

A Special Meeting of the **Capital Improvement and Strategic Planning Committee** was held on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Members Present: Mayor Caggiano, John Smith, Glenn Heiser, Tom Hislop, Sebastian Panioto, Marie O'Brien, Susan Tyler, Cheryl Thibeault and Diane Waldron.

Also Present: Robin Manuele, Jessica Pilgrim, Richard Hart, Ray Rogozinski, Eric Evans, Peter Fusco, Mark Morello, and Josh Medeiros (Zoom)

1. Call to order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

Jan Getzer, 517 Churchill Street, Southington, spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Hoppers in support of the project put forth by Parks for the trails renovation at the Hoppers/Birge Pond.

3. To review the Capital Budget for 2024-2025 and to take any action as necessary

Board of Education, Fire Department, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Works provided brief description of the projects requested and discussion was held.

Peter Fusco reviewed the BOE project requests. The Security Upgrades project is phase two of the project. The annual air quality testing, and commissioning is done every five years. It is unknown how comprehensive the annual vs the five-year will be. Part of the CHMS HVAC upgrades were done with ESSER funds which covered the controls and this will upgrade the system. The targeted alterations at BC and BE focus mainly on the theatres.

Commissioner Thibeault questioned upgrades to the other schools that are not on the five year plan in the out years. Mayor Caggiano questioned if any of the projects can be broken out by design in FY25 and construction in FY26 or FY27. Cheryl would like to see a break out of the targeted alterations to determine if funding these alterations could be accomplished over a number of years.

Chief Hart discussed the Fire Headquarters and Station 2 Renovations. The bunk rooms and bathrooms are dated in both firehouses. Commissioner Heiser questioned the breakout of cost of renovating the bunk rooms. Chief Hart explained the shifts are 24 hours. Commissioner Hislop questioned the square feet of each location; Chief Hart stated the estimates were based on \$700/square foot. Headquarters did have the HVAC system replaced. Mayor Caggiano stated these are first year projects that were added to the

schedule this year and rated equally with the scorecard rating by the Chief. Chief Hart stated headquarters is a bigger priority due to the number of personnel at that location.

Commissioner O'Brien questioned if any of these projects can be done over multiple years. Chief Hart said design dollars could be combined for both. Commissioner Tyler asked for a breakdown of the renovation costs for the pieces of the project.

Eric Evans – Chief Information Officer discussed the Backup Infrastructure Refresh project as the current system is approaching the eight year mark, and if there was a failure the City would have to respond in an emergency fashion. This cost is spread out over three years as a cost savings measure and includes new hardware and software for both City and Schools.

Josh Medeiros discussed the Parks requests. Page Park is continuing its phase in of upgrades, which includes parking and trail improvements. The Hoppers-Birge & Robert Property Park Trail Improvements, which is supported by the Friends of the Hoppers Group, remains a priority ask, as it was not funded last year. There is a lot of passion for this park, as well as safety hazards that need to be addressed and necessary repairs to the dam. The request is for design work and to come back in a future year to complete the project. Commissioner O'Brien questioned if the results of the study of the Hoppers could be used to apply for grants. Josh explained that Hoppers is not in the lower income census track like Rockwell or Brackett Park so the likelihood of available grant funding is slim. The Federal Hill Green Upgrades projects will provide ADA site improvements, and replace the playground which has reached its life cycle. This project is spread out due to other park projects, as well as waiting on a comprehensive design of the project.

It was noted that for FY2026, the Rockwell Revitalization project has been moved up, as there is a significant grant available for this project and the grant process is lengthy and would take approximately a year.

Deputy Chief Morello discussed the I.S.S.I. Connection to the State of CT CLMRN Radio Network. This is the connection to the State Police core, and would assist with statewide coverage during mutual aid coverage issues. Commissioner Thibeault questioned what other agencies are using this technology. Deputy Chief Morello confirmed that the State Police are using it. Most municipalities are using the 800 platform which the City would use as well. Mayor Caggiano questioned the quote date of March 2023 and if it was still good, Deputy Chief Morello and the Motorola representative confirmed it was.

Ray Rogozinski discussed the Public Works requests. The Renovation of the Senior Center Facility would move the BBHD Office Space to the area vacated by the BOE. This will free up space for the Senior Center. It was noted any renovations should be reflected in the lease payment of BBHD as they will not be paying for any of the renovation costs. The Burlington Ave replacement of sidewalks will be funded in the future from LOTCIP but this request is for the design.

The Police Court Complex is requested at \$23 million, however the Public Works Board recently voted to move forward with a new Police Complex. There are many variables which will impact the cost which includes the site chosen for the new building and if a

parking garage will be needed at the new site. Cost estimates have come in between \$50 and \$70 million. The current building and parking garage need major upgrades in the next 3-5 years that have exceed the previous cost estimates. Desman Associates has taken a look at the parking garage of the police complex indicating there are structural concerns, specifically with the upper deck, and that in 3-5 years will need replacement. A report was received from Collier and will be presented to Board of Public Works, Police Commission and this Board for consideration.

Commissioner O'Brien noted looking ahead at the five-year plan the FY2027 amount of \$95 million drops to \$11 million in FY2028 and back up to FY2029 to \$53 million. If there is any way to smooth out the requests, that may be beneficial to the City.

Mayor Caggiano asked that members complete their scorecard ratings and return them to Jodi by the next meeting. Diane will review debt projections at the next meeting scheduled for February 5 at 4:00 p.m.

4. Adjournment

*Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commission Heiser "to adjourn" at 5:50 p.m.
Motion approved.*

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary