

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
MAY 2, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Tom Livingston; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Bryan Meek; Lisa Shanahan; Edwin Camacho (7:05p.m.)

STAFF: James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Daniel Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer; Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer; Neyla Bauer, Wastewater Systems Manager

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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 monique.cipriano@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairwoman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Roll: Tom Livingston Barbara Smyth Nora Niedzielski-Eichner
Bryan Meek Lisa Shanahan Edwin Camacho (7:05p.m.)

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present and so there was a quorum present. Edwin Camacho (7:05 p.m.) arrived after roll call. Darlene Young was 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.)

Diane Lauricella of 21 Little Fox Lane. She stated that she would like to speak on items 5a and 5b. She is a member of the Mayor's Water Quality Committee. They put together some

recommendations after they read the MS4 from last year and stated that they would receive those suggestions. They look forward to working with DPW on some of their suggestions. The main suggestion is that they make sure that CDM Smith ensures public awareness, outreach and education related to the MS4 project. She said the public is not aware that there is an MS4 document. They are pleased that the document will be updated. Would like this Committee to look at a storm water authority because it would help pay for many of the improvements needed in a storm water management program. She said that item 5b is missing language.

Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 7:06p.m. She stated that Ms. Valadares and Mr. Torre are at a waste management conference in New Orleans.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE a. SPECIAL MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

There was no report on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK AND MR. CAMACHO ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTANTIONS

b. MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023

There was no report on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
**MS. SHANAHAN, MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER, MR. MEEK AND MR. CAMACHO ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) ABSTANTIONS

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 11, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000.00 BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.

**Account No. 01 40 30 5258
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0315
09 23 4021 5777 C0315
09 24 4021 5777 C0315
09 22 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0318**

09 23 7100 5777 C0583
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 23 4021 5777 C0617
09 24 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 6030 5777 C0643
134010 5796 APW04
134010 5796 APW05
134010 5796 APW07

Mr. Meehan reported on this item. He said that the on-call engineering services were previously approved by the Committee. The on-call engineering services are used as needed under a specialized service that cannot be performed by staff.

Mr. Livingston asked if there are any differences in the three services provided in any of the on-call engineering services.

Mr. Meehan responded that all three (3) do a lot of different variations of work. He said that it is practical to have more than one (1) on-call engineering service.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner wanted to know how much has been used in each contract in the past year.

Mr. Meehan stated he did not have the amount on hand, and he will follow up.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that she had spoken with Ms. Valadares and each of the contracts for on-call engineering services are very valuable to the City.

Mr. Meehan asked about the taxonomy in the accounts that are referenced and wanted to know what the differences are in each account.

Mr. Stanton began to explain the accounts. He stated that the APW accounts represent the ARPA funds.

Mr. Meehan committee that the Department has been very pleased with all three (3) contractors' work.

****MS. NEIDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FIVE (5) TO ONE (1)**

3. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 11, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE & BOND, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000.00 BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

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 09 23 4021 5777 C0617
 09 24 4021 5777 C0617
 09 20 4027 5777 C0643
 09 21 4021 5777 C0643
 09 22 6030 5777 C0643
 134010 5796 APW04
 134010 5796 APW05
 134010 5796 APW07**

There was no report on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK OPPOSED
MOTION PASSED FIVE (5) TO ONE (1)

4. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 11, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000.00 BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

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09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 6030 5777 C0643
134010 5796 APW04
134010 5796 APW05
134010 5796 APW07

There was no report on this item.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**
****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**
****MOTION PASSED FIVE (5) TO ONE (1)**

Chairwoman Smyth read items 5a and 5b together.

- 5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND CDM SMITH INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PROJECT DRG 2023-2 ENGINEERING SERVICES - MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$250,100.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 134010 5796 APW06
09 22 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4062 5777 C0361

- 5B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH CDM SMITH INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PROJECT DRG 2023-2 ENGINEERING SERVICES – MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 134010 5796 APW06
09 22 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4062 5777 C0361

Chairwoman Smyth stated that they want to make sure they are in compliance with DEEP regulations and are up to date with everything. She said they also need to look into the

stormwater system as Ms. Lauricella stated. Many of them are interested in the stormwater authority and this should give them more information about that.

Mr. Meehan reported on this item. They are looking to update the MS4 System and are very impressed with the CDM Smith presentation. CDM Smith wrote the current MS4 stormwater manual the city is using. CTDEEP updated their requirements a few years ago and they are looking to update theirs as well. They are confident moving forward with this. He said that they will be looking to increase public awareness and gave the most reasonable prices in their proposal.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked what role if any is there for public comments or public education throughout this process. She said there are a lot of concerns in regard to stormwater and the challenges the city will face, and the sea levels are rising.

Mr. Meehan said that the MS4 requirements do not have anything to do with sea levels rising. He said that is part of their resilient network process. Regarding the public input, typically once you have the report, it goes out to the public for input and to the State for their final review.

Chairwoman Smyth stated moving forward with this item marks publicly of them making that commitment as a city seriously looking at stormwater issues.

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

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FIVE (5) TO ONE (1)**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Sotnik reported on this item. He said they have 120 locations for trees to be planted. There may be another 50+ tree planting in other locations. The Earth Day event held on April 22, 2023 was a success. DPW, Tree Advisory and Operations all had a table at the event. They planted three (3) Sugar Maple Trees on the Green. The Arbor Day Cleanup Event on April 26, 2023 was also a success. They had five (5) different tree companies including Public Works do work on the southern end of the Norwalk River Valley Trail. It was all volunteer work. Last Friday, they planted two (2) Cherry Trees at Rowayton School.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MARCH 2023

There was no report on this item.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – MARCH 2023

There was no report on this item.

D. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

1. CONSTRUCTION

- **DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Berndlmaier reported on this item. He said they are currently driving piles, pouring pile caps and then installing piping on top of those systems. He explained the importance and complexity of the project.

- **PM2021-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Berndlmaier reported on this item. They are working on their pre-existing contract with Grasso. They should be finished this year. Most of the prep work on Richards Avenue has been completed. Sidewalks on Flax Hill Road and Woodchuck, Flax Hill Road between Highland Avenue and the Darien line and Woodchuck and a small piece over the Rowayton Bridge. They will be paving Aiken and Richards between Route 1 and West Cedar through the same contract. The new paving contract is with Burns Construction and should begin as early as next week. They are set to begin on Bayne and West Rocks Road. ADA ramps are being put up on Bayne Street. They are set to start on the side streets in that neighborhood.

Mr. Meek asked if they were going to connect the ADA ramps to the footpaths.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated that they are going to replace the existing walkways with appropriate footpaths. He said if they are deficient on a five-foot walk anywhere, they are going to be establishing the current goal of the five foot width sidewalk and see if they can achieve a decent grass strip. The ADA ramps are there to accommodate some crossings where they are known to cross Main Street and potential future connections.

Mr. Meek clarified that some of the ADA ramps they have there may not be connected. He said that there is one (1) on the bottom of East Rocks that never had a footpath and is just sitting there by itself. He said there is also one by the southern edge of Live Oak and besides it being two feet into the road where it never was there was nothing leading up to it connecting it.

Mr. Berndlmaier said their role as part of the paving contract is just to deal with the existing sidewalks and the City may look into future sidewalks but at this time DPW's focus is on the replacement of the existing walkways.

Mr. Meek asked if they are going to encourage the homeowner to connect those in any way.

Mr. Berndlmaier said maybe as they reach the point of where they are going to pave those side streets. Some of them may not be on the current list proposed for paving. Any new sidewalk that hadn't previously existed is typically done by TMP. DPW's focus is on the existing sidewalk.

- **RD2022-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Mr. Stanton reported on this item. This program is in preparation for paving, and they are moving along to stay ahead of that.

- **RD2022-2 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SENG AND MORTON AREAS**

Mr. Stanton reported on this item. He gave an update.

- **DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE**

Mr. Berndlmaier reported on this. They have identified some localized repairs. Point repairs are being made as well. Storm improvement on Watson. Meeting to identify if there are any deficiencies in their infrastructure that might need to be addressed before they pave so to minimize any risks.

Mr. Livingston asked if he anticipated any slowing down the repaving of Highland Avenue.

He responded no.

- **RNP2022-2 CALF PASTURE BEACH PARKING AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Stanton reported on this. He said they are looking at a completion date for the opening of the season on May 15th. The lot is substantially paved, and some small markings need to be performed. The thermoplastic beach imagery for the pedestrian walk area needs to be applied and some other punch list items.

- **RNP2022-3 FREESE PARK RAILING REHABILITATION**

Mr. Sotnik reported on this. Giacorp has been actively installing rails along the top of the retaining wall. They are starting to construct the pillars that are needed for new locations that don't exist today. Coming along well.

Mr. Meek asked about the ETA on the project.

Mr. Sotnik responded they were told to be out of the park by the end of May. There is some work that needs to be done on the Southside of Wall Street.

- **STATE OF CT DOT PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Mr. Sotnik said that the paving has been completed on Strawberry Hill Avenue. They have the final paving markings to do, a driveway apron on the northeast side of the bridge, fence, and final traffic signal adjustments to make. They have some work to do under the beams on I-95 and that work should be completed by June 14, 2023.

Mr. Meek asked what happens with the area northeast side of the bridge where equipment is stored.

Mr. Sotnik responded that the area belongs to DOT, and they are supposed to topsoil and seed that area and they are putting a gate across it so that in the future they can gain access to it. That area will be cleaned up. He explained the work being done on Hendricks Avenue and by the highway. Work is continuing and at a good pace.

- **PM2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION**

Mr. Berndlmaier explained how the contract works. Mr. Stanton added about 1/3 of the work has been completed by Burns Construction.

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- **BLDG2022-1 PAVING BEN FRANKLIN FACILITY PARKING LOT – BID RECEIVED AND AWARD TO WATERS CONSTRUCTION. ESTIMATED START SPRING 2023**
- **RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE – BID RECEIVED PENDING CONTRACT**
- **RD2023-1 CURBS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SPRING HILL AVENUE AREA – ESTIMATED START APRIL 2023**

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**
- **DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE**
- **VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT**
- **EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL ABATEMENT**

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Shanahan moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD