issue that is monitored and that the change in seasons is likely to be the cause. He stated that it will continue to be monitored and address if necessary.

Thrust Blocks – Councilor Keans asked what the need for thrust blocks is, and are they in place where necessary. Mr. Bezanson stated that thrust blocks are installed behind piping that may have powerful backward thrusts when there are charges to the system. He stated there was an issue at the Rochester Hill tank that was discovered when that tank went down and that all other tanks were checked and the thrust blocks are in place where needed.

Hydrant replacements – Councilor Keans stated that the DPW monthly report had listed the replacement of several hydrants due to winter damage. Councilor Keans asked how many were replaced and how the damage occurred. Mr. Bezanson stated he would have to get back to her with that information.

Eversource power line clearing – Councilor Collins asked if Eversource let the City know what areas they are trimming in. Mr. Bezanson stated that he has received notice when they going to be trimming near a City owned property but not if they were trimming in areas in general. He stated that they did let us know when they were going to be trimming the areas on Route 202A that abutt the Water Treatment Facility.

Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project – Mr. Bezanson stated that he would like to

make the Committee aware of the need for a supplemental appropriation to complete the project. He stated that this project was progressing but that they had run into things along the way have needed to be addressed prior to proceeding. For an example he stated the bulk tanks were removed and the concrete floors that were under them were in significant need of repair, so prior to installing the new tanks they needed to complete a \$10,000 floor repair. He stated that the facility is approximately 30 years old and that as things are replaced or repaired there has been a need for additional work. He stated that originally the project was underfunded and that when the bids for the project came in the previous director came to the Council for a supplemental appropriation that did not leave much for contingency. Mr. Bezanson went on to say that the project is a NHDES SRF project that has some principal forgiveness in it and that the NHDES is willing to increase the project amount to include the supplemental amount.

Crosswalk at Wakefield Street / Intersection with Columbus Ave – Councilor Torr stated that he had an incident where he nearly hit a pedestrian in the crosswalk. He stated that he believed the crosswalk to be on the wrong side of the intersection. Councilor Walker stated that this problem has been discussed at this Committee and the Public Safety Committee previously. Mrs. Hale stated that the problem is to be addressed in the Wakefield Street Reconstruction Project. Councilor Torr suggested repainting the crosswalk in the other location. Councilor Walker stated it is bigger than just moving the crosswalk. He stated that the push button signals and the concrete pedestrian tip downs would need to be moved.

New Director – Councilor Varney welcomed Mr. Storer and stated that he would like to thank Mr. Bezanson and Mrs. Hale for carrying the department while the search for a new director took place. He stated they did an excellent job.

Councilor Walker made a motion for adjournment at 8:45PM. Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, Office Manager Rochester DPW.