



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGINEERING

CITY OF NORWALK
Department of Engineering
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION, PARKS AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman (PWC); Darlene Young, Chairwoman (Rec & Parks); James Frayer; Jen McMurrer; Josh Goldstein; Nicol Ayers; Bryan Meek; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel; Darin Callahan, Assistant Corporation Counsel; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Robert Stowers, Recreation & Parks Director; Ken Hughes, Superintendent of Parks; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Ralph Kolb, Wastewater Systems Manager; Thomas Szabo, Waste Services Manager

OTHERS: Larry Cafero, Attorney; Richard Taylor, Gardella Representative

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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.

Chairwoman Smyth called the meeting to order at 6:36p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Public Works Committee Roll at 6:36p.m.:

Barbara Smyth, James Frayer, Darlene Young, Byran Meek, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner

Chairwoman Young called the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Roll at 6:36p.m.:

Darlene Young, Nicol Ayers, Josh Goldstein, Jenn McMurrer, Bryan Meek

A quorum for both committees was present.

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.

Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 6:37p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.

There was no report on this item.

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION, PARKS, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023.

There was no report on this item.

****MS. AYERS MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTANTION

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE CPB ROW AND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT, DEED CLARIFICATION AGREEMENT, AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND GARDELLA BROTHERS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PER THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN CALLAHAN DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2023.

Corporation Counsel Coppola gave a brief explanation of the agreement. It has been over six (6) years since The Gardella's, and their initial counsel approached the city in regard to their request for changes to the land rights they have with the city's property act ingress egress to their property. The city worked collaboratively with current counsel, Attorney Cafero and Attorney Suchy to address all parties' concerns about the outstanding issues. They have come up with a document that resolves all city concerns about the initial proposal for the work and it clarifies the title, and it improves access there which allows for the city to further improve that park and also enables the Gardella's to make improvements in the future to their property. He thanked all those involved in this matter.

Attorney Cafero thanked Corporation Counsel Coppola and Assistant Corporation Counsel Callahan for all of their hard work on this agreement. He introduced Richard Taylor as a member of the Gardella Limited Partnership, representing The Gardella's. Attorney Cafero stated that The Gardella's are synonymous with Norwalk, the development, and the history of the waterfront at Calf Pasture Beach. They continue to be a vibrant part of the community in East Norwalk and the beachfront. The Gardella's are looking to better develop the land that they own, to do so they needed to reach an understanding with the city to allow ingress egress to their property. The city needed clarity regarding what their rights and responsibilities are with regard to beachfront development and the usage of Calf Pasture Beach. A lot of the existing language dated back to 1922 and needed to be updated. The city wants the flexibility to adapt to those changes to best serve the community. The Gardella's take their 1922 deal very seriously to make sure that the city maintains Calf Pasture Beach as a park. This agreement is a win for the city, Gardella's and the community. He again thanked Corporation Counsel Coppola and Assistant Corporation Counsel Callahan for all their efforts and professionalism in this matter. He thanked the Gardella's for their willingness to listen to compromise and his associate Attorney Suchy for all the hard work that was put into this. He said all those efforts result in them being there to present both sides for an affirmative vote and to send the agreement on to the full council for mayor authorization.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Callahan gave a presentation explaining the three (3) agreements. He shared his screen. A discussion ensued about the agreements. A question was asked about the potential uses and it was noted that the potential uses would allow for greater use at Calf Pasture Beach. The restrictions pertain to what the city could use the park for. There were 100-year restrictions in 1922 that said you couldn't have such things as any businesses there or any ballparks but have been there without incident and without objection from The Gardella's. Both parties agreed to have some restrictions and worked out agreements for them. The general agreement was to keep it for parklike purposes, use it as a park for the general enjoyment of recreation and bathing for both residents and non-residents. There are restrictions on the development of any parcels governed by Planning and Zoning. The cost of the project was explained to the Committee members. The city will have a cost share as there are future improvements to the park they will complete. The agreement will be executed after the referendum period upon Council approval and conduct a closing honor before March 1, 2024 or some other mutually agreed upon date. The cost share obligation was explained.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that this item will be moved to the Planning Commission for approval prior to going to the full Common Council.

****MS. AYERS MOVED THE ITEM**

Chairwoman Smyth called the Public Works Committee to a vote:

Barbara Smyth, James Frayer, Darlene Young, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Bryan Meek

Chairwoman Young called the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee to a vote:

Darlene Young, Nicol Ayers, Josh Goldstein, Jenn McMurrer, Bryan Meek

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR BOTH COMMITTEES**

Chairwoman Young moved to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting and called the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee to a vote.

Darlene Young, Nicol Ayers, Josh Goldstein, Jenn McMurrer, Bryan Meek

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs Committee Special Joint Meeting was closed at 7:22p.m. The Public Works Committee meeting continued.

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO A DATA SHARING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT (THE “FTD”) WHEREBY THE FTD WILL PROVIDE THE WPCA SUPPLY WATER CONSUMPTION DATA OF THE INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS OF THE FTD, INCLUDING TOTAL METERED GALLONS, SERVICE ADDRESS, OWNER’S NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND ACCOUNT TYPE.**

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. She stated a request was made to the First Taxing District to share all their water meter readings with the WPCA to accurately charge the commercial accounts for sewer fees. Commercial accounts are estimated while the residential accounts have a flat fee. They would like to charge the commercial accounts for an accurate read of their usage.

Assistant Corporation Counsel explained the agreement. He stated the agreement arose based on the City’s request. Historically it’s not been denied as such not subject to FOI on the basis of confidentiality. The FTD agreed to provide the data as long as it remains confidential by agreement, on their own accord, and with their own legal counsel has determined the legal right with the confidentiality agreement to share that data. He went on to explain the process to the Committee on how they came to this agreement. He referred to the memorandum for reference. They have agreed to maintain confidentiality in writing.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked Assistant Corporation Counsel Callahan. There were no questions from Committee members. She received an email from Ms. CeCe and it wasn’t asked to be read into record but she would like to clarify that they are only looking for commercial information, the First Taxing District is unable to break that information down but the WPCA can and there is confidentiality for the residents.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A RIGHT OF ENTRY AND ACCESS LICENSE WITH CONNDOT FOR THE TEMPORARY INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGN FOR MARINE USERS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WALK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

Ms. Valadares reported. She explained the project to the Committee members. The Walk Bridge has some Variable Messages Signs along the harbor due to the construction at the Walk Bridge. There are several parcels that ConnDOT needs access to for the VM signs, and they are: Oyster Shell Park, behind the Maritime Aquarium, along Water Street, and Veteran's Park. They are going to get a construction easement, first they will allow them to gain a Right of Entry now and then come back for the construction easement once the maps are completed. They understand that the VM signs are temporary but will be there for a few years. This has been discussed with and approved by the Public Works and Recreation and Parks staff. The locations have been depicted on an aerial map that was included in the package.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL SALT FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$105 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023-24 SNOW SEASON.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 25 5322

Mr. Torre reported that they did not need to purchase salt last year because they didn't need to due to the mild winter. He said they have been using this type of salt for 13 years and is the most environmentally sound salt they can get. This year the price is \$3 less than last year.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2022, ITEM VII.C.3, TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CROWN CASTLE INTERNATIONAL FOR THE EAST AVENUE ADVANCE UTILITY PROJECT NO. 0301-0515NP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$170,000.00, TO "AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CROWN CASTLE INTERNATIONAL FOR THE EAST AVENUE ADVANCED UTILITY PROJECT NO. 0301-0515NP FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$195,965.10".**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 12 4021 5777 C0471
09 22 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0234**

Ms. Valadares reported that they are responsible for putting the utilities underground and for this project they receive an estimate. They will be billed after the work is completed. This is a rough estimate of that cost. Once the attorneys got together to put the correct language for the contract and requested an updated estimate, the estimate was higher. They would like the

agreement to reflect the latest estimate. Mr. Meek asked about the 15% increase and the exact work that is to be completed by a cellular company. It was explained that they are responsible for the undergrounding so they are building the infrastructure so Crown Castle can pull their wires through the infrastructure that the city is building.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1)**

8. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 22, 2023 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND COLONNA MASONRY CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC FOR PROJECT RD2023-1 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR SPRING HILL AVENUE AREA, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0318
 09 21 7100 5777 C0583
 09 23 7100 5777 C0583
 09 21 4120 5777 C0649**

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He stated that they would like to complete the sidewalks in that area making them safer for pedestrians. A discussion ensued about the price and linear feet total. They discussed the type of sidewalk that would be put there which is concrete. The difference between asphalt and concrete. There is a map that indicates what type of sidewalk is put in a certain area that they follow along with the roadway standards. The map is very old but is not edited by Public Works because it falls under the Planning and Zoning Department. It is where they qualify the urban core and the high intensity core. The Committee discussed other areas with asphalt and concrete curbs and complete streets.

****MS YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEMBER 22, 2022 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND A. VITTI EXCAVATORS, LLC FOR PROJECT BR2022-1 (SITE 1 AND SITE2) - BONNY BROOK ROAD OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK (SITE 1) AND CANNON STREET OVER BETTS POND BROOK (SITE 2), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$220,000.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0315
 09 22 4021 5777 C0315
 09 23 4021 5777 C0315
 09 24 4021 5777 C0315**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. They would like to request the amendment so they can complete beautification projects on two (2) of the covered bridges. She explained those details and it will be maintained by the city.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

- **PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 21, 2023**

Ms. Valadares stated this year they are going with a Halloween theme. It will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 9:00am to 12:00noon. They will have a donation bin for non-perishable foods for Person to Person. There will be information and public outreach on their services, particularly solid waste and recycling.

- **TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING**

Mr. Torre reported on this. He stated they removed 32 trees in August, half of those were weeds called the trees from heaven. 68 safe pruning. Ms. Valadares stated that they are staking and placing orders for 150-200 trees at various locations within the next two weeks.

- **MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – AUGUST 2023**

Mr. Szabo reported that tonnages have gone up a little. More than 10% is curbside and recycling is up 2%. The Eyecycle event had great foot traffic. He said the residents seem to like it. Bottle redemption is going up to 10 cents in January 2024. They received 50 mattresses at the mattress recycling dropoff. That program was funded through the State.

- **FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – AUGUST 2023**

Mr. Szabo reported 7,200 pounds at the Rowayton Community Center. 4,500 pounds at the Transfer Station, and 2,400 pounds at Cranbury Park. He will continue outreach via social media to increase awareness, especially during the holidays. They began to discuss strategies for everyone in the different neighborhoods.

- **CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS**

1. CONSTRUCTION

- DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
- PM2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION
- PM2023-4 PAVING @ VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PM2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
- PM2023-4 PAVING @ VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PM2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
- RD2022-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- RD2022-2 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SENG AND MORTON AREAS
- RD2023-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SPRING HILL AVENUE AREA
- DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE
- RNP2022-3 FREESE PARK RAILING REHABILITATION
- RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE
- DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE
- STR2023-1 EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL AND SIDEWALK ABATEMENT
- BR2022-1 BONNY BROOK ROAD & CANNON STREET

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- DRG2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
- PSC2023-1 ON-CALL SURVEYING

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
- VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT
- RD2023-2 UNDERGROUNDING OF ELIZABETH STREET OVERHEAD UTILITIES
- BR2023-1 BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Mr. Meehan reported on the current/upcoming projects' status. All questions were answered.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that there are two (2) residents in the Ponus Area that have experienced flooding in the past but have since felt some alleviation. They are very grateful.

Chairwoman Smyth announced that the November 7, 2023, Public Works Committee Meeting will be cancelled due to the election. The next scheduled meeting will be in December.

Mr. Meek thanked them for getting Bayne Street striped.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Frayer moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:34p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD