

CITY OF NORWALK
Norwalk City Hall
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Room 225
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
December 5, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: John Igneri, Chair; Thomas Livingston; Michael Corsello; George Tsiranides; Travis Simms; Doug Hempstead (7:08pm)

STAFF: Bruce Chimento, Director; Susan Prosi

Mr. Igneri called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public present this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017.

****MR. CORSELLO MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. SIMMS AND MR. TSIRANIDES ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS**

2. APPROVE THE 2018 MEETING DATES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Livingston asked about the extra dates on the list.

Mr. Chimento explained that those dates were put there in case they wanted to change the date due to a holiday such as July 3rd.

Mr. Corsello said that they are only required to have ten (10) meetings a year so they can simply cancel a meeting if necessary.

Mr. Igneri suggested cancelling the January 2, 2018 meeting.

The Committee discussed the idea of cancelling the January 2, 2018 meeting. It was decided that the Tuesday, January 2, 2018 meeting will be cancelled. The Committee decided to call a special meeting if needed. The July 3rd and the November 5th meeting will remain with the option of cancelling at a later date.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE CITY HALL DRIVE AS “MAYOR FRANK J. ESPOSITO WAY” IN MEMORY OF MAYOR FRANK J. ESPOSITO. SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 2, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 225, NORWALK CITY HALL.

Mr. Chimento stated that he was asked to rename City Hall Drive to Mayor Frank J. Esposito Drive. He said that a public hearing would have to be scheduled.

Mr. Igneri said that he would like to amend the action due to the cancellation of the January 2, 2018 meeting. He amended the action to read February 6, 2018 instead of January 2, 2018.

The Committee began to discuss his tenure with the City of Norwalk stating he was Mayor for 14 years, a State Representative and a Norwalk Common Council Member.

Mr. Igneri said that shortly after Former Mayor Esposito passed, there were several suggestions received by the Mayor to name the Concert Hall after him then in June, Mr. Conroy sent a letter requesting the same.

The Committee discussed how they would want to rename the street. Several ideas were passed around. The Committee ultimately decided to rename City Hall Drive to Honorable Frank J. Esposito Way. For the record, Mr. Igneri reread the action, “Approve the naming of City Hall Drive as Honorable Frank J. Esposito Way in memory of Mayor Frank J. Esposito. Set a Public Hearing on February 6, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in room 225, Norwalk City Hall.

****MR. IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. AUTHORIZE THE RETENTION OF SUSAN PROSI JOHNSON AS PROGRAM MANAGER REPRESENTING THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT, REPORTING TO THE MAYOR’S OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2017.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 30 40 5258

Mr. Igneri said that he has been the Chairman for the Public Works Committee for a number of years and remembers during budget time they have allowed funds in the budget for consultants to assist the engineers with projects.

Mr. Chimento said that they completed a job search for this position. He said they began a little over a year ago before the budget process started and at the same time the Corporation Counsel requested funding for a consultant as well. Mr. Chimento said that they decided to combine the two. He discussed why they chose her stating that she seemed to be the best candidate. He said that she will report to the Mayor's Office but will have daily dealings with him and Lisa Burns. He said that they feel she would be an asset to the department. Ms. King from the Mayor's Office interviewed Ms. Prosi. He said that the Mayor knows her as well. He also mentioned that some of the head people at DOT knows her and she seems to have a good rapport with them.

Mr. Igneri asked Ms. Prosi to introduce herself and provide some background.

Ms. Prosi began to introduce herself and provided an employment background of her qualifications. She stated that she goes by Sue Prosi. She said that she worked in transportation planning and management for over 40 years. Ms. Prosi gave a breakdown of her employment history stating 8 years with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency, 6 years with the City of Stamford as the Transportation Planner, 24 years with SWRPA. She stated that her resume is included in the packet. Ms. Prosi said that she has been in similar roles and responsibilities that the City is looking for in this position. She said that she is confident that she can promote, advocate and advance the City's interest with State and Federal entities to establish public involvement and engagement to promote Norwalk's interest.

Mr. Corsello said that he has been on the Public Works Committee for two (2) years and has been studying the Walk Bridge program and this is the first he is hearing that they are conducting a search for this. He asked how much does the budget allow for this hire.

Mr. Chimento answered \$100,000.00

Mr. Corsello stated that he was under the impression that Public Works needed some assistance and is in favor of the additional resources and asked if Mr. Chimento was comfortable with Ms. Prosi not reporting to him.

Mr. Chimento responded yes because they need a point person that would bring all the different departments together. He said that the other departments do not report to him so he has no idea what they are doing in regards to the Walk Bridge. He said that the funds were asked by him and Corporation Counsel and the Mayor's Office which would go into the Public Works budget. Mr. Chimento said that she is here every day, her office is located in the Public Works Department. He said that Laoise King is the point person for the Mayor's Office for the Walk Bridge Project and so Ms. Prosi will report to her. He said that Public Works is more accessible than the Mayor. Mr. Chimento stated that he asked many professional people in the region by email and telephone and some were not interested.

Mr. Corsello asked if there is more funding available should they need it.

Mr. Chimento answered, not without a special appropriation.

Mr. Corsello asked who conducted the search, what were the guidelines, if anyone responded by letter or resume or if there were a formal posting for the position.

Mr. Chimento responded that he and Ms. Burns asked professional people in person and by telephone if they knew anyone. He said that Ms. Prosi and Ms. Burns happen to be at a meeting together and began talking. Mr. Chimento said that some people were not interested. He said that no one responded by resume or letter. He stated that they felt they chose the best person for the job.

Mr. Corsello said that one of the biggest issues with the City is hiring and they need to be careful when they hire.

Ms. Prosi said that she assisted with many projects and grants providing the City with over 100 million dollars in funding to complete projects. She said that she organized regional parking in rail parking. She said that she assisted with the funding of the Norwalk Transit District and the funding of the SoNo parking years ago.

Mr. Livingston said that there has been discussions on receiving assistance in the engineering department and wanted to know if the department is getting the assistance they need with the \$100,000.00.

Mr. Chimento replied yes. He said that he and Ms. Burns cannot spend the time needed to attend meetings. He said that he could send Ms. Prosi in their stead so they could be free to do other business.

Mr. Igneri said he has been Chairman for five (5) years. He said since the Walk Bridge began he has been calling Mr. Chimento on other issues and Mr. Chimento would answer coming from a meeting. He said that Mr. Chimento would say that they need someone.

Mr. Livingston asked if the City would be reimbursed by the State for this project.

Mr. Chimento replied that he is meeting with the Governor on December 18, 2017 to discuss it. He said that there are other projects coming to light in the future. He said that the State wants to bring forward the reconstruction on Exit 16 on East Avenue and complete that bridge which needs coordination. He said that they are redoing all of East Avenue down to Van Zant Street which is part of the Walk Bridge Project. He said that they need assistance with all of the coordination.

Mr. Corsello asked if sending Ms. Prosi to meetings, who is not an engineer, the best fit for the department.

Mr. Chimento replied yes because he wouldn't have to send Ms. Burns or Mr. Yeosock and it is alright to send a consultant. He said that they are happy to have Ms. Prosi to help take the load off.

Mr. Livingston asked about Ms. Prosi's resume and also if the CT Commuter Rail Council that she is currently an active member of, would be a conflict of interest.

Ms. Prosi responded no.

Mr. Livingston then asked about the mission of the CT Commuter Rail Council.

Ms. Prosi answered that it is statutorily established. She said that it is advisory to communicate the commuter interests to DOT. She said that she has been on the Council since inception and has been appointed by Governor Malloy three (3) times.

Mr. Livingston suggested that they receive a monthly report from Ms. Prosi.

Mr. Chimento responded that he will provide the Committee with the monthly reports.

Mr. Corsello wanted to know who Ms. Prosi knows at DOT, if they are on a first name basis and if they have a good relationship as well as Metro North. He also asked if she knew anyone in DC.

Ms. Prosi replied that she does not know anyone in DC. She began to state the names of people that she has encountered and/or worked with. She named Himes, Blumenthal, Chris Murphy, Deputy Commissioner Anna Berry and a few others. She said that she is a very good advocate for projects.

Mr. Corsello asked Ms. Prosi who would say that she is a very good advocate for projects.

Ms. Prosi answered the engineers that she has worked with.

Mr. Corsello asked Ms. Prosi what she sees as the biggest potential problems in the City of Norwalk.

Ms. Prosi responded trying to replace 120 year old structures from a City that was developed precolonial times. She said that the impacts are so massive to the current infrastructures. She began to name potential problems within the City such as the Aquarium, environmental impacts, the waste water treatment plant, trying to move massive construction equipment to work in such a confined space. She said that you want to keep the vitality and the attractiveness in the City.

Mr. Corsello asked if she agrees that rehabilitation cannot be done.

Ms. Prosi answered that she would have to take engineering assessments into consideration.

The Committee began to discuss the possibility of another train station in Norwalk. The possible location that is still on the list is Wall Street closest to Commerce Street by the Burnell Bridge. Ms. Prosi stated that the State DOT may build a connection to get to the Merritt 7 train station from other stations as there isn't one currently.

Mr. Corsello asked for Ms. Prosi's availability.

Ms. Prosi responded she is totally available.

Mr. Hempstead asked why they didn't send out a RFQ. He also said that it appears that Ms. Prosi wrote her own scope of work.

Mr. Chimento said that they asked Ms. Prosi to submit the scope in a letter to Ms. King. He said that when they start looking for professional consulting services they try to hone in on those people that are specialized in the area that they are looking for. He said that they will not put out a RFQ and have so many people come out of the woodwork because consultants can do every and anything. He said that he wants to look at people that have worked on engineering projects in the past not just a consultant that thinks he can do anything.

Mr. Hempstead asked if this hire will be in this year's budget, how long her hire will be anticipated for and when it will begin.

Mr. Chimento replied her hire will begin as soon as he receives approval from the committee and approximately five (5) years.

Mr. Hempstead asked if it is anticipated to spend the \$100,000 in its entirety over the next six months.

Mr. Chimento replied no.

Mr. Igneri asked Ms. Prosi if she could attend Public Works Committee meetings periodically to update the Committee Members.

Ms. Prosi answered yes.

Mr. Hempstead asked who coordinated the construction of the Mall.

Mr. Chimento responded Public Works.

Mr. Hempstead asked if there will be numerous street closures at the same time.

Mr. Chimento answered no.

Mr. Hempstead said that they should have a better format with the scope of work.

Mr. Corsello asked since this will be a five (5) year project will Ms. Prosi be available for the next five (5) years.

Ms. Prosi answered that she can't guarantee that and that she looks forward to working for a long time. She said that they may decide in the future that they need different types of services that she can't provide.

Mr. Corsello said that if Ms. Prosi decided that they needed someone in addition to herself would she hesitate to give that advice.

Ms. Prosi responded in consultation speaking with Mr. Chimento, Ms. Burns, Ms. King or Ms. Stocker. She said that it would be more of a brainstorming activity.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. SIMMS AND MR. HEMPSTEAD ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS**

5a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE JUNE 5, 2017 CONTRACT WITH TIGHE AND BOND, INC., TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO INVESTIGATING DEFICIENCIES AND OPTIONS FOR THE PORTION OF THE NORWALK LEVEE LOCATED SOUTH OF THE PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE, ADJACENT TO THE NORWALK RIVER TO ADD AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 FOR A REGULATORY INSPECTION OF THE ROWAYTON POND DAM.

5b. RESCIND: COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF MAY 9, 2017, ITEM VII, C.1 WHICH

AUTHORIZED THE FOLLOWING: “1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TIGHE & BOND FOR ITS ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE ROWAYTON POND DAM PROJECT, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00 ACCOUNT NO: 09 14 4027 5777 C0440”.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 14 4027 5777 C0440

Mr. Chimento said that a study for the Army Corp of Engineers and Insurance people was conducted to ensure the safety of Rowayton Pond Dam. He said that Corporation Counsel agreed and thought it would be best if they amend the existing contract for the levee and included the Rowayton Pond Dam.

Mr. Livingston said that he was unclear and reread the item.

Mr. Chimento explained the reason this needs to be done. He said that if they do not complete inspections to this pond it is possible it could flood and the neighboring citizens may have to take out flood insurance. He said that the amendment is to add the funds and include the Rowayton Pond Dam inspections to the existing project.

Mr. Igneri asked if it is the Rowayton School Pond

Mr. Chimento answered yes.

Mr. Livingston said that if they took out for an amount and put in to add an amount it would be less confusing.

Mr. Corsello agreed.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

1. 3RD Quarter (July-September 2017) Transfer Station Quarterly Report

There was no discussion regarding the Monthly Solid Waste Report or the Quarterly report.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

There was no discussion regarding the Customer Service Report.

C. CORRESPONDENCE – WASHINGTON STREET SIDEWALKS

Mr. Chimento discussed this item. He explained the sidewalks and vaults underneath the sidewalks on Washington Street may need work. He said that there were inspections done and it seems they are in dire need. The Committee then began to discuss the issues and how to proceed. It was determined that the Corporation Counsel and several other departments would be asked for assistance with this issue.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2018 followed by the regular meeting in Room 225. The January 2, 2018 meeting has been cancelled.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Cipriano
Executive Assistant
Public Works Department