

CITY OF NORWICH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICWORKS

October 21, 2021

TO: City Clerk
FROM: Director of Public Works
FILE#: PWD 116-21
SUBJECT: MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE – DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee was held on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Attendance was as follows:

Committee Members

Alderman Joseph DeLucia
Alderwomen Stacy Gould
Alderman Derrell Wilson

Administration

Patrick McLaughlin, Director
Deanna Rhodes, Director Planning & Neighborhood Services
Tara Cardelle, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. (Motion: Wilson
Second: Gould)

3. CITIZEN COMMENT – None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Works Projects Updates

- Sherman Street Bridge – Advertising for bids still scheduled to go out in November with bid openings in December for construction to start spring 2022.
- Annual Paving – West side area starting this week. 4.5 miles have been completed to date for the year.
- Franklin Square Roundabout – Project is complete with just a couple of punch list items remaining. Planting was completed this weekend by CT Planners Association. DeLucia mentioned to possibilities of displaying artwork in the center area.
- New London Tpke – Currently in contract negotiations with the Alfred Benesch for the design work.
- Granite Mill building – Stabilization work just about completed, RFQ's will go out for park completion design work later this week.
- Dunham Street – American Industries has begun tree removal, utility work and drainage relocations. The 3700ft of Granite Curbing still will not be arriving until late winter.
- Mohegan Park Group Pavilion – A new roof is being installed this week on the pavilion.

B. Property Disposition

- Hunters Road Parcels – Rhodes is recommending to transfer ownership of the properties to Avalonia Land Conservancy to better manage this 2 lot parcel with over 26 acres of open space area for walking trails and a small parking area. (Motion Gould, Second: Wilson) to have recommendation brought to the city council for consideration.
- 98 Washington Street – Tenants extension expires at the end of the month. Rhodes proposes to send out RFP's for rehabilitation of the property due to its historical nature vs. selling the property.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Occum Fire Dept. Upgrades

- City Council referred the DESPP grant for upgrades to Occum Fire Station improvements to the Committee because of concerns about the property being in the 100 year flood zone. McLaughlin suggested that a portion of the grant be used to improve flooding issues by having a study done to relocate the mechanical equipment out of the basement area. McLaughlin has also reached out to USGS to have the flood map re-evaluated in that area. McLaughlin mentioned that a cost estimate to relocate the mechanical equipment should be done as part of the grant funding. Rhodes stated that DEEP informed her that any land disturbance will trigger their approval and suggested that the fire department use the existing sign posts to avoid permitting. Ms. Rhodes has a call into the state to clarify whether installation of new posts, to replace ones that are rotten, into the same holes would be permissible. She will let Pat McLaughlin know the response when it is received. She also stated that upgrade/replacement of the sign will require a Zoning permit. (Motion: Wilson, Second: Gould) To make a favorable recommendation to the City Council. All in favor, motioned passed unanimously.

B. Hunters Road Catch Basins

- Public Works to clean out catch basins from washouts. McLaughlin working on an application for LOTCIP funding through the SCCOG for drainage work, paving and possible bridge replacements on Hunters Road.

C. Political Signs

- McLaughlin explained the Public Works protocol regarding the removal of signs that are on city property and/or that may encroach on sightlines.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Market Street Parking Garage Mural - Sheila Hayes reported that their fundraising is 100% complete and they are currently waiting on the rendering to be finalized to submit possibly next month. Rhodes pointed out that Murals in the Chelsea District need to be approved by the Director of Planning as per the Zoning Regulations.
- B. Wilson received an email from a resident on Sycamore Road with concerns of traffic speeding through the neighborhood and also drivers using it as a cut through. DeLucia suggested to bring it up in the Public Safety meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m. by unanimous vote. (Motion: Wilson Second: Gould)



Patrick J. McLaughlin, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Committee Members:

Alderman Joseph DeLucia (Chair), Alderwoman Stacy Gould, Alderman Derrell Wilson
Mayor and Members of the City Council, City Manager, City Planner