CITY OF NORWALK
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CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
March 6, 2018

ATTENDANCE: John Igneri, Chair; Thomas Livingston; Michael Corsello; Eloisa Melendez; Doug Hempstead; George Tsiranides

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

OTHERS: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer; Diane Lauricella; Joe Grasso

Mr. Igneri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Diane Lauricella of 21 Blue Mountain Ridge Road, she wished the Public Works Staff good luck with the upcoming storm. She said that she was inquiring about a few things and would like to receive the answers in the near future. She stated that she was hoping the chairman could direct her as to how she could receive the information. Ms. Lauricella said that she is very interested in recycling and was reviewing the solid waste reports from the agenda packet and noticed that the transfer station recycling percentages waiver but often times have been reduced. She said that could be due to many reasons such as education or lack of outreach in a more robust public manner. Ms. Lauricella said that she is putting together a list of suggestions and in order for her to be able to inform them in the coming months what might be helpful because she is in the waste management business, she wants to know how she could receive the contamination rate for recycling. She said that they are not usually placed in monthly reports or the quarterly reports. She explained what she meant by contamination rate by stating what does City Carting have to reject due to all kinds of gunky stuff. The second thing she wanted was to take a look at the City Carting Contract. She said that the contract for solid waste and recycling has been in discussion for the past year. Ms. Lauricella said that she would like to weigh in on that topic as she had tried 10 years ago but to no avail. She said that she would like the committee to consider putting the recycling contract out to bid. She said that it was not put out to bid over 11 years ago but was lumped in together. She said that she distinctively remember a public hearing in the Concert

Hall when it was lumped together for expediency. She said that City Carting has not followed what
they said they would do for the City with education. Ms. Lauricella asked for assistance from the Committee on how she can receive information on those two inquiries. She said she is very happy to share her information and thanked the Committee for their time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018.

There was no discussion in this item.

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

2. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT FOR "LIGHT POLE BANNER SIGNAGE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS PREPARED FOR CARMEL PARTNERS BY STREETSENSE TITLED "THE WAYPOINTE, SIGNAGE DESIGN" FOR 515 WEST AVENUE AND 11 MERWIN STREET DATE AUGUST 30, 2017".

Mr. Igneri said that item no. 2 was an item tabled from the last meeting. He said that he didn't believe that the detail study was completed.

Ms. Burns stated that she received an email from Craig Flaherty of Carmel Partners. She said that he said that he has no additional proposal at this time. She suggested leaving it on the table.

Mr. Igneri said that the Committee will not address this item and table it until the next meeting.

Mr. Hempstead said that Fairfield has a support logo with advertisement on banners if anyone wants to take a look.

Ms. Burns said that those logos are for businesses throughout Fairfield they are not directly in front of that business.

Mr. Hempstead said that it was the first time Fairfield ever allowed any kind of advertising per se.

Ms. Burns said that the ones that Carmel was proposing were for the business right adjacent to the pole versus businesses across the community so it is a little different. She said that mysteriously banners have been appearing on Wall Street. She said that she does not know how they got there. Ms. Burns said that she heard DPW put them up but no one on their staff had done so and Redevelopment stated that Jackie Lightfield from Norwalk 2.0 designed the banners and Redevelopment paid for them.

Mr. Livingston asked if those banners were on City poles.

Ms. Burns replied she did not know for sure.

Ms. Melendez asked what the banners say.

Ms. Burns replied that the banners say Art District.

Mr. Corsello asked if they encroached on the right-of-way without an encroachment permit.

Ms. Burns replied yes.

Mr. Chimento said that there are two issues. He said that DPW's issue is if they will be doing something in the roadway or in our right-of-way makes it an encroachment. He said however it is a sign and signs are governed by Zoning and Planning Commission. He said first they would need to get approval from Zoning to put up those types of signs and then come to DPW for an encroachment permit. Mr. Chimento said that as far as he knows this issue is in Zoning and they would have to make a determination on whether they will allow these type of signs or not and what size they would be.

Ms. Burns asked if Mr. Chimento was referring to the Carmel Partner banners.

Mr. Chimento replied that now it would be generic for anything that is put up.

Ms. Burns said that the Redevelopment Agency is putting a plan together.

Mr. Chimento said it is going to go to Zoning.

Mr. Corsello asked if this comes back to them, could they receive an opinion from Corporation Counsel. He continued saying that Eversource has most of the poles in town and one of the concerns is if they allow encroachment on their poles does that mean that they could sell advertisement on those poles.

Ms. Burns replied no. She stated that they did ask for an opinion from Corporation Counsel when Carmel Partners proposal came forward. She said that there response was there is no policy on this issue. Ms. Burns said that Zoning stated that it is not on private property so Zoning doesn't have an issue. She said that private business advertising on a public pole and that is when Corporation Counsel suggested that it comes to the policy makers to make a decision. She said that it was her understanding that it was going back to Redevelopment Agency to look at a corridor wide proposal for banners and how banners would be dealt with.

Mr. Corsello asked what would prevent Eversource from putting banners on one of their poles.

Ms. Burns responded that the Eversource light poles are actually the City of Norwalk poles but City does not maintain them. She said that they pay Eversource to maintain the pole and they pay the electric bill.

Mr. Chimento said that if it is just a light pole and it is wired, it is a different story. He said that they are trying to make a determination on whether it is a sign or not and the sign regulations might come in to play. He said that most sign regulations are on buildings so it is a private entity and they can get approval for signs not on the building by Public Works with an encroachment permit and with Zoning approval. He said that right now the Redevelopment Agency is putting a program together and then it will go to the Corporation Counsel to see if it meets all requirements by Zoning and DPW and then the determination has to be made by the Committee as to whether or not this would be allowed.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if and when this gets approved are we requiring that DPW get those signs up or allow those persons to put them up.

Ms. Burns replied that they would have to obtain an encroachment permit and post a performance bond, in case they damage anything so if the banners were to get dirty or ripped up, they would have to take them down and also they would provide a wind analysis

Mr. Livingston asked if this item could be tabled until it's appropriate to bring it up again.

Mr. Chimento and Ms. Burns responded yes they will leave the item on the table until someone brings it back up again.

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO TABLE ITEM UNTIL THEY HAVE A MORE COMPLETE REPORT**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 319 NPA GRANT PROGRAM, FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE FLOCK PROCESS DAM PROJECT.

3b. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE REMOVAL OF THE FLOCK PROCESS DAM PROJECT UNDER THE CT DEEP 319 NPS GRANT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.

Ms. Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer for the City of Norwalk, spoke to the Committee about the grant. She said that the aforementioned is an extension of an eight year odyssey and is a flock dam located on the Norwalk River. She said that it is the first and largest impediment to fish passage going upstream. She said that the first State DEP Grant was in 2010 which paid for a lot of the engineering and design work. Ms. Cherichetti said there is a large sum of money committed to the physical removal of the dam. Ms. Cherichetti said that the State of Connecticut would like the City of Norwalk to apply and accept additional funds to cover any potential overages that the removal may require. She said that the State would really like the dam to be removed so when it is time to go out to bid the State wants the City

to have this extra funding from the grant program so the physical removal of the dam can move forward this summer.

Mr. Livingston asked if she thought it would happen this summer and if the City would have to pay for any of it.

Ms. Cherichetti answered correct and that it is entirely State and Federal funded project.

Mr. Livingston wanted to know the cost of the overall project.

Ms. Cherichetti answered that the consultant has always been below budget. She said she spent $130,000 of State funds on design engineering and redesign and permitting and the physical removal cost is around $470,000. She said that it is a bit of the unknown until it is bid out because you want a contractor to go down into a river and remove a 14ft high, 10ft wide and 15ft deep chunk of concrete

Mr. Livingston asked if that was the big possible impediment or if it was something else.

Ms. Cherichetti answered that it is finding the contractor. She said the permits are pretty straight forward at this point and they need to figure out how to get down there logistically stating that it is not an easy dam to get to. She said the dam is located on Main Avenue, on the Norwalk River immediately south of the Merritt interchange with Main Avenue, Georgio's Upholstery is the actual property where the dam is located on 363 Main Avenue. She said if you pull in their parking lot, Main Avenue is on a higher elevation then it drops down to a ravine on the other side is the Metro North train tracks.

Mr. Corsello asked if the waterfall will be removed as well.

Ms. Cherichetti answered that it isn't technically a waterfall, it's a dam. She said that it would still be a rapids area and that there is a natural break in the grade there hidden by bedrock on either side and is very steep. She said that the management of the very large earthy dam, getting all of the material out onto Main Avenue, would be much cost prohibited. She said that they are proposing to make engineered rock ruffle. She said that it takes the dam which is a 14ft wall and spreads it out above and below the dam and a 12% grade.

Mr. Tsiranides asked so it's not like moving the dam but disbursing it.

Ms. Cherichetti replied yes it is more disbursing it. She said that the 12% is adequate for fish passage which is driving all of this.

Mr. Tsiranides asked about the timeframe.

Ms. Cherichetti said that the timeframe would begin this June and completed by end of October.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if it would cause any traffic problems once this begins.

Ms. Cherichetti answered no. She said that once the machinery is down there it would stay there till it is completed.

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RHS CONSULTING DESIGN, LLC FOR A CONDITION EVALUATION OF SPAN POLE AND MAST ARM STRUCTURES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $20,250.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 16 4021 5777 C0232

Ms. Burns explained to the Committee what a span pole and mast arm structure entails. She said that they submitted their capital budget request and had a discussion with the Mayor's Office on how to trim it down. She said that they resubmitted the capital budget request, 26 million dollars less, and in doing so they had to back off a lot of DPW's programs. She said that this is in response to be able to balance school construction constraints placed on the City side of the capital budget. She said that the City operates and owns 84 City traffic signals and one traffic signal cost $450,000 to construct. She said that they requested a few traffic signals over the next five years for a total of $750,000. She said that they were already on a long replacement cycle, one signal can last 30 years. Ms. Burns said that they reduced the request to one signal over five years out of 84. She said that they went through the inventory and the oldest signals are located on Belden/Wall; France/Cannon; Ely/Roodner; East/Myrtle. She said that those are the signals that need an inspection to ensure they last. She said that this would be an alternative to the capital budget request they made and that they would do the inspections so that they are comfortable and use the inspection reports to find out what the needs are and use the allocated signal funds they already have to make repairs.

Mr. Livingston asked if $9,000 would be spent on just looking at them and another $11,000 for repairs.

Ms. Burns answered that it is for the field work and then the report. She said that the 1st task would be to measure, etc. and then the 2nd task would be the report and cost analysis.

Mr. Hempstead asked if they are going to use the existing footing when they replace the span poles.

Ms. Burns said that it depends and they are not planning to do anything to any signals if they don't have to.

Mr. Hempstead asked if they are putting in new span poles will they be replacing the footing as well and had they evaluated where to put the new footing in the study. He mentioned how West Avenue had some issues before.

Ms. Burns said that they will go back to the area where they are now and if they do make repairs they will not put new ones just replace with galvanized span pole mast arm. She said that they are just going to replace the component.

Mr. Hempstead said he didn’t know if they were going to replace the footing as well.

Ms. Burns replied no, they are not replacing the footing and they are very conscious of ADA compliance.

Mr. Chimento interjected that they have moved some around to ensure ADA compliance. He said that they adhere very much to the ADA requirements on sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.

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

5a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. 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

5b. 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

Mr. Chimento pointed out that there was an error made on the bid sheet. He explained the error in the unit price stating that a clerical area was made transposing numbers. He said that the unit price should have been $3. He said that they went back to last year’s bid and it showed $3 so the declared this as a clerical error and made the correction so the amount is correct. He said that they sought the advice from Corporation Counsel and was informed that if there are minor clerical (mathematical) errors the director can make the corrections. He said that they are recommending the award of the contract to The Grasso Companies.

Mr. Livingston said that he has two points, whenever they do a contract with Grasso, he calls P&Z to find out if they are in compliance and secondly he would like the same stipulations in the last contract apply.

Mr. Chimento responded that all stipulations will be the same as approved by Council.

Mr. Hempstead wanted to make sure there wasn't any violations.

The Committee discussed if The Grasso Companies LLC had any violations and learned that a violation was dated this year but not for the same company.

Mr. Grasso stated that his company keeps their area clear of any issues.

Mr. Corsello asked Mr. Chimento about their work last year.

Mr. Chimento responded that their work was fine with no problems.

Mr. Hempstead asked if this contract would be the same conditions as the last contract.

Mr. Chimento replied yes.

Ms. Burns asked if the amendment was on the resolution or the contract.

Mr. Livingston said that the resolution should be an amendment to provide that the contract would contain the same terms.

Ms. Burns said that since they don't have that language in front of them, she said that she can give Mr. Livingston the language to amend the contract on the Council floor.

Mr. Hempstead said that they could add that the contract would have the same conditions as the paving program.

****MR. IGNERI MOVED THE AMENDMENT**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**

****MR. IGNERI MOVED ITEM 5a & 5b AS AMENDED**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**

<u>INFORMATION / DISCUSSION</u>

A. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JANUARY 2018

Mr. Chimento gave a brief report to the Committee. He said that recycling is up. He said that more and more people are taking advantage of curbside recycling. Mr. Chimento said that he doesn't think the numbers on contamination could be separated

by town but could give a general idea of what the contamination could be across the board, lower Fairfield County. He said that they are on track in the revenues and expenses. He said that this time of year the recycling is close to where it should be. He said that due to weather conditions, pick up days would change and the cost would remain the same. He mentioned to the Committee that the Superintendent of Operations had an operation the previous night and is doing well. He said that they have been getting a lot of calls for bulk pick up and there were 409 calls in February and may increase to 600 to 800 during warmer months which go through the Call Center. He said that the bulk pick up are for homeowners and not contractors.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018

Mr. Chimento gave a brief report to the Committee. He said that Customer Service is running rather well and all reports have been on time. He mentioned to the Committee that if they receive a call regarding anything like a pot hole, they should call Customer Service so it could be documented and a work order will be placed in effort to track it or they can use the App.

Ms. Melendez asked what happened to the traffic light on Ward Street.

Ms. Burns responded that it was knocked down.

Mr. Chimento replied that it was a car accident that hit the pole and wires were pulled out in the middle of the road so they put in temporary stop signs. He said that they are looking at whether they should keep the stop signs there or replace them back with traffic signals. He said he thinks the stop sign at Ward & the Freeze Apartments may work better.

The Committee began to discuss a request received for a crosswalk on East Avenue by the Green up to Park Avenue.

Mr. Chimento said that they are looking at that and if it is feasible. He said that they are going to report to the Traffic Authority on that.

Ms. Melendez spoke about the crosswalk on Westport Avenue by Stew Leonards.

Mr. Hempstead said that the State will not allow another crosswalk because it is too close to the other crosswalk.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2018 in Room 225.

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Cipriano
Executive Assistant
Public Works Department