

**Public Works and Buildings Committee**

**September 17, 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

John Storer, PE, Director of City Services

Peter Bruckner, Historic District Commission

David McNamara, Fay, Spofford & Thorndike Engineers

Steven Babalis, Fay, Spofford & Thorndike Engineers

Ray Barnett, 14 Crimson Lane

**MINUTES**

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

**1. Approve minutes from August 20, 2015 meeting -**

Chairman requested a recommendation on last month's minutes.

*Councilor Walker made a motion to accept minutes as presented for the August 20, 2015 Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. The Motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Public Input**

Mr. Barnett stated that he wanted to thank the Director of City Services, John Storer, for getting up to speed and for taking a second look at the expense related to building a new DPW facility. He also stated that he would like the director to keep an eye on the budget for the City Hall Annex project. Mr. Barnett stated that the appropriation for the Annex is 3.7 million dollars and that City Staff should realize that is the cap. He heard that there could be up to one hundred thousand dollars in additional expenses to have the old brick cleaned. Mr. Barnett then stated that he had looked at the recently closed pedestrian bridge and noticed that the structure had never been sealed or painted. He stated that the bridge appeared to have been completed as cheaply as possible and therefore only lasted about 20 years. He stated that he hopes the City replaces this bridge with better quality and looks to install a bridge that will last longer.

## **Strafford Square**

Mr. Storer stated that the consultants for the Strafford Square project are at this meeting to give a brief presentation. He stated that he had asked them to look at some alternatives for the Walnut Street entrance into the roundabout, and the impacts that the alternatives would have on the right of way. He introduced David McNamara and Steven Babalis from Fay, Spofford and Thorndike Engineers (FST). Mr. McNamara stated that he had a couple of alternatives to the current design that address the concerns with the approach from Walnut Street. He stated that they had been working with Scott Ritchie from Roundabout Traffic Engineers (RTE) in Arizona. Mr. McNamara had three drawings of the roundabout. (**See attached**). He stated that the first drawing shows the roundabout plan as it currently exists. The second shows the most desirable alternative, and the third plan makes some positive changes but does have concessions to reduce the impacts to the right of way. Mr. McNamara stated that the second plan has a slip lane large enough for sixty-two foot trailers to make the turn from North Main to Walnut. There was also a change to the original slip lane from Walnut to Washington Street. This was tightened up, as larger trucks could enter the roundabout to make that right turn, and it would allow some additional green space on the City owned property at that corner. He stated that the third option generally follows the original layout, but has a direct entry for traffic coming in from Walnut Street. A speed table will be installed to slow the traffic. Typically traffic will enter at an angle that will slow it down to appropriate speeds, but this plan will not allow that angle. Therefore the traffic calming measures were installed in advance of the roundabout. Using the roundabout geometry to manage flow and control speeds is preferable; he compared the entrance traffic calming to utilizing a traffic signal without proper timing. There was considerable discussion regarding changes that could be made to the second plan to reduce the footprint and lessen the impacts to private property. Councilor Walker expressed that he does not want to impact any additional properties. Councilor Varney also stated that he does not want to have additional land takings or purchases. Councilor Keans stated that it would be very rare to see a tractor trailer come down North Main Street and to make a turn onto Walnut. She stated that the current intersection would not accommodate that, and it is not necessary to accommodate it now. Mr. Storer stated that this is an example of an old intersection that was set up when people used horse and buggies. He stated that the right of way will not accommodate the type of traffic used in today's society. He further stated that he would like to build the new roundabout with the accommodations necessary for today's traffic. Councilor Varney suggested that the crosswalk at the upper North Main section of the map be eliminated. Councilors Keans and Walker agreed that pedestrians could cross up near the Church or at the other side of the roundabout nearer to town. Mr. McNamara stated that NHDOT also had concerns with the crossings of the slip lane at North Main Street and the North Main Street entrance ramps of this roundabout. He suggested some of the changes discussed might make the approvals easier with NHDOT. The overall discussion suggested that FST look at;

removing the northern most North Main Street crosswalk, removing or reducing the slip lane from North Main onto Walnut to minimally allow passage of the City's largest emergency vehicle, and they would like to see the Walnut to Washington Street slip lane stay as originally laid out. Mr. McNamara stated that he would look at making the changes to be presented at the Committee meeting next month

### **3. City Hall Annex**

Mr. Storer distributed a mockup drawing of the front façade of City Hall. See attached. He stated that Oak Point had done some preliminary investigating on the items numbered 1 through 8 and the findings are stipulated in the keynotes also on the drawing. Mr. Storer stated that he would like the City Council's authorization to proceed with a Historical Assessment of the Annex building. He stated that it would likely cost four to five thousand dollars and that it would be necessary to apply for any state or federal grants. He stated that currently LCHIP and Moose Plate Grant possibilities are being explored and while those may be as small as ten to one hundred thousand dollars any additional funding should not be ruled out. The Committee agreed that the assessment should be completed. Mr. Bruckner from the Historic District Commission stated that he would like to explore options of additional private contributions.

### **4. Cross Connection / Backflow Protection.**

Mr. Storer stated that the City staff has been working with business owners in town to get this state mandated program instituted. He stated his predecessor had worked with the Ordinance Committee to get the necessary ordinance in place. He stated that the staff has been sending out letters and urging businesses to come into compliance. He stated that currently there are approximately 550 Commercial / Industrial accounts that require backflow prevention and that 125 of those accounts have been designated as high hazard. He stated that the work plan developed with the State of NH DES directs us to work on the high hazards first and then keep working to get all into compliance. Mr. Storer stated that of the 125 high hazard accounts we have approximately 70 not in compliance, 35 of which do not have a device at all and 35 that have not been tested. He said that the ordinance states that the water services of those not in compliance will be turned off. Mr. Storer stated that as we are behind in our plan with NHDES, it is time to start turning off the water services to force the businesses to comply, or for them to state a plan to come into compliance. Councilor Walker stated that the Council is aware of the program and of the language in the ordinance that states that water will be turned off to those not in compliance. Councilor Varney stated if they have been sent the letters and still are not in compliance then shut them off. Councilor Keans asked who is doing the testing. Mr. Storer explained that the test needs to be completed by State of NH licensed backflow testers. He stated that the business owner just needs to submit the test result to the City and a permit is issued at no cost. Once they have a permit they will annually, if low hazard or semi- annually if high hazard, submit the test result to the City. Councilor Varney suggested that an item be added to the next City Council Meeting to have the

Mayor make an announcement that this program is a must for all commercial properties and that the water services may be subject to termination if they are not in compliance. Councilor Hamann stated that this permit should be included on the properties records as they are set up in the new View Point permit software system.

**5. Storm Water & Wastewater Permitting**

Mr. Storer stated that he wanted to let the Committee know that he is aware of and is actively working with City Staff to defend against regulations that would have major impacts to the general fund and sewer fund budgets. He stated he has been brought up to speed on the coalition for the Great Bay Estuary and the Wastewater Treatment Plant's currently expired permit and of the pending storm water permit MS4 permit which will need to be funded by the general fund.

**6. EDA Salmon Falls & Milton Road Sewer Extension**

Mr. Storer stated that the easement issues have been resolved without having to go through Eminent Domain proceedings. He stated that the formal easement documents will be executed soon and then the final designs and bid documents can be sent to EDA for approval. Once approved by EDA then we will put the project out to bid with construction to start in the spring.

**7. Rt 125 Pedestrian Bridge**

Mr. Storer stated that Mr. Barnett was correct in his description of the bridge as poor quality. He stated that 2 years ago when the bridge was inspected there were no real issues. This year when inspected the corrosion is such that it isn't safe. Mr. Storer stated that he is working on getting a new better quality bridge into place. Support members will be both galvanized coated and painted to help prevent corrosion. He stated that he has been working closely with the engineering consultants from Hoyle, Tanner and Associates. The goal is to get the new bridge in before Christmas or soon thereafter, he is currently negotiating with E.W. Swett for pricing.

**8. Dewey Street Pedestrian Bridge**

Mr. Storer stated that the bridge condition is not as bad as they had thought. He described the bridge in detail, stating that it had been built in 1956 & 1957, but that some of the steel used had date stamps from the 1800's and were probably old railroad I-beams. It is very difficult to conduct a safe loading assessment for bridge. Mr. Storer stated that preliminary evaluations showed that the bridge is in need of replacement and the type of bridge to be used will not require the use of the current underwater abutments and supports so they decided not to have the divers evaluate the underwater structures. There were four intermediate pilings made up of a hodge-podge of old utility poles. He stated that Hoyle Tanner and Associates are the engineers on this pedestrian bridge and that they have decided a new single span bridge will work and is within budget at approximately six hundred and fifty thousand dollars and he will keep the Committee posted as to the project progresses.

**9. Franklin Street Reconstruction / Western Avenue PS & I/I Project**

Mr. Storer stated that the permitting issues are being resolved and that plans should be into NHDES by end of October. He stated that as this project will not see any construction this year the pavement condition will need to be addressed on Franklin Street. He suggested a shim pavement either in house or by the contracted paving company. He also questioned funding for this temporary work. Councilor Varney stated that the funds should come from the project account line. Councilor Gray asked if the Western Avenue Pump Station project was going to start this fall as it was originally the first phase of this project. Mr. Storer stated that the project is now all one project for the pump station, Western Ave and Franklin Street.

**10. Banner Poles**

Mr. Storer stated that he had had a request for the use of banner poles recently. He stated that the only poles currently in place for banners are on Hanson Street. Mr. Storer stated that he went through the Hanson Street Project files and found the type of pole used and he has obtained current pricing. He stated that the poles are approximately five thousand dollars each and that the Council may want to consider these poles as part of the Wakefield Street Project and other projects.

**11. Other**

**Misc Information** – Councilor Gray stated that he had been to a NHDOT 10 Year Transportation Master Plan review meeting and that the State of NH is considering full speed travel lanes and possible increases at the tolls in Rochester and Dover. They also have left the option of an Exit 10 in the plan.

Watering Trough – Councilor Collins stated that when Mr. Storer was speaking earlier about Strafford Square and the history of that being designed back in the horse and buggy days he remembered that there used to be a watering trough at that location. Councilor Keans stated that the City still has that trough and that it is temporarily at the Historical Society until the roundabout is built. She stated that the plan is put it in the center of the roundabout.

*Councilor Walker made a motion for adjournment at 8:05 PM. Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.*

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