

CITY OF NORWALK
Norwalk City Hall
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Thomas Livingston, Acting Chairman; Doug Hempstead; George Tsiranides; Eloisa Melendez

STAFF: Bruce Chimento, Director; Lisa Burns, Principal Engineer

OTHERS: Diane CeCe, East Norwalk Resident

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Diane CeCe, an East Norwalk Resident, began by saying despite what the City thinks were good efforts in terms of public outreach to notify the public on that session, only three (3) people were in attendance, a shop owner/worker; a resident and herself. Ms. CeCe stated that the public outreach didn't work. She said in regards to the Over-height vehicle detection infra-red system and alert system at the SoNo Metro North Bridge, that type of project engages the Department of Public Works, Traffic Department, Police Commission, Traffic Authority, among other agencies and there was not one representative present at the singular public information session from this committee or any other departments/agencies. She said that Mike Yeosock was the only one present and a staffer from DOT that was not related to DOT Highway but more of a facilitator for funneling the funding of State grants so literally there were five (5) people in the room in addition to the person recording for the blog. Ms. CeCe stated public engagement failed and really needs to be more robust with the efforts. She gave an example from the meeting where she and the other two people in attendance almost begged the staff for 17 minutes to table the item and not have it on the September 4th agenda because there were so many questions that were not answered and so many facts and data that were shared like bridge strikes and what direction they were coming from which was not clear within the data provided. She said that there was a question about alternative solutions outside of spending \$450,000 which would grow due to inside design and maintenance costs, and she and the other two people agreed that there are other mitigation solutions that could

be tried instead of spending that kind of money. She said that the money is tax payer's money even if 90% is funded by the Feds. She doesn't believe this is a well vetted project and takes exception to what the resolution is that is on the agenda. She pointed out to the Acting Chairman where the public informational meetings were held that the City of Norwalk conducted because she is not aware of any other than the one on the 22nd and she asked for clarification on where, when and who attended the other meetings. She reiterated that she is unaware of any other meetings prior to the August 22, 2018 meeting. She said that the notifications that went out did not go to the stakeholder groups and she said that there was a mailing given to 300 abutting property owners who may or may not occupy the business or residence so those notices are not going to the people who are most affected and that is probably something that happened in this case. She said that there aren't a lot of people that read the Norwalk Hour and fewer that actually read the legal notices so that isn't a good messaging system either. She said that her concern is that the resolution says the Council has considered the concerns of the residents from the public informational sessions, and again she only believes there was one, and Mr. Yeosock was not able to provide her with any concerns that were shared with the committee. Ms. CeCe said that there are no notes from the public informational meeting and she was just informed that the only comment submitted was the one she submitted at 3:55p.m. that afternoon. She said that the resolution suggests that the proposal is in the best interest of the City of Norwalk and she questions that because there is so little known about this project with so many open questions. She said that the project suggests that there will be variable infra-red over height vehicle detection from all approaches coming up to the bridge in South Norwalk when in fact if you read the detail there is no detection that comes from Eastbound coming from the Stroffolino Bridge. She said that there is a lot of truck traffic that comes over the Stroffolino Bridge going into South Norwalk and there is going to be even more traffic when the Mall is open and even more than that when East Norwalk is lowered and widened so tractor trailers can come through there. Ms. CeCe said that at the point when a driver would notice the first sign that indicates the vehicle would be over height, they are already beyond the intersection of Washington and Water Street so you will still be left with the exact same situation of having an oversized truck approaching that bridge engaging the Police Department and others to assist with backing out of there because there is no turn around at that point. She said that the only information that she received was a little package that she showed the Committee. She asked about the accuracy of the detection system and are there any other means to alert the Police Department other than an electronic alert. She also asked about the infra-red beam and how does it measure height, would rain or any other factor alter the measurements or are there any other false alarms that will go out to the Police Department to come out and interact with someone that is approaching the bridge. Ms. CeCe said that their main concern is that the deterrence away from hitting the bridge has to be done well before the proposed placement of that infra-red alert is and the variable message time that would alert a driver that they have to detour. She said the idea is that they wouldn't commit to a turn coming off of West Avenue onto Washington Street because MLK Drive is the road supposed to be used. She said that drivers need to know well in advance from Elizabeth Street and also Water Street that they cannot commit to going to that bridge. Ms. CeCe thanked the Committee for their time. She said that there are enough questions for this item to be tabled so they can hold another comment session for at least another 30 days. She said that she did ask Mr. Yeosock and the DOT staff if it would jeopardize funding or any of the approval processes to have this item tabled until October's meeting and it would not. She said that she finds no reason to put this through to Council and as a resident she asked that they table it till the October

meeting and hold the public comment session open for at least another two (2) weeks so that questions can be answered.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018.**

There was no discussion on this item.

****MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT RD2018-1 CONCRETE CURBS AND SIDEWALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0318

Mr. Chimento stated that this is an extension to the contract that is now out there with Deering Construction Company. He said that they are allocating the remaining funds in the budget for sidewalks.

Mr. Livingston asked if this was an extension to the Paving Contract.

Ms. Burns stated that the Paving Contract, Drainage Contract and the Concrete, Curbs and Sidewalks are a package and it helps to continue the paving program. She said that this will help continue the paving program by adding to the concrete, curbs and sidewalks for East Wall Street from Main Street up to the head of Harbor, in that area. Ms. Burns stated that they have to move some curbs to accommodate the new mast arm. She said that it is still in the conception planning phase.

Mr. Livingston asked if the Committee would hear more about this project at a later date.

Ms. Burns responded no.

Mr. Livingston asked if this was for the existing light on Wall Street.

Ms. Burns responded the one on Main Street and Wall Street.

Mr. Livingston asked where the sidewalk improvements would be located.

Ms. Burns said that they would be on both sides because you cannot put the mast arm on the bridge so they are moving it out. She began to explain the project to the Committee.

Mr. Chimento said that he, Ms. Burns, Mr. Yeosock and the Traffic Authority will be discussing reversing the traffic flow on Knight Street and High Street to keep the traffic on the right side of the road. He said that when you come down High Street and you

want to go to Knight Street, when you go around you end up on the wrong side of the street. He said if you reverse that flow that would be a one way going up High Street and one way coming down Knight Street you will be on the right side keeping the traffic on the right side of the road.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if that is the area that the restaurant owns.

Mr. Chimento replied yes they own all the way out to where the curb is now and they want to make a refuge area so when you cross the road you it will not be on their property.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if narrowing the road plus the blind spots would possibly cause more traffic.

Mr. Chimento replied no.

Ms. Burns said that drivers would have more viewing in order to make the right hand turn. She said that the lanes would become narrower in certain locations but with new signal and new arrangements it should flow better.

Mr. Livingston asked for a diagram when it is developed so the Committee could review it.

Ms. Burns replied yes she would provide it once it is developed. She reiterated that they are still in the conceptual phase and stated that they need to do something to accommodate the mast arm foundation.

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

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. TO ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF CTDOT'S TRAFFIC STUDY RELATED TO WALK BRIDGE PROJECTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 30 5258

Ms. Burns stated that the City received the 60% plans for the Walk Bridge which includes basically the corridor all the way from SoNo Train Station to East Avenue and beyond to the Westport Line and it includes all of those bridges. She said that they are going to review all of those plans on Saturday because they have to be done by the 21st and submitted to DOT. She said that on August 18, 2018 they received the comprehensive traffic study that the DOT Consultant WSP put together on the impact

of the Walk Bridge construction. She said that they have been working on this for two (2) years and they only have a month to review. She said that the traffic study involves 38 intersections and they are looking to augment their staff with VHB to help them review the traffic study. She said that they are treating VHB as an extension to their staff to review the traffic study so they could get through it and provide comments to the DOT. She said that many

consultants are very wary about working against the DOT and VHB was one of the willing consultants with DOT's blessing to help review this information. She said they have worked with VHB on numerous traffic study analysis. Ms. Burns said that they reviewed their traffic analysis for other projects they are right now VHB is their paving consultants.

Mr. Livingston stated that they have a lot to review and wanted to know if they can be exposed.

Ms. Burns said that there is a potential that they may miss something. She said that they have informed the State that they need assistance. She said that under the State's Master Agreements they qualify for a consultant to assist them.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the traffic plans that are scheduled to be reviewed are traffic changes.

Ms. Burns answered that some are detour plans during construction and some will be permanent such as East Avenue will have a permanent signal at Fort Point Street and East Avenue to facilitate construction.

Mr. Hempstead asked when the overall project will begin.

Ms. Burns answered that it has already begun.

Mr. Hempstead wanted to know when they really get started with construction with taken down the IMAX and the Mall construction because he wanted to know if they have taken into consideration temporary versus permanent.

Mr. Chimento said that the IMAX is scheduled to come down in 2020.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if they will take the mall traffic into consideration.

Mr. Chimento said yes.

Mr. Chimento said that they need to get comments back in the next couple of weeks.

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

State Project 102-362 Over-Height Vehicle Detection System for Washington Street
Metro North Railroad Bridge No. 3693R

Whereas, the City of Norwalk, CT has conducted a public informational meeting regarding the proposed project, State Project 102-362 Over-height Vehicle Detection

System for Washington Street Vehicle Detection System for Washington Street Metro-North Railroad Bridge No. 3693R: AND Whereas, The City of Norwalk, CT has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to multiple officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing the public informational meeting on the proposed project; AND Whereas, the public informational meeting was held on August 22, 2018 at Norwalk City Hall, at which residents and elected officials had the opportunity to voice their concerns; AND Whereas, the Norwalk Common Council has considered the concerns of residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed project is in the best interest of the City of Norwalk, CT and will promote the Health, Safety, and General Welfare of its residents and provide for the convenience and safety of the motoring public and pedestrian traffic. The City of Norwalk, CT will continue to address the concerns of the residents and other interested parties as design development of the project proceeds. Now therefore, the City of Norwalk, CT based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Norwalk, Connecticut, this _____ Day of _____, 2018.

Mr. Yeosock stated that three (3) years ago they applied for a grant for accident reduction on North Main/Washington Street intersection because it has always been a problem with over height vehicles hitting the bridge from all different directions. He said that there is a tremendous impact to Metro North and the City when a truck strikes the bridge it slows down the rail service or even if it doesn't strike it there would be delays trying to get the truck out of the intersection. He continued to say that they were notified last year that they received the grant so at that time they began preliminary plans and reviewed them and worked through the process. He said that there are guidelines for holding public meetings which they followed and exceeded.

Mr. Livingston asked how many meetings were held.

Mr. Yeosock responded they held one (1) public informational meeting. He said that they also mentioned it at the Traffic Authority meeting as well. He said that over 300 residents were notified and it was published twice in the Hour and twice in the Spanish newspaper in Spanish and the Hour carried a story on it as well. Mr. Yeosock said that it was also mentioned on public radio. He said that the meeting wasn't well attended but he does not believe it was due to public outreach but rather the project didn't have negative feelings toward it.

Mr. Chimento said that he spoke with the Hour about this for their story. He said that financially if they wanted to delay it for 30 days there may not be much of a difference in the turnout. He said that the grant will allow them to install active warning systems

all four (4) ways. He said that it does go out to the Stroffolino Bridge and will detect whether a truck is too high to get under that bridge before it reaches the bridge.

Mr. Livingston asked where the display signs will be located.

Mr. Yeosock replied that the signs would be located on the mast arm above the roadway.

Mr. Livingston asked if it would detect when the vehicle is coming from East Norwalk.

Mr. Chimento replied that it should detect an over-height truck as it comes over the Stroffolino Bridge or right in that area.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if it would give the truck enough time to go down Water Street.

Mr. Chimento replied no probably not they would have to pull over and they will back them down. He said that it may go as far as Pearl or something like that. He said that the main thing is to stop them before they hit the bridge.

Mr. Yeosock said that most of the accidents are coming from up South Main Street, from that direction because once they went down Washington Street they know to stop and back them out of there but the ones coming from South Main don't seem to realize the bridge is that low. There are three (3) to four (4) signs about the bridge in each direction so adding more signs won't stop drivers from hitting the bridge.

Mr. Livingston asked where the display signs would be located.

Mr. Yeosock said that it would be on the mast arm above the roadway.

Mr. Livingston asked for more detail of the location.

Mr. Yeosock said that above the roadway there would be two (2) black poles with the laser sensor on it. He said that when a truck breaks the beam it will trigger the sign in front of them on the mast arm setting, which would be 6ft wide and 3 ft. high, similar to a sign you would see in front of a school.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM AS AMENDED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFIC TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, INC. (ITS) AT NO-COST TO THE CITY TO SHARE REAL-TIME TRAFFIC SIGNAL INFORMATION IN EXCHANGE FOR AUTONOMOUS INFORMATION FROM CONNECTED VEHICLE APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE ROADWAY SAFETY, REDUCE CONGESTION, AND OPTIMIZE TRAFFIC FLOW.**

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTED SIGNALS, INC. AT NO-COST TO THE CITY TO SHARE REAL-TIME TRAFFIC SIGNAL INFORMATION IN EXCHANGE FOR AUTONOMOUS INFORMATION FROM CONNECTED**

VEHICLE APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE ROADWAY SAFETY, REDUCE CONGESTION, AND OPTIMIZE TRAFFIC FLOW.

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LIVE TRAFFIC DATA AT NO-COST TO THE CITY TO SHARE REAL-TIME TRAFFIC SIGNAL INFORMATION IN EXCHANGE FOR AUTONOMOUS INFORMATION FROM CONNECTED VEHICLE APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE ROADWAY SAFETY, REDUCE CONGESTION, AND OPTIMIZE TRAFFIC FLOW.**

Mr. Yeosock said that it takes the traffic signal data and feeds it back to the vehicles and in return they can make adjustments to the traffic signals in real time.

Mr. Hempstead asked about privacy and sharing information issues and what types of things are shared.

Mr. Chimento replied whether the light is red or green.

Mr. Hempstead asked if it fed what direction to go in and what protections do they have.

Mr. Chimento replied that it gives them information so they can adjust the lights.

Mr. Livingston asked if any 3rd party would be able to control the lights.

Mr. Yeosock responded absolutely not.

Committee would like to review the agreements.

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF MARCH 13, 2018, ITEM VII.A.3 TO ADD AN ACCOUNT DESIGNATED FOR FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT, ACCOUNT NUMBER 09 18 4021 5777 C0503:

- 8A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC FOR PROJECT PM2018-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$2,875,598.75.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 17 4021 5777 C0021

09 18 4021 5777 C0021

09 18 4027 5777 C0302

09 17 4021 5777 C0515

03 00 00 2602

09 18 4021 5777 C0303

09 19 4021 5777 C0303

09 18 4021 5777 C0503

- 8B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC FOR PROJECT PM2018-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$287,559.87**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 17 4021 5777 C0021

09 18 4021 5777 C0021

09 18 4027 5777 C0302

09 17 4021 5777 C0515

03 00 00 2602

09 18 4021 5777 C0303

09 19 4021 5777 C0303

09 18 4021 5777 C0503

Mr. Livingston asked if they were just adding an account to this project.

Ms. Burns replied yes, it is the footpath account.

Mr. Livingston stated that as long as The Grasso Companies are in compliance he has no issue.

Ms. Burns stated that they have already been awarded those funds but they didn't have the account number.

Mr. Livingston stated that every time that company comes before the Committee, he wants to know that they are in compliance.

****MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 9. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL, INCORPORATED-SALT, ROAD SAFETY FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT**

TO EXCEED \$82.57 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER-HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2018-19 WINTER SEASON.

Mr. Torre gave an overview of the project.

**** MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

10. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS FUTURE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT OPTIONS.

****MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Executive Session began at 6:45p.m. ended at 6:50p.m.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. Project Staffing

Mr. Chimento and Ms. Burns discussed this project with the Committee and provided a matrix describing the engineering projects.

2. Paving Program

Mr. Chimento reported on this item. He said that they are behind in the paving program because they were not able to obtain asphalt in a timely manner. He said that the roads have been milled but not paved and that all milled streets are top priority.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT – JULY THROUGH AUGUST 2018

Mr. Chimento said that they are looking into the missed garbage collections. He said that there were 1366 service calls, 1179 were public works. He said that the majority calls were for landscaping, road potholes and solid waste issues.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MAY THROUGH JULY 2018

1. Bulky Collection Report –2018

Mr. Chimento said that recycling has increased and they are on track with their budget. Garbage and recycling collections are going well.

2. CON Transfer Station Second Quarter Report 2018

UPCOMING PROJECTS

There will be a Special Joint Meeting with the PWC and Recreation and Parks Department scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 5:30p.m. in Room 231 followed by the Regular Public Works Committee Meeting at 7:00p.m. in Room 231.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Cipriano
Executive Assistant
Public Works Department