

## **Public Works and Buildings Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**February 20, 2020**

**Council Chambers**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor David Walker, Chairman

Councilor Jim Gray- Vice Chairman

Councilor Don Hamann

Councilor Chris Rice

Councilor Doug Lachance

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Blaine M. Cox, City Manager

Peter C. Nourse PE, Director of City Service

Daniel Camara, GIS / Asset Management

Todd Radict. Rochester Rise –Up Organization

Steve Sprague, Rochester Rise-Up Organization

#### **MINUTES**

Chairman Walker Called the called the Public Works and Buildings Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

##### **1. Public Input**

Mr. Radict from the Rochester Rise-up Organization spoke about downtown projects that he would like to see happen. Mr. Radict suggested removing the black posts/bollards that located with trees in the downtown area of North Main and Wakefield Streets. Mr. Radict stated that there are numerous missing and damaged posts and that these post are not serving their intended purpose, which he believes is either decorative or to protect the planted trees. Mr. Radict mentioned that he would like to see flowering plants in the areas around the base of these trees. Mr. Nourse stated that the DPW could pull the poles pretty quickly if directed to do so. Mr. Nourse stated that the soils for plantings would likely be poor due to the salt used on our sidewalks. Councilor Rice suggested some sort of flower boxes. He suggested reaching out to the school shop department to build them, and he suggested selling memorial plaques for the boxes to fund the cost of the wood. Councilor Gray suggested that there is only one person requesting the removal or replenishing of the poles. He suggested putting the subject out on social media to see if all of the public is in agreement. The committee discussed different styles of flower boxes to avoid trip hazards. Councilor Lachance made the suggestion to table the issue

until the Historic Commission and the Main Street Organization have an opportunity to weigh in. Mr. Nourse asked for clarification of which post as there are post going down South Main Street as well. The Committee discussed that it was all posts. Mr. Sprague also of Rochester Rise-Up stated that he was in agreement with Mr. Radict regarding the removal of the poles and flowers in the areas around the trees. Councilor Walker suggested that the group meet with the Historic people and the Main Street people and come back to the Committee.

**2. Eastern Avenue Pavement Moratorium**

Mr. Nourse stated that the waiver request for the pavement moratorium on Eastern Avenue has been retracted. This agenda item is not needed.

**3. New DPW Facility**

Mr. Nourse stated that the Preconstruction Meeting and two progress meetings have been held to date. He stated that these meetings have been to determine work flows including reviewing submittals, pay requisition processes and construction schedules. He stated that they have discussed the area for material storage, the construction administration trailer location and they have started looking at some cost savings measures as project details have been discussed. Mr. Nourse discussed the energy efficiencies that are part of the buildings design. He stated that Eversource has committed to a rebate incentive of \$82,715.00. The City will be receiving a check in that amount. Mr. Nourse stated that Councilor Hamann has attended all meetings and participated in the discussions regarding cost savings. Councilor Hamann stated he did not have anything additional to add as the Director covered all areas.

**4. Mandela Drive Water Line Extension**

Mr. Nourse stated that the City Council had received a petition last October (2019) for a water main extension on Mandela Drive. He stated that the petitioner's representative stated they had secondary non-life threatening contaminants in the water. Mr. Nourse stated that the road is approximately 1000 feet long with 13 homes. Mr. Nourse explained that the petition signatures represented 9 of the 13 homes. He stated when previously discussed with the City Council and the Public Works and Buildings Committee he had advised the Council and the Petitioner's representative that per City Ordinance the cost of extending the water main down Mandela Drive would be borne by the petitioners. He stated that the cost of the project was estimated to be \$250,000 and that if split proportionally, based on property road frontage, each home owner was looking at cost of \$17,000 to \$40,000 just for installation of the water main. There would be additional charges for each service. Mr. Nourse stated that the petitioner's representative did not realize that at the time of the petition and they have not suggested proceeding with their request now that they are aware the ordinance and cost. Mr. Nourse stated that at the time the Public Works Committee had suggested putting the project in the FY2021 CIP for discussions and he was seeking guidance as to the necessity of that as it seems unlikely that the petitioners would proceed. The Committee

discussed the extension and agreed with the Director that it was not needed in the CIP.

**5. Rt202A Water Main Extension Project**

Mr. Nourse stated this is really two project, one is for the 20,000 feet of water main and the other is the construction of the new water tank. He stated that we would like to move on the water tank construction this year. He discussed NHDOT requests to have the City be responsible for extensive work to the States ROW along Rt. 202A. He mentioned clearing the full right-of-way and pole relocations. Mr. Nourse stated that the requests being made by NHDOT would add significant costs to the project. He stated that the City and our Consultant have submitted back comments to NHDOT in opposition to all of the suggested work, and this was discussed with the NHDES representatives that staff is working with to successfully complete this project. He stated that NHDES is going to discuss this at interdepartmental level with NHDOT in order to stress the significance of this project moving forward.

**6. Non Public Per RSA 91-A:3,II ( c )**

**Non Public Per RSA 91-A:3,II ( d )**

*Councilor Walker made a motion to go into non-public session and cited RSA 91-A:3, II ( c ) and RSA 91-A:3,II (d). The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. Their was a roll call vote with Councilors Walker, Hamann, Rice, Gray and Lachance all voting yes. At 7:22PM the Committee went to non-public session.*

**At 8:02 Councilor Lachance made a motion to reconvene Public Meeting.**

**Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Councilor Lachance made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting indefinitely and cited jeopardizing land acquisitions and contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. A roll call vote was taken with Councilors Walker, Haman, Rice, Gray and Lachance all voting yes.**

**7. Other.**

**Public Hearing for NPDES General Permit** – Mr. Nourse stated that the Public Hearing held on February 19, 2020 was well attended and that seven communities affected by the permit spoke at the hearing. He mentioned that Senators Waters and Gray spoke, as did the Rochester Mayor, City Manager, Councilor Haney and himself. Mr. Nourse stated that there were 20 speakers that testified in favor of a peer review of the science, had concerns about the economic impacts in light of questionable science, and or permit inconsistencies and or requested a 30 day extension for public written comments. Mr. Nourse informed the Committee that most were representatives of the effected communities. CLF had two speakers who championed more stringent and faster reductions of total nitrogen and enhanced enforcement on the communities subject to the permit. Mr. Nourse stated that Representatives from EPA and NHDES were present. He estimated that there was 150 people in attendance. Mr. Nourse stated that written comments are due by March 9, 2020 and can be submitted by anyone.

***Councilor Lachance made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Councilor Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, City of Rochester Administration and Utility Billing Supervisor.