



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGINEERING

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

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Acting Chairman; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Heather Dunn; Darlene Young; Dajuan Wiggins

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

OTHERS: Johan Lopez, Common Council Member; Nicole Eaddy, Common Council Member

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 mcipriano@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Acting Chairman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

ROLL CALL

Acting Chairman Symth called the Roll: Barbara Smyth, Heather Dunn, Darlene Young, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Dajuan Wiggins

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present constituting a quorum. Chairman James Frayer was not 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.)

1

Diane Lauricella greeted the Committee. She congratulated the Department of Public Works and the whole city on the Touch a Truck event. She heard it was a great event. She stated that the Perry Avenue Bridge is not that old, and the amount is quite expensive. She asked the Committee to think of ways the money could be used for and possibly go back to the drawing board and rebid the project. She would like to know when the comprehensive planning would take place with Win Waste. She said the food scrap program and collection are not being optimized as it could be. More could be done with education and infrastructure. She asked when will the food scrap program be analyzed and go out to bid and stop being a pilot program.

Acting Chairman Smyth closed public input at 7:10p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024.

There was no report on this item.

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

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL INC. FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$115 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024-25 SNOW SEASON.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 25 5322

Mr. Torre reported on this. He stated that they have been using this same salt for the past 10 years. This is a sole source purchase. It is treated with xanthan gum which helps the balance and scatter and keeps more salt on the road as opposed to the edge of the road. It doesn't have to work at lower temperatures in order to be effective like traditional rock salt.

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

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT ALL THE NECESSARY ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS ON SCENIC ROAD - FILLow ST: W NORWALK RD TO RICHARDS AVE, AS APPROVED BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON AUGUST 7, 2024.

Ms. Valadares reported on this. Under the pavement management program, Fillow Street is on the forecast for this year. As you know, before paving any road they check for drainage, where they can improve connectivity and walkability, ADA ramps and possible sidewalks. They learned that Fillow Street was designated as a scenic road and may be the only road in Norwalk. She discussed the process with Planning and Zoning. There was a public hearing and most of the people were in favor and ultimately approved by Planning and Zoning. They need approval

from the Public Works Committee and Common Council before they could move forward on Fillow Street.

****MS. DUNN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Acting Chairman Smyth read items 4a and 4b together.

- 4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHOLAR PAINTING, LLC FOR PROJECT BR2024-1 PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE RAIL PAINTING, PERRY AVENUE OVER THE SILVERMINE RIVER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$121,819.80.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0682
 09 24 4021 5777 C0315
 09 25 4021 5777 C0315
 09 24 4021 5777 C0617
 09 25 4021 5777 C0617**

- 4B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH SCHOLAR PAINTING, LLC FOR PROJECT BR2024-1 PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE RAIL PAINTING, PERRY AVENUE OVER SILVERMINE RIVER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$12,181.98.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0682
 09 24 4021 5777 C0315
 09 25 4021 5777 C0315
 09 24 4021 5777 C0617
 09 25 4021 5777 C0617**

Mr. Meehan reported on this. They are looking to repaint the railings and remove the existing ones. He said they have environmental safety factors to consider. There were two bidders. They reached out to the lowest bidder's references and received great reviews.

Ms. Valadares stated the high cost of painting the rails is due to environmental protection. This is not a grab a brush and paint type of job. They are closing that bridge during the execution of the project because they need to build an entire structure around the bridge so that there is no debris, or anything related to the paint that will go into the water shed. They managed to knock out some of the cost for concrete barriers that was on the bid because they could supply those barriers internally.

A discussion ensued about when the work will begin and for how long. There were concerns about the school bus route and residents that use that bridge daily. DPW have collaborated with the BOE on these issues as well. They also have sent out letters to the residents in that area.

****MS. DUNN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Acting Chairman Smyth read items 4a and 4b together.

- 5A. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF WOODWARD AVENUE FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET TO BURRITT AVENUE TO BE NAMED REVEREND RAMON FIGUEROA WAY.**
- 5B. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF WOODWARD AVENUE FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET TO BURRITT AVENUE TO BE NAMED REVEREND RAMON FIGUEROA WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM.**

Mr. Sotnik reported on this. He stated they received the request from the Reverend Luis Rivera the current pastor of the church. He explained the area that the sign for the honorary street naming would be, Woodward Avenue from the intersection of South Main Street to Burritt Avenue. Reverend Ramon Figueroa passed away on August 17, 2013.

Ms. Valadares explained the process of honorary street naming request through the Public Works Committee. They are just the conductor of the request to the committee.

A discussion ensued about Reverend Figueroa and the need for more information. It was stated that all the information given was in the backup. The Committee discussed a little more about him. They talked about costs associated with the request. There is a cost for two (2) signs that the department pays for. They would like to invite Reverend Luis Rivera to the next meeting for more information. The public hearing was also discussed. The Committee talked about tabling the item to the next meeting until they receive more information.

Acting Chairman Smyth moved to table item to the December 3, 2024 meeting.

****MS. DUNN MOVED THE ITEM**

****ACTING CHAIRMAN SMYTH MOVED TO TABLE ITEM TO THE DECEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING – JULY & AUGUST 2024

Mr. Torre reported on this. In July, 29 trees were removed and 31 were safety pruned. In August, 21 trees were removed, and 42 trees were safety pruned. Mr. Torre began a discussion about the Tree of Heaven issue. They have received over 40 requests for the removal of the Tree of Heaven. He explained the issue to the Committee. The Tree of Heaven is the breeding ground for the Spotted Lantern Fly. It is the tree of choice to lay their eggs. They are still disseminating and trying to gather which trees they can remove inhouse and which would need to be contracted

out.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JULY & AUGUST 2024

Mr. Szabo reported on this. Everything seems to be steady. They have been researching more ways to encourage recycling. He had a table at the Fall Fest. He stated people seemed very interested in the food scrap program.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – JULY & AUGUST 2024

Mr. Szabo reported on this. Transfer Station and Cranberry Park locations were a little low. Ms. Valadares stated that they will give a solid waste presentation at the Common Council meeting to give a status report.

D. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He asked the Committee if they had any questions regarding the projects below.

1. CONSTRUCTION

- DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
- RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE
- RA2023-1 SOUTH NORWALK EQUITABLE TOD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
- RD2024-1 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR BERKELEY STREET AREA
- DRG2022-1 LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE
- PM2024-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION
- RD2024-2 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- RA2024-1 REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SOIL AT 30 MONROE STREET
- RD2024-3 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR BEACON STREET AREA
- BLDG2024-1 PAVING OF BEN FRANKLIN, KENDALL AND ROWAYTON SCHOOL
- PM2024-3 CRACK SEALING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES AND TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS
- PROJECT 102-366 WEST CEDAR STREET OVER FIVE MILE RIVER

3. DESIGN

- STORM DRAINAGE EVALUATION AT SELECTED LOCATIONS
- RNP2022-1 VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT
- RD2023-2 UNDERGROUNDING OF ELIZABETH STREET OVERHEAD UTILITIES
- BR2023-1 BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Ms. Valadares reported on the Open House. She thanked the staff for all their hard work to make it a success. There were about 1,300 people. All DPW staff volunteered, no one was paid for that Saturday.

Ms. Valadares stated that the November 5, 2024 meeting will be cancelled. There will be a special meeting on November 12, 2024 at 6:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:51p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 CANCELLED**
SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
6:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD