

Ten Year Capital Improvement & Strategic Planning Committee
February 15, 2022 – Special Meeting

A special meeting of the **Ten Year Capital Improvement and Strategic Planning Committee** was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1st Floor of City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Members Present: John Smith, Orlando Calfe, Glenn Heiser, Tom Hislop, Sebastian Panioto (left at 5:00 p.m.), Cheryl Thibeault (left at 5:00 p.m.), Jacqueline Olsen, Mayor Caggiano and Diane Waldron.

Also Present: Robin Manuele, Jessica Pilgrim, Richard Hart, Raymond Rogozinski, Joshua Medieros, Roger Rousseau, Peter Fusco and Jill Browne

1. Call to order

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

2. To review the Capital Budget for 2022-2023 and to take any action as necessary

Diane reviewed the process of developing the Capital Budget and stated Departments submit their capital requests with their budget submissions. The form for capital projects was changed this year, to include additional information requested by GFOA. If anyone has any suggestions or comments on the form to let the Comptroller's Office know.

Diane explained the Fire Station 3 project has a prior appropriation in place of \$400,000 for land acquisition, the Chief put in a request for \$7,400,000. Chief Hart stated the cost is based on the cost to build Station 4 with a 25% increase, this estimate may be low, and an accurate cost per square foot to build has not been obtained. Chief Hart explained the conditions of the current firehouse which are outdated, there is no privacy for female officers, the workout equipment is on the apparatus floor, and the building has been hit several times. There will also be consumable storage at this location. Commissioner Smith questioned if there was a site at this time, and the Mayor confirmed there is an option on the table until March. Chief Hart explained a second aerial would be obtained by the City, dedicated to Forestville and the south end housed at this location. Chief Hart explained there currently is a female LT at this firehouse, the Deputy Chief is going to ask if she would like to change firehouses

Commissioner Heiser questioned the locations of the firehouses or if combining houses was possible, Chief Hart stated the houses are strategically located within City so they are placed to respond within the required four minutes by standards. Commissioner Thibeault stated with the Southeast Building Park and industrial areas, agreed with the need another aerial is

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necessary on that side of town as well. Mayor Caggiano stated at this point there is no funding from the federal government to build a firehouse under the infrastructure funds.

Diane explained there is a request for funding for another apparatus, and the Comptroller's Office is suggesting pushing this off for a year. Chief Hart stated February 1, there was a 5% price increase in this and it will take 24-48 months to arrive. This purchase would place Engine 5 into reserve and retire a 1997 Pierce Engine. Diane stated the full amount of the truck has to be appropriated with a bond resolution in place to purchase the truck, while the terms of the purchase can be negotiated, a deposit will need to be put down. Roger Rousseau stated the current vehicle on order is scheduled to arrive in August, those terms have payment made 90 days in advance of arrival of the vehicle.

Josh Medieros reviewed the Parks projects, two of the projects are ARPA eligible and have been submitted to the Task Force for approval. Many of the projects are driven by the Parks Master Plan.

The goal of the Kern Park project is to create a neighborhood endorsed plan and to engage in site improvements that will revitalize the park and establish a high quality passive space with trails, and outdoor educational elements.

The Pine Lake Adventure Park has been under renovations, and includes new signage, and bathrooms. A business plan has been developed for this park.

A contract for Page Park Revitalization was awarded to Weston and Sampson to develop design and construction documents for four phases of renovations totaling \$13.6 million. This request would secure funding for phase 2 in order to have funding in place to continue construction administration seamlessly and without interruption.

Seymour Park project is a request to secure additional funding to compliment funds already in place but needed due to increased pricing as a result of COVID-19. Overall safety improvements will be made to the park to increase usability and accessibility of the courts and recreational amenities including converting 1 tennis court into 2 pickleball courts. Additionally, this project will address long standing ADA deficiencies in the park in accordance with the master plan as well as a small prefabricated bathroom which will allow us to eliminate use of port-o-johns at the site.

Commissioner Heiser questioned if the cost for protecting the properties are built in to the project. Josh explained the Parks Department is working with IT for a full park wide camera system, currently many of the cameras on the current system do not work and need to be upgraded. Glenn questioned if there is equity in the Parks throughout the City and if improvement similar to the fields at Casey Field is done for other City fields. Josh stated the Youth groups do not have the funding to support the projects at this time. Discussion was held on Pine Lake, and the goal of that project compared to other similar sites. Commissioner Smith asked for the business plan to be shared.

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Josh explained Phase 1 renovations of the pavilion at Page are complete, it is open for rentals, phase 2 will be completed over the summer with a ribbon cutting in Fall 2022.

Commissioner Panioto questioned if parking at Kern Park has been reviewed, Josh stated there are some limitations but it can be discussed with the consultant.

Peter Fusco explained the all schools technology project is in the second phase of the smart board replacements within the schools which will take care of the balance of the schools.

The Northeast Middle School project has an appropriation of \$250,000 of schematic design, once this Committee approves the project it can be submitted to the State for the grant piece. Glenn Heiser questioned the cost to build a new school. Pete explained this is to build a new school, there are 31 acres available to build on the current site, the current school was built in 1961. Commissioner Hislop questioned what the new schematics would be, Pete stated with would follow the model of Chippens Hill Middle School for approximately 800 students.

Diane questioned if the bonding resolution needs to be in place to apply to the state. Pete Fusco stated the full appropriation has to be in place, so it would need to be.

Diane Waldron stated the Comptroller's Office is still in the process of compiling all the budget requests, the Cash column may change when all the requests are in. The funding sources may change the next time this Committee meets.

Ray Rogozinski reviewed the Public Works projects. Five of the projects have been submitted to the ARP Task Force for approval including Brave Ave Storm Drainage, Broad Street Retaining Wall, and the Streetscape projects on North Main Street, Park Street and Riverside Avenue.

Brace Avenue has flooding which goes onto private property, this would alleviate those problems. The Broad Street Retaining Wall is for the section just east of Todd Street. Temporary barriers have been installed.

Dog Pound Improvements include new siding, mechanical work and improving the ventilation. Recently, increased maintenance is being performed at the facility. The Mayor asked on behalf of Cheryl how much a new dog pound would cost. Ray stated an Engineer is looking at this cost and the number presented in the CIP request.

Landfill Erosion Cap Repairs, approximately 20 years ago the landfill was closed, over time the membrane liner which was covered with top soil have eroded down to the liner. This is a requirement from DEEP to maintain the liner.

Landfill Stewardship Permit ECO Study would study both vegetation and animals along with the monitoring the City has in place for the landfill.

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Jerome Avenue Bridge Replacement, this bridge qualifies for 50% state/local reimbursement. Mellen Street Bridge Replacement, this bridge is eligible for federal reimbursement for 80% reimbursement.

Mix Street Commuter Parking Lot would be reconstructed by Public Works. Orlando questioned if there was anything that can be done about the flooding in that area, which Ray stated there wasn't as it's in a flood plain and would need to be done as part of a larger project.

North Main Street Streetscape would include improvements for Centre Square and City Hall up to the Firehouse. Engineering costs are in place, but have not been expended because North Main Street has several moving pieces with development. This project would realign the curb in front of City Hall down to the post office and move the bus stops. This is a high priority project for Public Works. Park Street Streetscape Improvement aligns with the State project. Riverside Avenue Streetscape would be from Main Street to Blakeslee and Memorial Boulevard. Tom questioned the Session Building, Ray stated anything in that areas needs state authorization and DOT approval. Minor adjustments will be made to the curb line, and will increase safety.

The Railroad Improvements are required to keep the Class 1 rating, based on the current conditions of the rail, if this isn't approved the operating budget would increase.

At the next meeting on March 2, Diane will review the debt projections and comparisons to other communities along with any changes in the funding sources.

3. Adjournment

John Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heiser to adjourn 5:35 pm

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary