

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 29, 2013

The Public Works Committee held their Regular Meeting on Monday, July 29, 2013 in the conference room at the Public Works Building on Ford Street. Vice Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He announced that Chairman Nunno was excused.

Present

B. Anderson
D. German
F. Smith

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, Public Works Director

Excused: B. Nunno, P. Smith

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Ald. F. Smith and Ald. German made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes June 24, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Mr. Kolwicz reported it has been a tough season to date with more going on than ever before. He stated this past weekend there were three major events, the Lobster Bake, Woodmont Day and the concert series on Friday evening. He stated they have received numerous reports regarding the bathrooms at these type of events and explained it is difficult to justify double time on a Sunday for bathrooms. Mr. Kolwicz also reported there will be a flea market on the green the next three Saturdays. He noted this is being run through the Recreation Department.

Ald. German asked who was putting on the event. Mr. Kolwicz stated he was unsure, but that it was his understanding it would run for three Saturdays.

Mr. Kolwicz also reported the biggest complaint his office is receiving is regarding trees. He stated they have had a number of calls regarding Hackett Street. Mr. Kolwicz explained the tree has been trimmed back, but it is a live tree.

Ald. F. Smith commented he felt the response one of the callers received was somewhat "curt." He stated he has heard these rather large branches are falling down onto the road nearly striking kids riding their bicycles.

Mr. Kolwicz explained the limb that broke was likely due to the wind. He reiterated the tree has been cleaned out and trimmed but that it remains a live tree.

Ald. F. Smith asked the policy with regarding the trimming and taking of trees.

Mr. Kolwicz stated if it is a live tree they don't take it down, but that they will trim it back. He also pointed out the City currently has only one cutter and that they are doing their best with the amount of work they have. Mr. Kolwicz stated they are also addressing trees on Sunset Avenue which are in jeopardy.

Ald. Anderson commented what he found troubling was the email exchange regarding the handling of Hackett Street. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Kolwicz stated they are taking down trees where they can.

Ald. F. Smith asked if the tree warden could contact the people in the Hackett Street area and explain why the tree on Hackett cannot come down. Discussion continued.

Mr. Kolwicz also reported they are still working on storm Irene, with just a few things left to do.

Ald. Anderson asked about reimbursement.

Mr. Kolwicz stated they have received reimbursement from storm Irene, but they are still working on Sandy. He also reported the playground was reset and is now complete. Mr. Kolwicz reported the pipe-in from storm Sand still needs to be done; however, there are more streets that still need to get done.

Ald. F. Smith asked why it was taking so long.

Mr. Kolwicz explained during the summer his crews are pulled apart. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding summer work, also discussion regarding Bayview area, i.e. flooding. It was noted people in that area have already noticed a difference. Mr. Kolwicz stated they would continue with those repairs. He also reported they have been working on Smith's Point Road and have taken care of the pipe. He also stated they have completed the rails in the Morningside area and they are taking care of the beach sides. Mr. Kolwicz also reported regarding the parks commenting they have been very busy especially at Eisenhower Park with Bodie's Place. He also reported the Recreation Department has added pickleball, which is very active. He reported the basketball courts at Anderson Avenue (5 corners) are being worked on and that he expected that to take a year.

Mr. Kolwicz also reported regarding the sidewalk projects, explaining they went out to bid and that they received two bidders. He reported the Fort Trumbull reventment project is on schedule. He stated the rails are up and they are starting to remove the jersey barriers.

Ald. Anderson commented they have really picked up steam and are doing a great job in that area.

Mr. Kolwicz reported regarding the roof on Ford Street and that the job is still being worked on. He stated it is just an old building that will require a great deal of work. He also reported they expected the electrical work to begin shortly which will get rid of all the "spaghetti" wiring.

Ald. F. Smith asked about the work at Wildermere Beach and when it was anticipated the work would be complete.

Mr. Kolwicz explained work had begun, but the area is loaded with poison ivy which required them to spray before continuing any work.

Ald. F. Smith asked when the City would be back to finish the work. He also noted that Mr. Plaskon had agreed to do the back part.

Mr. Kolwicz reiterated there is a great deal of poison ivy for is contending with, but that crews should be back there by the end of next week.

Mr. Kolwicz also reported regarding the paving at Marsh Street and Derby, which he stated would be complete by the end of August. He also reported regarding Shadyside, stating the sidewalks and curbs would also be done shortly.

Ald. German asked about the flooding on Seabreeze Avenue, behind East Shore Middle School, which he believed was related to the construction work at the school. He stated there is as much as 3' of water during a heavy rain storm.

Mr. Kolwicz stated his office received a complaint as well. He stated the water company did work on the mains, as well as work on Kerry Court. He stated he would speak with Mr. Bradbury at the Board of Education.

Ald. German asked about the guardrail on Anderson Avenue (the one that was hit) and asked when it was expected it would be repaired.

Mr. Kolwicz stated the guardrail/parts are on order.

Ald. German asked about having the street sweeping on Anderson Avenue. He noted there is a lot of built up dirt in the area.

Mr. Kolwicz stated he would look into it.

Ald. German asked about overgrowth in the curbing along Anderson Avenue near the bridge.

Mr. Kolwicz explained the City cuts back the excess brush, but not weeds on curbing.

Ald. German stated the other issue he had was regarding moving sand over to Woodmont beach. He asked who would do that or if Woodmont just sends Mallico.

Mr. Kolwicz stated it would be helpful if Mallico could come and get the sand. He stated if Mallico could give him advance notice he would have a loader available.

Ald. German asked about the quality of the sand.

Mr. Kolwicz explained the sand has been screened and is ready to go.

Ald. German asked about the area at the entrance to Settler's Woods (New Haven Avenue) near the wagon wheel and sign.

Mr. Kolwicz stated the area is actually State owned. He provided Ald. German with the telephone number and contact person. He also commented his office has also received calls regarding that area and explained the history.

Ald. Anderson reported there is a large pot hole on High Street, near #299 which needs to be addressed.

Mr. Kolwicz stated they would take care of it.

Ald. Anderson asked about traffic signs, one on High Street and one on Jepson Drive, both of which had been vandalized.

Mr. Kolwicz asked what type of signs they were.

Ald. Anderson stated they are both stop signs. Discussion ensued regarding traffic and signage on West Main Street at High Street.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 19, 2013. Note: the meeting is being held one week earlier due to scheduling conflicts with the Public Works Director and members of the committee.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary
Acting for Lisa Streit