

CITY OF NORWICH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 18, 2021

TO: City Clerk
FROM: Director of Public Works
FILE #: PWD 014-21
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC WORKS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The regular meeting of the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Attendance was as follows:

Committee Members

Alderman Stacy Gould
Alderman Joseph DeLucia

Administration

Patrick McLaughlin, Director
Nicole Doyle, Recording Secretary

Deanna Rhodes - Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services
Alderman Derrell Wilson had an excused absence.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. (Motion: Gould, 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. Moving along, no unforeseen issues and expected to be out to bid in the fall.
- Franklin Square Roundabout – Bid is opening next Wednesday, February 24, 2021. DeLucia suggested utilities be put underground for the middle of the roundabout.
- Granite Mill building – Demolition is in process and moving along well. They have opened up where the arches are located.
- Laurel Hill Fire Department retaining wall repair – Contractor to begin repairs once the weather is better.
- 270 Thames St – Demolition bid opened February 17, 2021.
- Annual Paving project – Out to bid February 26, 2021.

B. Property Disposition

- Deanna Rhodes, Director of P&NS, provided an overview of the city-owned properties listed below with the staff recommendations. The committee discussed and their recommendations/motions are listed below as well:
- 33 East Cliff St – Gould motioned to bring recommendation to the City Council to list this property with the City's Real Estate agent to sell. DeLucia seconded, all present in favor.
- Harland Rd & 214 Harland Rd – Gould motioned to request Karlene Deal, Tax Collector, to contact the abutting land owner(s) with an offer to sell the aforementioned properties with the stipulation that these properties must be merged. DeLucia seconded, all present in favor.

- 23-25 Lake St- The City Manager's Office had received a request from a resident to purchase the land. The committee's recommendation is to keep the property and request the Recreation Department to enclose the property to stop non-permitted parking on the property. Request the City manager to respond to the resident.
- 98 Washington St – DeLucia motioned to recommend the Planning Department along with the Dangerous Buildings Board of Review to work cooperatively to start process of the RFP process to rehab/restore the historic property for residential use. The RFP cannot move forward until previous owner's items within the house, and vehicles are removed. Gould seconded, all present in favor.

C. Public Works Vehicular concerns

- Hunters Rd– DeLucia updated the committee with an update from the Police Chief, discussed at the Public Safety meeting. The Chief had hesitations to prohibit trucks on Hunters Rd. However he suggested the possibility of improving the intersection and recommends contacting the DOT to review the weight limits of the bridges at the end of Harland Rd. Further discussion entailed discussing with local businesses in that area to discuss the use of trucks on that road.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Winter Storm Updates

- McLaughlin reported that over the last 3 weeks the Public Works Department has spent approximately \$150,000 for snow removal, including overtime wages and road salt use. For this winter we have used 1800 tons of road salt. DeLucia and Gould both gave accolades to the department for their storm cleanup efforts.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- DeLucia expressed concerns from the Public Safety meeting regarding the privately owned Beebe Rd. Suggested contacting the owner(s) of the road to trim the hedges which run along side the road, to improve the driving conditions and accessibility for emergency vehicles in case of emergencies on the road. Currently the hedges are cut back right to the edge of the asphalt, which makes it difficult and safety hazard for road access. McLaughlin will contact the owner(s) of the road to request the hedges be cut back.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m. by unanimous vote. (Motion: Gould, Second: DeLucia)



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