

**CITY OF NORWICH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

March 17, 2021

TO: City Clerk
FROM: Director of Public Works
FILE #: PWD 029-21
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC WORKS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE – DRAFT**

The regular meeting of the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee was held on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Attendance was as follows:

Committee Members

Alderman Derrell Wilson
Alderman Joseph DeLucia

Administration

Patrick McLaughlin, Director
Brian Long, City Engineer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. (Motion: Wilson, Second: DeLucia)

3. CITIZEN COMMENT – None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Works Projects Updates

- Sherman Street Bridge – Design is on schedule for Plans to be completed this summer. Permit applications have been submitted to CT DEEP and Army Corps. Moving along, no unforeseen issues and expected to be out to bid in the fall.
- Franklin Square Roundabout – Bids were opened Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The low bidder, Nunes Companies, Inc., is planing to begin construction in early May. Discussion included utility connections being put underground for the middle of the roundabout to allow for future improvements.
- Granite Mill building – Demolition is complete and design of bracing is moving along well.
- Laurel Hill Fire Department retaining wall repair – Contractor has begun repairs and should be finished by the end of March.
- 270 Thames St – Demolition has been awarded to Weise Construction and will begin soon.
- Little Plains Park Fence – The bid package is being put together for the repairs and rehabilitation. Discussion included the color of the new fence being black to blend in better and be more historically appropriate.

B. Property Disposition

- 23-25 Lake St- The City will be keeping the property and combining it as part of the park, as requested by the Recreation Dept.

C. Public Works Vehicular concerns

- Baltic Street– The Police Chief has provided a traffic study (attached) indicating a relatively low volume of speeding vehicles in the area. The study determined that there wasn't a speeding issue in the area of Baltic Street and Broad Street.
- Mahan School- Discussion included the issues of traffic backups out into Salem Turnpike during student drop off and pick-up periods, now that schools are more open and parents are reluctant to utilize the school buses.
- McLaughlin updated the Committee on a design issue with the CT DOT Route 82 Safety Improvement Project. In the design of the Osgood Street / Crane Ave. roundabout it has become apparent that it would be beneficial to the design if Crane Ave. were to become a City street to improve access to the plaza. Currently Crane Ave. is a private Street.

5. NEW BUSINESS - None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- DeLucia expressed concerns about the condition of the retaining wall at 355 Washington Street. The concrete cap is cracked and displaced. Public Works will investigate.
- Wilson expressed concerns about trash and recycling can placement during collections. McLaughlin stated that there have been periods in the last several weeks where high winds have caused problems with cans being moved after emptying.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. by unanimous vote. (Motion: Wilson, Second: DeLucia)



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

Committee Members:

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

WB #1008

I was assigned to conduct a traffic study in the area of Baltic Street and Hickory Street Norwich, Connecticut. I was advised residents in the area had made complaints of vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed.

I responded to Baltic Street and deployed the Norwich Police Department JAMAR Traffic Recorder on NPUD utility pole #B12.

The JAMAR Traffic Recorder actively monitored the area from 2-24-2021 through 2-28-2021. During this time 8,316 vehicles were counted and their speeds recorded. Of these 8,316 vehicles, the 85th percentile speed was found to be 33 mph. The posted speed limit in this area is 25 mph.

Based on this traffic study there appears to be a low rating of speeding vehicles in this area. The traffic study showed 8.0% of the vehicles monitored were above the enforcement tolerance of 35 mph. The traffic study showed the best times to conduct speed enforcement for those vehicles which are traveling over the limit would be between 12 pm and 4pm.

A check of the Norwich Police Department IMC System for all of Baltic Street showed 7 motor vehicle accidents reported in 2017, 7 motor vehicle accidents reported in 2018, 1 motor vehicle accident reported in 2019 and 2 motor vehicle accidents reported in 2020.

Based on this traffic study there does not appear to be a speeding issue in the area of Broad Street and Baltic Street.

This report was forwarded to NPD Captain Veiga and the Norwich Traffic Authority Liaison, Norwich Police Sergeant Formiglio, to make them aware of the above findings. A copy was also forwarded to Norwich Police Department Chief Daley.

Case closed.