

## REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of April 27, 2023

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:00 AM on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Members Present: Councilor James M. Walsh, Chairman; Councilor Alek Dernalowicz; Councilor George C. Tyros; Administrative Assistant Christine Harty

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Rob Oliva, City Engineer; Sophie Dorow, Conservation and Planning Agent; Mr. David Kenney, homeowner of 73 Edgell Street

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

### **OPEN MEETING RECORDING**

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such a recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

### **MEASURE FOR DEDICATION VOTE FOR UPTOWN ROTARY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Rob provides explanation the two items Council is requested to vote on related to Right of Way issues for MassDOT so to move ahead with certifying the Uptown Rotary project. He informs the first part of the vote is for dedication of 4 easements on City owned parcels. The second part of the vote is to approve the alteration of the layouts to Central Street and Grant Street.

Following discussion amongst the Committee and Rob, Councilor Walsh requests Rob provide a memo for City Council regarding this information for the dedication of the parcels and approval of layout.

Motion made to approve the vote as presented. Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, all in favor motion carries.

### **POLE PETITION**

- **10909** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. – Cross Street – to install 4 jointly owned poles on Cross Street beginning at a point approximately 15 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Lawrence Street and Cross Street and continuing approximately 800 feet in a west direction. Install 4 new poles on Cross Street. (*Public Service Committee; Public Hearing Required*)

Present for discussion of pole petition are Amelio Augustine, Representative for National Grid (Distribution Design); Eric Fontaine, Engineer of the project, and homeowner of 73 Edgell Street, David Kenney abutter to the pole petition.

Councilor Walsh explains the committee would like to approve and pass the petition but need clarification regarding the layout and plans for removal of the poles currently in use once they are replaced.

Mr. Fontaine, Engineer of project explains he met with Mr. Kenney following the last meeting to answer questions and discuss any concerns. Also noting he contacted Mr. Augustine (National Grid Rep.) informing him of the town's concerns regarding easements and pole removals.

Mr. Augustine, National Grid Rep. here to answer questions regarding the project. He states there are 3 phases, 1st install the infrastructure around the neighborhood, 2<sup>nd</sup> connect homes to the new infrastructure one by one, and 3<sup>rd</sup> removal of the previously connected structures. Due to previous agreements the pole removal is to be completed by Verizon. National Grid cannot speak on how long it will take for Verizon to do so.

The Committee thanks Mr. Augustine & Mr. Fontaine for their attendance and providing information on the process and details within.

Motion made to recommend approval of pole petition to the City Council. Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alexander Dernalowicz, all in favor motion carries.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting dated March 2, 2023, as written. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

### **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

#### **Dane Arnold:**

1. Paving, provides update.
  - a. to begin pulverizing and paving Eaton Street and a section of Park Street from Clark St. up to Green St. Cost from city funds is approx. 350K. Part of project is to replace 1500 ft of deteriorated guardrails, again city funds, 120K.
  - b. Mass Broken Stone is contractor, road has been paved 3 times in 20 years in this area due to deterioration from tree cover.
  - c. Three hearing on May 8<sup>th</sup> will include 96 trees counted to remove to open to road to sunlight.
  - d. Submittal into Chapter 90 for paving of Partridge Street, in deplorable shape for years. Remaining funds will be used for Keyes Rd., Princeton, Rugby, Watkins, etc.
  - e. Sidewalk on Lawrence to begin sometime in July after school ends.
  - f. Crews in Robillard and Coleman area, working Saturdays to finish up walks, loom, and seed.
2. Opened line painting bid. In 2017 costs was about 20K to paint City. Costs this year to be about 35K. Request to Mayor to increase line item, budget was submitted prior to knowledge of increased cost.
3. Small project updates:
  - a. Block wall on Central Street
  - b. Charging station installed at DPW, base and conduit are in, awaiting electrical.
  - c. 250 plant plots to be placed by May 15<sup>th</sup> throughout the City.
  - d. Municipal Grounds crew is down to 3 employees. Dept. is working on Parks and Cemeteries for Memorial Day.

#### **Rob Oliva:**

1. Update on Uptown Rotary. Expecting with vote Monday night and plans recorded at registry, out to bid in few weeks. Hoping construction to begin mid to late summer, scheduled to be 12-18 months. A three and a half million-dollar tip project.
2. Small improvements coming from Mayor's Office.

- a. Placing a fountain in island at Orpheum Park
- b. A small fountain at Bullnose Park.
- c. String lights downtown between the Victorian streetlights.

Sophie Dorow:

1. Update on Bailey Brook Park. Structural fill scheduled to be implemented today. Play equipment will be coming in tomorrow and assembled. Currently reworking grading plans to meet the ADA compliant portions of the park. Construction scheduled to end May 31<sup>st</sup>. They are on schedule.
2. Notice of intents from single family home proposals. Scheduled to be heard at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Conservation commission meeting.
3. Have taken the “Keep Gardner Beautiful” along with the current litter ordinance a step further with a new hotline. Report littering and illegal dumping. Hefty fines to deter littering.

**REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS**

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Inquires on timetable of current West Broadway project state has begun. Dane states we were not notified, no notice, unsure of timetable.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No requests today.

Councilor James Walsh: Inquires on Sludge Landfill progress. Rob, not much since MEPA issued their certificate requiring an EIR. It is a hefty document, required to respond in writing to each comment, lengthy project. Had a site walk and answered questions regarding appeal.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alex Dernalowicz to Adjourn the meeting at 8:51 am. Roll Call vote: Councilor Alek Dernalowicz yes, Councilor George C. Tyros yes, Councilor James Walsh yes. Motion Passes.

Next meeting scheduled as needed.

All documents submitted at this meeting are stored in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive, for any review.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant