CITY OF NORWALK
Norwalk City Hall
125 East Avenue, PO Box 5125
Room 225
Norwalk, CT 06856-5125
P: 203-854-7791 / F: 203-857-0143

CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 1, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; James Frayer; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Bryan Meek

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 Services 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.

Chairwoman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Roll: Barbara Smyth James Frayer Bryan Meek
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner

At Roll Call there were four (4) Committee members present constituting a quorum. Lisa Shanahan, Darlene Young and Edwin Camacho were 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.

Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 7:04p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023.

Mr. Meek stated that there was more to his comment on page 5 that needs a little more context which states, "Mr. Meek asked if citizens from Norwalk could do some of those decorative crosswalks." He would like to add '*could citizens from Norwalk do some of those decorative crosswalks in light of the fact that Westport citizens are doing decorative crosswalks and they shouldn't be paying someone to do this, they should look for volunteers."*

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MR. FRAYER ABSTAINED**
****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTANTION AND ONE (1) AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO THE AUGUST 28, 2007 AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND A. DICESARE ASSOCIATES, P.C., REGARDING THE EAST AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $65,000.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED SCOPE OF SERVICES DATED JULY 24, 2023.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 4021 5777 C0816
09 24 4021 5777 C0816
09 23 4021 5777 C0818

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said that this is part of the East Avenue Roadway Project. She said that DPW and TMP would like to make minor changes in the design on the South portion of East Avenue, from Winfield Street down to Gregory Boulevard. The fee will cover the cost of those changes that has already been accepted by DOT. They have had several meetings with DOT, and they will incorporate those changes into their drawings.

Mr. Meek asked how many more amendments they expect to have as this is the eighth amendment to date.

Ms. Valadares answered that she cannot give a definitive answer as this project has been ongoing for a long time.

Mr. Meek asked if they could put performance goals on these items. He asked if these projects are taking so long that things naturally change?

Ms. Valadares replied yes that is the reason they are coming back for an amendment. The first time they designed this project was over 20 years ago and then it changed, the bridge is going to be wider and so they had to change the design again. Then the underground utility project was underway, and more changes were made to the design. TMP would like to improve the connection

on Road 123 so they made modifications with a little bump out crosswalks. They are not expecting anymore changes.

Mr. Meek said that he is getting a lot of complaints from business stakeholders that nothing is getting done in that area and if there is something they can bring back to the stakeholders he would appreciate that.

Ms. Valadares responded that the only thing that is getting done right now are the undergrounding of the utilities. The roadway project has not begun. She will be more than happy to go over all the projects under the Walk Bridge umbrella. She gave a presentation to the East Avenue Neighborhood Association and this Committee a couple of years ago. The undergrounding of the utilities is very complex and needs to happen prior to the roadway project. The Walk Bridge schedule dictates all the East Avenue Projects.

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

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE AN INCREASE TO THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO FLT GEOSYSTEMS FOR THE UPGRADE TO THE SURVEY EQUIPMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $5,200.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

Ms. Valadares reported on this. This is an accessory to the survey equipment. It will help to level the rod by itself making the work much faster. The new equipment has the ability, but the accessory is needed to make it work.

Mr. Frayer asked if all the expenditures in the budget was recently approved.

Ms. Valadares replied yes and some of the accounts are older accounts.

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT(S) WITH H.W. LOCHNER FOR DESIGN AND COORDINATION SERVICES DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 IN CONNECTION WITH WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM (STATE PROJECT NOS. 201-0176, 301-0188, 301-0187, 102-297, 301-180) FOR A TOTAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED $265,656.46 - STATE'S SHARE.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 18 4062 5799 C0613
09 22 4062 5799 C0613
09 23 4062 5799 C0613
09 24 4062 5799 C0613
100% STATE REIMBURSABLE

Ms. Valadares reported on this. This is part of the Walk Bridge Program and is 100% reimbursable by the State. The are changing the sewer on Fort Point Street. She explained the project and what was needed for completion.

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

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE WOODARD & CURRAN AGREEMENT DATED AUGUST 12, 2019, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FLOOD REMEDIATION AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TASK ORDER 23A DATED JULY 10, 2023, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $95,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 13 40 10 5796 APW06
09 24 4062 5777 C0361

Chairman Smyth said that these are individual projects around the New Canaan Avenue and Ponus Avenue area where there has been extensive flooding.

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He explained the stormwater project to the Committee. Residents came to City Hall on June 12, 2023, to express their concerns and the consultants were there as well. They wanted to know what could be done to alleviate some of the stormwater flooding that is happening in those particular areas. It will not alleviate it entirely, but it will help. Mr. Meehan gave an example of the project.

Mr. Meek asked about the split on the accounting and how much did the original plus the first four amendments cost and how were they allocated to the accounts.

Ms. Valadares answered that the original contract is on-call design for drainage. This is not for just one (1) specific project. It began as an RFQ, three to four years ago. She offered to send Mr. Meek the accounting information. She stated that she would most likely charge all of the funding through the ARPA funds.

The Committee began a discussion about this project and how it was supposed to have been completed over 30 years ago. They talked about recessions, climate change, funding, and the opportunities to make these improvements. They discussed how these projects relate to the other larger projects.

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

6. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF APRIL 13, 2021, ITEM VII.C.5 AND APRIL 12, 2022, ITEM VII.C.1 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR THE WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM – 0301-0515NP PROJECT, INCLUDING THE P.A.L., ENCLOSED WITH THIS AGENDA WHEREBY THE CITY OF NORWALK WILL TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNTS OF $3,750,000.00 ON MAY 30, 2021, $1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2022 AND $1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2023, TO FUND THE UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITY LINES ON

EAST AVE FROM FORT POINT STREET TO OLMSTEAD PLACE TO BE PERFORMED BY CONN DOT. ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0471.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 24 4021 5777 C0471

Ms. Valadares stated that this is just to add an account to cover the costs for the last installment. They State allowed them to pay in installments instead of everything up front. The first time they ever allowed this.

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

7. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO ALTA ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VANTAGE LIV9DX CAB PICKUP FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $45,700.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4031 5777 C0313

Chairwoman Smyth stated this is their first all-electric vehicle.

Mr. Torre reported that this is to put their Clean Streets Ambassador back into the business district during the day. Helping business owners with trash, they are sweeping out there more, there are people eating outside. This is a great first step in electrifying that initiative.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said thank you. This has been a priority for her and she is really grateful for all work they are doing to make this happen. She requested that for the agenda item that comes before the council state that it is an electric vehicle to help public awareness of the fact that they are doing their part in electrifying their vehicles.

Mr. Torre added that they also purchased their first electric backpack blower. It works for the applications that they use it for. The charge last two (2) hours then you need a new battery, so they purchased four (4) batteries. It is perfect for their use, and it is one (1) less gas powered up equipment that is putting emissions into the environment. The batteries are stored in the tool room which never gets too hot. They just had an OSHA inspection and passed. They are not concerned about lithium batteries being stored in the building.

Mr. Meek said that the next lowest bidder was 80% to 90% higher, he is concerned that two (2) years from now they will come before the Committee asking for a $30,000.00 battery.

Ms. Valadares responded that they have compared the specs and did a demo with the product, and they are confident on what the market has to offer. She said this is very new and the Committee always ask about electric vehicles but some of the trucks they need are not electric ready because the technology is not there. They believe they will get good use out of this vehicle.

Mr. Meek said he will take a look at the bids. His concern was the big disparity between the bids and not using local companies.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**
****MOTION PASSED THREE (3) TO ONE (1)**

8. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF OCTOBER 11, 2022, ITEM VII.B.8 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES. ACCOUNT NO. 01 41 50 5585.

ACCOUNT NO. **09 21 4021 5777 C0302**
09 22 4021 5777 C0302
09 21 4021 5777 C0315
09 22 4021 5777 C0315
09 23 4021 5777 C0315
09 21 6030 5777 C0365
09 22 6030 5777 C0365
09 23 6030 5777 C0365
09 21 4021 5777 C0318
09 22 4021 5777 C0318
09 20 4021 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 4021 5777 C0643
09 23 7100 5777 C0583
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
01 40 30 5258
01 41 50 5585

Ms. Valadares explained that they are adding an account so that they can bill the right project. They will be requesting an extension for the project soon.

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

Chairwoman Smyth read items 9a and 9b together.

9A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT (SOLE SOURCE) WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT STR2023-1 EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL AND SIDEWALK ABATEMENT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $159,820.00.

ACCOUNT NO. **09 23 4021 5777 C0617**
09 24 4021 5777 C0617

9B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT STR2023-1 EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL AND SIDEWALK ABATEMENT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $15,982.00.

ACCOUNT NO. **09 24 4021 5777 C0617**

Chairwoman Smyth stated this item is very urgent and there is emergency work that needs to be done. Freese Park cannot move forward until the work is completed.

Mr. Sotnik reported on this item. He stated that the project is on the Southeast Side of the Wall Street Bridge, between 19 Wall Street. The wall and slab is collapsing so they are going to reinforce the wall, take out the old slabs and put in reinforced new ones. Getting the equipment down there may be challenging because it is about 10 ft to 12 ft. below where they will be installing the retaining wall. He explained the project a bit more in detail. The project is on the opposite side of Main and Wall Street intersection. Closer to the Norwalk Boat Club. The bridge abutment is a separate structure and is in good shape. This is the area that goes from the bridge abutment over to 19 Wall Street. Right now, the sidewalk is sound for people to walk over, however that is the reason for the emergency restoration and should take about four (4) to six (6) weeks to complete.

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

10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WOODS MEN'S AND BOY'S CLOTHING FOR PROJECT NO. 4087 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $25,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 21 5276

Ms. Valadares stated that they have used their services for years and now they cannot sustain the prices they used to honor. They are requesting an increase to match the price adjustment.

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

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Torre reported that there were 24 trees were removed. 129 trees were pruned. Mr. Sotnik reported that 294 were planted in the Spring 2023. The total number of trees planted in FY 22/23 is 524. 695 trees planted in a little over a year which includes the spring of 2022. They have over 150 trees scheduled to be planted this fall with a possibility of more coming.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MAY/JUNE 2023

Mr. Szabo stated the MSW report continues to be on trend. There is a new book recycling bin at the Transfer Station. It was installed about two (2) weeks ago. It is currently full. It became full much faster than anticipated. Looks forward to getting good use out of it.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – MAY/JUNE 2023

Mr. Szabo stated that the Rowayton Community Center had 3.15 tons, Transfer Station 2.4 tons and Cranberry Park had 1.8 tons for this period. Cranberry Park continues to increase.

Ms. Valadares stated that there are concerts at the beach on Wednesday Nights and urged them to participate.

Mr. Frayer added that Rowayton has music at the beach on Sundays.

Ms. Valadares said that they are trying to launch an outreach program to inform the residents of all of their services. She asked Mr. Szabo to give a brief outline of what they are doing.

Mr. Szabo reported the most notable would be the hardcover books which typically are not accepted in the single stream, so they are taking them out of the waste stream which generates savings. The company tries to resell the books that have value which gives them a second chance at reuse before they get recycled.

On August 19, 2023, at 98 South Main Street, Ryan Park there will be a recycling program event for any of the Connecticut five cent redemption bottles. They will pay $10 for every full bag.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the status of the next contract for the larger waste management RFP and the timeline.

Ms. Valadares replied they have begun the process. The kickoff meeting about the project is this Friday. She plans to have a solid waste plan for the City of Norwalk in a few months. There will be opportunities for public participation in the development of the plan. They will discuss those opportunities in the triage during the kickoff meeting. She will share the information to the Committee as soon as possible.

D. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

1. **<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>**
   - **DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
   - **PM2021-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
   - **PM2023-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
   - **PM2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION**
   - **RD2022-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**
   - **RD2022-2 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SENGA AND MORTON AREAS**
   - **RD2023-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SPRING HILL AVENUE AREA**
   - **DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE**
   - **RNP2022-3 FREESE PARK RAILING REHABILITATION**
   - **STATE OF CT DOT PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**
   - **RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE**
   - **DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE**
2. **<u>ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT</u>**
   - **STR2023-1 EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL AND SIDEWALK ABATEMENT**
3. **<u>DESIGN</u>**
   - **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**
- **PM2023-4 PAVING @ VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Mr. Meehan, Principal Engineer and Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer reported on the current project status. A discussion ensued about ADA ramps and the installation of corner ADA ramps. He explained the guidelines to the Committee. Chairwoman Smyth said she read that those ADA sidewalks are also used for blind individuals. Safety is also a reason for those ADA ramps that may never have a complete sidewalk so individuals can cross.

Mr. Meek asked when will the line stripping of the roads on the Aiken and Bayne area take place. The roads are beautiful, freshly paved but with no yellow lines, it is a safety issue.

Mr. Meehan said that line stripping belongs to the Department of Transportation, Mobility and Parking.

Ms. Valadares explained how that works.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Frayer moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:10p.m.

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