

Minute of the Public Works Committee on May 23, 2022

Present

E. Beatty, Chair
M. Arciuolo
W. Willis
P. Vetro

Also Present

C. Saley, PW Director
S. Johnson, Assistant Director of PW
L. Streit, Recording Secretary
D. German

Minutes

A motion was made by Willis, seconded by Vetro to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

- The first round of paving has begun in Woodmont with Pat Devine supervising. A lot of progress is being made with the Morningside Revetment project with Steve supervising.
- There is a lot of SCG work going on in the city where some repairing and repaving have to be negotiated. Everyone is struggling with staffing, flaggers, police coverage, etc.
- A new patio is being put in opposite the Fire Station and there is a lot of work being done behind the library. Beatty stated that the Director of the Library is very pleased with the work being done. The Lisman Landing Pavilion is to be completed by this weekend. This has been a lot of work; electrical, etc.
- Beatty asked about the seawall project that was discussed at the last meeting. Steve reported that it is coming along very well. There will be an additional \$300,000.00 for revetment work from the CT Department of Housing and Steve will be updating the Morningside Association this week. He is working to identify projects to get funding and adding to the annual list of projects. There are 40-50 projects on the list. Funding was requested for Milford Point Road and was not granted.
- Chris stated that there was a meeting on Wednesday regarding the \$29,000,000 to be received. Part of this will be used for the City's Health Care costs. The building on Seeman's Lane is being looked at for the new Health Department building. He is happy with the distribution of funds. This is the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.
- The Whole Foods shopping center has had drainage issues. Chris met with them as well as the Red Bush Plaza and the auto parts business in the front and the State to be preventative. Another area that floods is Rowe Ave and Warfield Street that needs work. Ellen would like to keep track of running projects and funding. The state is really worried about high level retirees and concerned with the budget.
- The water fountain for downtown was delivered the other day and it is optimistic that it be installed by Memorial Day.
- The flappers are in the process of being finalized at Sumner Place.

Concerns

- Willis stated that there was an extent of litter on Walnut Beach last weekend. Chris stated that this is a major issue and noted that \$13,000.00 was collected in parking fees. Public Works went out that night and they are working on being more proactive and he noted that some residents have gone down and did some work as well.
- German stated that there were a lot of people at Walnut Beach yesterday as well and questioned if there is a fine for littering. Chris stated that he thinks there is and noted that there were 7 arrests

for public drinking and it is tough to contain. German asked about the paving in Woodmont and if the Burrough or the City was doing that. Chris stated that Public Works assist by using discount pricing and flaggers and that Tilcon is the vendor. German stated that it was a nice job. German asked about Wilcox Park and that the parking area was chained off. Chris stated that it is open during the day and chained off at night. German asked about the Transfer Station and if there is a space for electronics. Chris stated that there is at the first trailer at the entrance. German complimented Public Works on the pavers downtown stating that it looks great. Chris stated that that is the Mayor's vision.

- Arciuolo asked about Locust Street by Forest Road stating that there are a lot of potholes. Steve stated that he will look into it. Beatty stated that at Flax Mill Lane over the new bridge has some significant potholes. Chris stated that they are trying to put some drainage work in over there and they will revisit it.
- Beatty stated that Eisenhower Park and Walnut Beach has a volume of people and questioned if there was enough staff. Chris stated that getting seasonal employees has been a challenge; they have 4 vs 12. Five custodians have been hired in the last month or so and 4 truck drivers. There will be one retiree next month and there are still a tremendous number of empty positions – 17 or so. He is disappointed with the budget and stated that staff is being stretched.
- The sound and lighting updates at Parsons Auditorium are complete and it is now being booked. This was a lot of work for Public Works. They are also doing work at the Police Department with the bathrooms and locker rooms. Ellen noted that nothing was taken away from the budget and that she made a report that Public Works needs assistance.
- Steve noted that there are no active pothole requests for Locust Street or Flax Mill and he will enter this into the system. He further noted that the online complaint system is excellent and is checked every day. The new system Municipity is excellent for tracking and he would like it to be able to have it field based with the use of tablets. There is a lot of information to be inputted and updated. There are 40-60 calls per day as well as emails

The next regular meeting will be on June 27, 2022 via ZOOM.

A motion was made by Willis, seconded by Arciuolo to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit