CITY OF NORWALK
Department of Engineering
125 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851
www.norwalkct.gov

CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2023

ATTENDANCE: James Frayer, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Darlene Young; Melissa Murray; DaJuan Wiggins

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Thomas Szabo, Waste Program Manager

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at: norwalkct.org/meetings

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comments are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting's start time. Please email Monique Cipriano at to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairman Frayer called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Frayer called the Roll: James Frayer Barbara Smyth Darlene Young
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Melissa Murray, DaJuan Wiggins

At Roll Call there were six (6) Committee members present constituting a quorum. Heather Dunn was absent.

PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT (GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

There was no public input. Chairman Frayer closed public input at 7:08p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND RECREATION, PARKS, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023.

There was no report on this item.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**
****MS. MURRAY AND MR. WIGGINS ABSTAINED**
****MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS**

2. APPROVE THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2024.

There was no report on this item.

****MS. MURRAY MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A 633 SQ. FT. SIDEWALK AND 281 SQ. FT. ROADWAY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 32 KNIGHT STREET; A 430 SQ. FT. SIDEWALK AND 179 SQ. FT. ROADWAY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 41 KNIGHT STREET; AND A 75 SQ. FT. SIDEWALK AND 2 SQ. FT. ROADWAY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 22 NORTH STREET, IN CONNECTION WITH PLANNING AND ZONING APPLICATION #2022-28 CAM/SPR – 32 KNIGHT STREET PROPERTY LLC – 32 KNIGHT STREET.

Chairman Frayer gave a brief description of this easement. He stated that there is no financial impact for these easements.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. DISCUSS AND VOTE TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO INCREASE THE FEE FOR PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS RATES AND FEES TO BE SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS FEE SCHEDULE AS PER ATTACHED. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. BY VIDEO CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. There are three (3) increases to the fee schedule. They have a contract with Win Waste and based on that contract the disposal fee changed as of July 1st. They are currently paying more for the disposal fee than they are charging the residents and would like to increase Solid Waste Disposal Fee to meet exactly what they are paying now. The other two (2) increases involve tree removal and tree replacement fees. There was an ordinance passed this year that shows the increase, but their schedule wasn't updated. This is just to update the current ordinance section.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner stated that she has noticed that some of the fees have not been updated since 2006 and asked if they need a broader updating of some of those fees.

Ms. Valadares answered that they had looked at the entire fee schedule to see if any of the fees should be updated. They researched and called other municipalities and found that there was no reason to increase the others at this time.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2025 MACK GR42F PLOW TRUCK, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $305,670.10.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4031 5777 C0313

Mr. Torre reported on this item. He said this truck will replace a truck from 1995. They have four (4) more trucks to replace to make all of their trucks within the 2000's. They have a fleet management program where they would request two (2) replacement trucks a year and now they are starting to really replace trucks before they get to their usefulness end of line. This truck is replacing one (1) of the top 26 plow routes that the city has in the geographical area. There are 35 heavy duty plow trucks. The replaced truck will be used for scrap metal. They take everything they can off the truck that could be used and sell the rest as scrap metal.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO FREIGHTLINER OF HARFORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2024 M2 106 PLUS PLOW TRUCK, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $197,041.10.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4031 5777 C0313

Mr. Torre reported on this item. This is a smaller chassis truck that fits into some of the smaller areas of the city. The freightliner comes with a v plow truck that can fit into areas of seven (7) feet or eight (8) feet and the other trucks are at 11 feet. They have one (1) freightliner right now and this would make two (2). The purpose of this is to get into tighter areas that the larger plow truck cannot fit and there are more areas in the city that are congested with parked cars. He explained how this would work to the committee. All the trucks are considered all season trucks to be used throughout the year. Smaller trucks are used more than others. Propane and/or natural gas is not an option right now for the larger heavy-duty trucks. The expected lifespan on this truck is 25 years. The trucks are equipped with state emission standards. If the truck is idling too long the truck will shut down for 30 to 40 minutes due to the carbon emission system that is in it. The one (1) year old truck was purchased last year and due to the lack of snow, it couldn't be evaluated.

Ms. Valadares emphasized that they are not expanding their fleet just replacing the older trucks.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE OCTOBER 24, 2023 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND COLONNA MASONRY CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING, LLC., FOR PROJECT TMP 2023-3 CONCRETE CURBS AND SIDEWALKS ON ROWAYTON AVENUE FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $170,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. She explained that they are using the opportunity since the sidewalk will be installed to also add drainage to the area where there will be sidewalks.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. **TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JULY 12, 2022, ITEM VII.B.3 FOR AN ON-CALL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND ALMSTEAD TREE & SHRUB CARE COMPANY LLC AND MINUTEMEN LAND SERVICES, LLC FOR THE SUPPLY AND PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS. TASK ORDERS NOT TO EXCEED $700,000.00 IN THE AGGREGATE BETWEEN THE TWO (2) COMPANIES. ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR THE NORWALK TREE ACCOUNT. ACCOUNT NO'S. 380000-4805 AND 380000-5790.**

ACCOUNT NO. 13 4010 5796 APW08
13 3710 5796 AEC18
380000-4805
380000-5790

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. These two (2) companies won the bid they put out last year. They are only adding two (2) accounts to this contract from a grant.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 12, 2021, AGREEMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC. PROJECT 4079 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $64.90 PER HOUSEHOLD AND $39.00 PER ½ HOUSEHOLD.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5258

There was no report on this item.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Frayer read items 10A and 10B together.

10A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO, INC., FOR PROJECT DRG2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $1,020,060.00 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS FOR ONE (1) YEAR EACH.

ACCOUNT NO. **09 20 4062 5777 C0361**
09 24 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 4021 5777 C0643

10B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO, INC., FOR PROJECT DRG2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $102,006.00.

ACCOUNT NO. **09 20 4062 5777 C0361**
09 24 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 4021 5777 C0643

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. She explained the process they use for paving. They have a paving program forecast of three (3) years. It used to be five (5) years, but they changed it to three (3). A list is put together which consists of values and considerations and not just inspections, it is a formula they apply to come up with the list. Once the list is compiled, they inspect all underground utilities from all services, not just the city's, to find out if there are any major projects that may occur in that area. The Public Works Department checks all the

drainage in the area that will be paved prior to the paving. They use CCTV cameras to check existing drainage on that street and also the sewer. If they find that upgrades are needed to any of those systems, they make the upgrades. They also check the sidewalks to see if they need improvement. This contract is about ensuring that all of those things happen prior to paving. This helps to upgrade the drainage structures that will be needed prior to it. The program was implemented three (3) years ago. The program has been extremely successful for two (2) reasons. Economical to have a separate bid to have a contractor take care of those smaller drainage items and they have become much more efficient in paving the roads.

Ms. Smyth commended the department on the three (3) year plan. She finds it much better than what they have been doing with the five (5) year plan. She said it is much more efficient and in the long run will save money. She feels the department has done a really good job on this.

Ms. Valadares explained how the savings work for the department.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS, INC, FOR PROJECT PSC2023-1 ON-CALL SURVEYING AND MAPPING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $200,000.00 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS FOR ONE (1) YEAR EACH.**

ACCOUNT NO. **09 23 7100 5777 C0583**
09 24 4021 5777 C0318
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 3750 5777 C0441
09 23 4120 5777 C0649
09 24 3750 5777 C0649
09 23 4120 5777 C0824
09 24 3750 5777 C0824
01 40 30 5258

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. Second RFQ for this. They began this program three (3) years ago to have a surveyor on-call. Their in-house surveyor retired three years ago. They have found it hard to find a surveyor. The department realized that it is better for them to have a consultant and surveying company. They have had success with this is the past. This contract will be utilized not only by DPW but also TMP for future projects.

A discussion ensued about a possible surveying program at NCC. Ms. Valadares explained the requirements. One of the biggest problems is training and obtaining the license.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Torre reported that in the Fall Tree Planting Program, 227 trees were planted and 20 were removed. 17 were removed from the ROW and three (3) were removed from parks property. Most of the tree work is done in-house. They have two (2) bucket trucks and two (2) tree crews all year round. If a resident has a question or concern about trees, they should call customer service first and they will forward the request to the appropriate personnel or the resident can go to the website and use click and request.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Szabo reported on this item and reviewed the statistics with the committee. He talked about the outreach program and improving recycling improvement efforts. They held three (3) mattress recycling programs this year. The last program collected 50 mattresses. He went over the program, and they discussed possible housing development programs.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Szabo reported on this item and reviewed the statistics with the committee. The Rowayton Community Center and Transfer Station received 6,300lbs and Cranbury Park received 3,300lbs. The committee discussed more comprehensive planning for the food scrap program. Possibly in more elementary schools and what that would look like. Especially for the new school in South Norwalk and the elderly. Ms. Valadares stated that the collection is within the four (4) taxing districts in Norwalk. To expand the program would be a major change to all other solid waste collections they need to do for the city. They are developing a plan to look at everything to see what they need to incorporate or not. As of now Public Works do not collect at the schools, housing authority or commercial properties. Their focus is how they can best serve the residents. If they have a city-wide initiative, then they can discuss those things and then it becomes a charter issue. It is a lot that goes into that.

D. CLOSURE OF YARD WASTE SCALE

Mr. Szabo reported on this item. The construction for the new scale should begin this week. They shut the old scale down and redirected the traffic to the transfer station. They have managed the traffic flow well. They are temporarily closed for construction. Mr. Torre gave a brief description of the scale project.

E. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

Mr. Meehan reported on the current and upcoming projects. He answered all the questions the committee had.

1. **CONSTRUCTION**
   - **DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
   - **PM2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION**
   - **PM2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
   - **RD2022-2 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SENGA AND MORTON AREAS**
   - **RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE**
   - **DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE**
   - **BR2022-1 BONNY BROOK ROAD & CANNON STREET**
2. **ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT**
   - **DRG2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

- **PSC2023-1 ON-CALL SURVEYING AND MAPPING**

3. **DESIGN**
   - **PROJECT 102-366 WEST CEDAR STREET OVER FIVE MILE RIVER**
   - **STORM DRAINAGE EVALUATION AT SELECTED LOCATIONS**
   - **DRG2022-1 LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE**
   - **RNP2022-1 VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT**
   - **RD2023-2 UNDERGROUNDING OF ELIZABETH STREET OVERHEAD UTILITIES**
   - **BR2023-1 BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**
   - **RA2023-1 SOUTH NORWALK EQUITABLE TOD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Ms. Smyth asked about the sidewalks on Cannon Street Bridge. The sidewalks were not part of the initial scope, but they plan on expanding the project to restore the sidewalks as it was before. It will need to go back to the design phase.

Ms. Valadares thanked all of members for their support during this year. She said she enjoyed working with all of them. She wished everyone a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for trusting their work, supporting them, criticizing, and listening to them. She appreciates that.

Ms. Smyth said that they appreciate Ms. Valadares' honesty and transparency. She thanked Ms. Valadares for how well she explains the projects and the thinking behind it and the financing.

Ms. Young stated she is grateful to be on the committee and has proven to be a good learning experience for her. She said that it is amazing the work public works accomplishes for the city. She is proud to be a part of her being the first woman chief and bringing change to the department. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Frayer said public works is the pulse and the heart of the city. They are doing a phenomenal job. He is astounded by the professionalism and detail to the work. The public works public hearing notice will be in English and Spanish.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Young moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**
Public Works Committee
7:00 P.M. Location TBD