

Board of Public Works
January 18, 2024
6:00 P.M., City Council Chamber Chambers
With Zoom Access

Members Present: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Council Member Jacqueline Olsen
Council Member Erick Rosengren
Council Member Cheryl Thibeault
Commissioner Michael Dumas
Commissioner David Hartley
Commissioner Frank Stawski

Staff Present: Raymond Rogozinski, Director of Public Works

Call to Order:

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: to move up item 10A on the agenda made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Thibeault. Motion passed.

10. New Business

a. Ridge Road Traffic Calming

Mayor Caggiano stated that the board was asked look at speed humps, speed bumps and that it has been looked at in years past. The police are represented tonight and information was received from the fire department as well. The information is available online for everyone to review.

Raymond Rogozinski, Director of Public Works, reviewed the memo regarding the Ridge Road Traffic Calming issue. The engineering department evaluated Ridge, Briar and the lower portion of East Road. He summarized the memo and reviewed the traffic count of roads. The Police Department has done traffic counts as well as NVOG and Engineering/Public works department. Traffic calming is a challenge and is a function of traffic behavior. Several options were given but each option has an adverse effect to other roads. The conclusion is the benefit of traffic calming doesn't offset the adverse effects and recommends no action be taken other than the suggested remarking the roadway at South and Bridge, south and east.

Officer Krawjewski, Bristol PD, spoke regarding the information collected from traffic counts they did on Ridge and Briar Roads.

Tony Laurenzetti, Engineer City of Bristol, spoke to agree with the memo and the traffic counts that were done. Counts were also done from the dept of transportation which they do approximately every 3 years.

Motion: To move item #3 up on the agenda made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

William Bugbee, 8 Briar Road, stated that he notices there is more bottlenecking on Mountain Road to South Street because of the one lane now at the Boulevard. There are speeding issues on Ridge and Briar.

Blocking off roads is not solving the issue or diverting traffic causes which more issues with a new cone pattern.

Rob Cochran, 32 Ridge Road, stated that the traffic and speed is ridiculous. He wants to know how many accidents have been on lower portion of each road. Ridge Road has had lots of incidents. People hit the cones placed there but, it did work while they were there. Hoping for more info at the next meeting.

Jason Harmon, 583 East Road, most of the suggestions discussed would divert traffic to East Road. His conclusion is that East Road has more issues than Ridge. Trying to take a left is very difficult to impossible. Not a fan of any solution that would put more cars on East Road.

Raymond Wilson, 589 East Road, stated that the report from 2019 showed 7,000 cars on East Road within 2 days. Why are the numbers on the newer reports less? Taking a left turn is very dangerous, there is no turning lane. There are no sidewalks for families, dog walkers, or elderly to walk safely. There is no concern for this. There is no access to the Boulevard for these roads to enjoy the park grounds as it is too dangerous to walk there. He stated that many states use traffic circles to alleviate traffic.

Diana Davis, 9 Briar Road, is not supporting closure of Briar Rd. she lives on the corner and her issue is her son's safety at the bus stop on the corner. Speed is an issue for her There is not enough safety issues in place. She asked if there could be a speed study done or maybe more speeding tickets could be given out here.

Emily Williams, 7 Briar Road, is concerned because they live on the corner of Briar and East. There are guardrails on her front yard, which have been hit many times. The cars do not stop at the stop sign and they all speed down the road. Walking is impossible as there are no sidewalks and is unsafe. Cars just whip around the corner and someone is going to get hit. The stop signs at the end of Briar, cars do not stop. Something has to happen to protect all of us.

Richard Silvia, 599 East Road, stated there have been lots of accidents. No one stops at the stop sign drivers can't see the sign at the hill. There is a speeding issue on these roads.

Carolyn Steward, 96 East Rd, spoke there is a problem and it has to do with the traffic increase on East Rd. This caused a lot of traffic and bottleneaking trying to avoid the lights. She feels that East Rd is the problem in general. East and Willis seems like lots of accidents happen there and seems an unsafe intersection.

Maryann Pixton, 549 East Rd, Thanked Public Works for the report. Still has concerns about some of the solutions that are being talked about. Cannot pull into her driveway without being yelled at, flipped off or beeped at to take a right into my driveway. Feels that closing Briar will not be a solution for the reasons mentioned.

Mike Mckee, 102 Ridge Rd., spoke via zoom and spoke about the drivers speeding and bypassing the stop sign. This is a major factor for them as of the young age of his children. He would like speed bumps like the towns of Hamden and West Hartford have. Would like to see more done to enforce the stop sign issue. We don't want to see someone get killed. We don't walk Briar Rd or Ridge due to the danger.

The Mayor and the Board of Public Works had a conversation regarding this issue. Ray Rogozinski stated he appreciated everyone comments and coming to the meeting. Sidewalks are always supported from the Public Works department as well as cross walk with a traffic light. Everything is a tradeoff.

The mayor recapped that traffic has gotten worse post pandemic. The Police Department traffic division should be fully staffed soon. Traffic and speed issues are prevalent thru the whole city.

Commissioner Dumas spoke about his experience with those roads as he uses them daily.

Council Member Thibeault, likes the idea of rotary's but not sure if it would work in this situation.

Commissioner Stawski, likes the rotary idea as well. Speed is also an issue, maybe more patrols, or maybe get the word out about how many tickets were given out for these issues.

Commissioner Hartley, roundabouts tend to take a huge amount of the right away and need completely level ground. Public Works did suggest 6 options and they all look good and may be a positive step in the right direction.

Council Member Rosengren stated that it is happening all over. Maybe speed traps in high speed or traffic areas. Maybe a rotating schedule for where they are placed.

Council Member Olsen stated she lives on Willis and the speeding is ridiculous there. Stated that people have passed her on the street because she is doing the speed limit and they are speeding. No one is stopping at stop signs.

Council Member Thibeault suggested a stop ahead warning sign due to the steep grade not allowing the view of the stop sign.

Motion: to remark the roadway at South Road and East Road and to shift the center line and establish a left turn lane onto East Road made by Commissioner Hartley and Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

10. New Business

a. BPW Council Referral Prospect Street

Charlie Talmadge, 225 North Main St, representing Carrier Construction on purchasing property on Prospect Street, this would be redeveloped into parking for an elderly support care facility. There is a state requirement of 50 parking spots for the 25 residents that the facility will support, which is why they are looking to purchase this portion of the property. Carrier has no intention of stopping the tenants at the apartment building from parking there. The area where there is a homeless encampment will be cleaned up and proactively keep it clean in the future.

Mayor did state that many other departments will be involved in this as well.

Raymond Rogozinski, reviewed his memo regarding this issue. The concern is that the tenants that live there, utilize the parcel as a parking area. It is city owned property, but Carrier and the Owner of the Triangle building would have to coordinate this.

Council Member Thibeault, spoke regarding the residents of Henry Street and thinks this would benefit them with the area being cleaned up. The area with the homeless encampments is located, the residents have said when cleaning up their yard, they are finding items that are not safe that the homeless have left there.

Commissioner Hartley is all for Carrier purchasing and cleaning up the property as long as there is parking for the tenants that already use the lot.

Motion: Recommend that City Council maintain the eastern 300 ft. section that makes up the road of Henry Street of the of Map 30, Lot R4- 1 Prospect Street for City use and the rest be authorized to sell made by Commissioner Stawski and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hartley asked about adding to the motion about the parking spots for the Triangle apartment building be kept.

Mayor stated that the parking for the apartment should not be put in the motion thru public works. The land acquisition department and Corp Counsel can maybe do that during the sale.

Mayor Caggiano asked to talk about the timing of the Shrub Road and when it will be done as Ms. Murdoch, who lives in the area is present specifically to see when it will be starting.

The Director stated that the progress has been slow and the company doing the project are short engineers. Today, the owner stated that the would be going out to bid early fall and construction would maybe start late fall or early spring.

Commissioner Stawski asked strongly that every resident on Shrub Road have the sidewalk policy be put in their mail box before next winter.

10 New Business

c. PW Budget

Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the Police department project at length. Renovation verses a complete rebuild was discussed regarding the pros and cons. The HVAC system would need to be replaced as well as the garage structure where the water is leaking down the walls, and the top floor of the garage slab would have to be removed and replaced. The report from Collier is still pending and should be in next week. The estimated costs would be \$46 million for new building or \$20 million for renovations. Once the report comes in from Collier the board will be updated, although, Collier did say it would be more like \$57 million.

Deputy Chief Morello is here on behalf of the police department. He states that they are in favor of a new police complex for Bristol. We are out-growing the space we are in. Investing \$20 million dollars to renovate only to then find out that they have more issues and end up rebuilding later just doesn't make sense. Doors are not closing properly causing access to the building, rebar is visible in the walls, there is water seepage. We also anticipate growth for the police department and need to have space to grow into.

Council Member Olsen asked will the old complex be torn down and rebuilt or build somewhere else.

Raymond Rogozinski mentioned some areas they discussed, but the general consensus was to stay in the downtown area if possible.

Discussion held about various places to rebuild, including at the Center Square lot where there are two 1 acre lots available, and potentially tearing down the police station and making it the town green space.

Commissioner Hartley spoke about the issues of the garage built over a building and that the heating system is still steam. He is in favor of a new building. They need space at shift change to change equipment and the storage for vehicles as well.

Council Member Thibeault asked for a clarification that the \$57 million does includes surface parking, but does not include land and Raymond Rogozinski stated that was correct. She also asked about what area do they consider downtown. She also asked about sub stations around the city as a solution as well to build a presence in the neighborhood.

Deputy Chief Morello stated they want to do what is best for the city. They would not be opposed to moving farther out if that is what is best. He stated he doesn't feel like Bristol is big enough for substations.

Raymond Rogozinski mentioned that emergency management feels that the need a dedicated EOC space. He stated he is in support of having a state-of-the-art EOC but this could be a combination of sharing space but not a dedicated space.

Mayor feels that EOC could be moved to the new city hall space for an office, but moving forward this would become something done virtually.

Deputy Chief said the department would like a training room in the new complex to accommodate internal training and regional training. In person classes will be held as virtual is not an option. It would also be used for community outreach as well. When regional training is done, they do get paid a fee for that. It could also be used as an area for press conferences.

Council Member Rosengren asked about an indoor firing range.

Deputy Chief Morello stated that they are looking for that. It is difficult to find place to do training and using a public range is difficult to do.

Mayor also stated that Plymouth is looking to do their police station as well, and is a smaller community. If there was a way to combine both forces and regionalize them, there could be a substation chance there. Also, Bristol will be partnering with Plymouth animal control.

Deputy Chief Morello stated that would be difficult as we each have our own police chiefs and town governments. There are some strong opportunities for regionalization of dispatch centers, which could help out the cost of relocation of new building.

Mayor stated that a separate communication center would be a good idea. Lots of options to look at.

Motion: to cancel the existing renovation project with the CIP committee and Public Works is in favor of looking to construct a new police facility given the age and condition of the current facility by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Thibeault. Motion passed.

The Capital Improvement Projects Budget was reviewed and discussed.

Mayor Caggiano asked if there would be other ways to use LOCIP funding for Clark Ave and James P Casey?

The Director explained that LOCIP funds are used for road infrastructure and cannot be used on local roads.

Council Member Thibeault asked regarding the Bristol/Burlington Health Department and if Burlington is responsible for any of the fees.

Mayor Caggiano stated that Burlington does pay rent for the space within the health department as it is a city owned space and could help defer some of the cost of renovations. Also, the senior center would get over 3,000 sq. feet to grow their space when the Health Department moves.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the 2024-25 Capital Improvement Projects proposed budget in the amount of \$18,718,910 for DPW CIP project and to support the proposed capital project as presented subject to the previous motion of the police complex and elimination of item # 5

Clark Avenue and James P Casey Road. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests, subject to the approval of the mayor made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Dumas.

Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the Public Works Operating Budget increases and decreases for the year.

Commissioner Stawski asked why the snow removal budget did not include increase for payment for contractors snowplowing.

The Director explained that no money or additional funds were asked for as we gave back so much money not used last year. There will be adjustment of plowing rates but this is not a function of the finance board but public works board.

Mayor Caggiano mentioned that the water, sewer and parks took more overtime duties with covering the storm. They did a great job with a difficult storm.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Public Works Department Operating Budget proposal in the amount of \$10,608,650.00 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Dumas and Seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the Waste disposal fund budget and what is included in this budget.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Solid Waste Disposal Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$1,777,280 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$911,110 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Hartley and Seconded by Commissioner Dumas.

Council Member Thibeault stated that at a future meeting but that the board needs to look at the tire fee and potentially pass that cost on.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Fleet Capital proposed budget in the amount of \$1,378,000 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 City Building Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$256,000 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Major Road Improvement Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$6,019,830 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

1. Board of Public Works Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. December 2023 Minutes

Motion: to accept as presented and place on file made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

b. Employee Recognition

a. Employee Anniversaries

December anniversaries were recognized.

4. Correspondence

Steve Vastola, from the local scouts, wanted to thank the public works maintenance department for locating a plaque that was thought to be lost during the move.

5. Public Works Division Reports

a. Division Reports

Motion: to accept as presented and place on file made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

6. Public Works Project Schedule

a. December Project Schedule

Motion: to accept as presented and place on file made by Council Member Thibeault and Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

7. Building Committee

a. Bldg. Project List

Motion: to accept as presented and place on file made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

a. Director's Report

Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the directors report.

The Hope Street garage is currently out to bid.

A \$71,941 grant was received for and has been added to the DPW's City Building account.

The new Asset Management program has been started.

The Land Fill solar lease is still being looked at by an outside consultant.

Repairs on the salt dome have begun.

The City Hall Renovation for punch list items is still ongoing.

The AV is moving forward with two additional cameras in council chambers and the training room on third floor is still being worked on.

Contract with the vendor to have the EV stations up and running.

The Land Use Regulations effective date of the Updated Zoning regulations is 1/16/24. There will be additional revisions in the fall of 2024.

An issue at 311 Farmington Ave which is a state road is having a major icing issue that Public Works has gotten involved in.

NRCS is amending the grant for the house on Burlington Ave.

Motion: to have the mayor authorize an application for federal assistance form SF424 which asks for more money from the NRCS made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

Council Member Thibeault asked about the zoom launch as everyone seems to be having a problem. The sound and video have been an issue at times.

Council Member Rosengren said they have had issues with audio in other rooms. He is asking for training himself to be able to help trouble shoot during meetings.

Council Member Thibeault thanked the Public Works department for the great job with the snow removal on Sunday, the extra hours and dedicated staff. Also appreciated the rain update which was a lot of work as well.

Raymond Rogozinski stated that the department takes pride in addressing the snow. Credit goes to a lot of people including Craig Kasparian and Lindsey. She monitors social media for complaints.

Commissioner Hartley states how important that the citizens know the people are listening which is important and how quickly Lindsey responds to them.

Council Rosengren stated Lindsey being on there to respond stops a lot of the bashing that happens on social media and helps public relations with people.

Motion: to accept as presented as place on file made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Unaccepted City Street

Motion: Board of Public Works recommends that the City formalize the Department of Public Works' responsibility, by a vote of City Council, that DPW will continue in perpetuity the current policy of providing full Department of Public Works services to Ambler Road, Grassy Road, Arnold Court, and

Burlington Avenue (house 131 to 149) made by Commissioner Dumas and Seconded by Council Member Thibeault. Motion Passed.

10. New Business

b. DPW Paving

The 204 Spring and Fall paving schedule was reviewed.

Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the Public Works Operating Budget increases and decreases for the year.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Public Works Department Operating Budget proposal in the amount of \$10,608,650.00 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Dumas and Seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

The Solid Waste Disposal proposed budget was reviewed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Solid Waste Disposal Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$1,777,280 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

The Transfer Station Special Revenue fund was reviewed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$911,110 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Commissioner Dumas and Seconded by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion passed.

Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Fleet Capital proposed budget in the amount of \$1,378,000 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

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Motion: I move that the Board of Public Works forward the FY24-25 Major Road Improvement Fund proposed budget in the amount of \$6,019,830 as presented to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Public Works authorizes the Director of Public Works to make minor corrections/adjustments to the budget requests subject to the approval of the mayor made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. made by Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

Signature

Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E.
Director of Public Works