



**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
S T R E E T C O M M I T T E E M E E T I N G
M I N U T E S
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016
AT SHELTON CITY HALL, ROOM 104
54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
AT 6:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alderman McPherson on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen Street Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in Room 104, of Shelton City Hall and led the group in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present

Alderman McPherson, Chairman

Alderman Kudej

Alderman Farrell

Also Present

George Stachowicz, Highways & Bridges, Superintendent

PUBLIC PORTION – No one from the public wished to be heard.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 STREET COMMITTEE MEETING- APRIL 5, 2016

Alderman Kudej MOVED to waive the reading and approve the Street Committee Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2016.

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Full set of minutes can be found at www.cityofshelton.org

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 NO LITTER SIGNS ON BRIDGEPORT AVENUE, COMMERCE AND HUNTINGTON STREET

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: There is no backup for this; this item came from Alderman Capra. He had contacted some businesses on Bridgeport Avenue, and he wanted to see if we could get no littering signs. I said all I think that we could do is ask the state, and that would be about it. Last week Paul and I had talked about it; I said that we would look into it. That is about all that we could do here.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 NORTH OAK AVENUE UPDATE

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: I put North Oak Avenue on the agenda for a couple of reasons: It had started when Stan and I had received a call from a couple of the residents. There is a very large tree; it is a City tree and the City went out to trim it. I guess all of these acorns are hitting cars and they are doing quite a bit of damage. Dean went to trim the tree, and then the issue came up as would it be possible to have parallel parking instead of the diagonal parking? We met with the Traffic Division, Sergeant Siglinger, and I met him down there and he took measurements. There is not enough footage from where Shelton Avenue meets North Oak Avenue; I think there is only 162 feet and you need around 175 feet. One of the vehicles there is a 27-foot-long pick up truck; there is not enough room to do it so we had said to the residents that it was not going to happen because there was not enough footage.

The other problem is come wintertime when we plow, I think Parks & Recreation does plow that street with the smaller plow. The question became now with the garbage pickup; from what I heard I think the residents were walking and putting the trash all of the way out into the road. I do not think that is a good situation, either, so I do not know what remedy we have other than having the truck back down. It is a pretty busy road because it also backs down Cliff Street Extension on the other side, and that is sort of dangerous, too. So I said that we would look into it and see what we could do to alleviate that. I do not know if they have a smaller truck that they could pick that up?

George Stachowicz: We could contact Winter Brothers to see if they have something else available, to make it easier for them.

Chairman McPherson: It is hard when it is winter time and everyone on the street parks their car on both sides of the road when they all have driveways. I get frustrated when we have to do snow removal there because it is a nightmare to get that street cleared. Now we are having a problem on Hull Street, and I have to talk to the Traffic Division about that. It is a separate issue but I think some signage over where the factory is, they have a parking lot and their employees park on the street. They also have vans because they also have a little loading area on Hull Street; they leave the four vans there which takes up the residential parking. I got a call yesterday from a resident because there was almost a fist-fight with the company employees, and with one of the residents. This is more of a traffic issue for the police department.

However back on the other third of Cliff Street and North Oak Avenue, I do not know what we could do there?

George Stachowicz: Personally, we have not received any complaints that I know of about those two streets.

Chairman McPherson: That is because the resident called Stan and I first, so that is probably why you have not heard of the complaint. That small section of that road really needs to be done, as does all of Oak Avenue. The resident asked me the question, because that is something that I will be asking the Mayor, if we could get that tree down (the oak tree on North Oak Avenue).

Alderman Kudej: I was down there and there were so many acorns falling off the tree; it looked like a hailstorm. I do not blame anyone who drives a decent car to not be parking underneath that large oak tree.

George Stachowicz: Last year was a bad year for acorns; there were quite a few.

Chairman McPherson: The question that was asked of me by the resident on Monday was, if we could get the tree removed would it possible to maybe expand this side by a couple of feet? This way it would make it a bit easier, and they would have a better parking situation. Also, the situation of the garbage pickup would be easier; it may not take much to do to widen that. I think only two feet would make a difference.

George Stachowicz: What I saw next door, the neighbor's lawn is quite elevated compared to the road. I think a retaining wall would have to go in; there is around an eighteen feet difference so that is a huge expense right there.

Chairman McPherson: I think we just have to look to see what we could do, besides redoing part of that road. I think we should look at it to see what we could do to alleviate some of the problem over there. Stan and I are going to try to get the tree cut down; the acorns were coming down and causing some damage so I can see where the people are upset.

George Stachowicz: Did you talk to the Tree Warden?

Alderman Kudej: No I did not talk to him, but I need to also talk to him about another incident around the ballpark on Sunnyside Drive. There is this one guy who is cutting down trees with a chainsaw. I believe he is encroaching on City property.

George Stachowicz: Is that directly across from the school?

Alderman Kudej: It is across from the little league field, on Sunnyside Drive. He has cut down two trees within the last couple of days.

Alderman Farrell: Are those trees on City property?

Chairman McPherson: We are not sure yet.

George Stachowicz: The Tree Warden will determine if they are on City property, or not. He will contact Engineering, and they will tell him yes or no.

Alderman Kudej: We also have to do something with Oak Avenue; that street is in bad shape.

George Stachowicz: The one-way intersection is really bad.

Chairman McPherson: I sent Paul an email to see if that can be considered for major repairs.

George Stachowicz: We could put it on our recommended streets, and then Paul could decide how he would like to spend the money.

Chairman McPherson: We will deal with it as we get to it.

3.2 ROAD REPAIR UPDATE –

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: Do you have an update on the road repair; an overall update?

George Stachowicz: My recommendations are in. Paul is going to have to get together with the Mayor to determine how they want to spend the balance of what we have in that budget.

Chairman McPherson: I was going to find out today from the Finance Director what we have left; it may not be much though.

George Stachowicz: The weather was great last year, and the price of the asphalt was cheap so we went a little over but we projected I believe, there is a \$1.6 million left in that account. I think \$600,000 or \$700,000 is already committed to this year.

Alderman Kudej: Do you want to talk about Hillside Avenue?

George Stachowicz: I talked to Chris before we did some other work for him.

A lot of these roads we went in to keep the water from going through any more. If we did not do anything than it would be total reconstruction and that is a big expense. A lot of these streets that we are treating, we know that it is not going to be forever but it is giving us time to get them done right way, in the future.

Chairman McPherson: Well we could only do so much. We made a lot of progress, and I always tell people when they go to City Hall to come see the map. We probably do need to update the map, though. I also mentioned if we could get this map on the website.

George Stachowicz: I know they are updating the website. I just did the basics for our department, for now. I am sure they can put that map on the City's new website.

Chairman McPherson: I think when people see the amount of coverage of what we had and what we were able to do/redo and save, then I think they have a better understanding. We understand it on the Street Committee but the average public doesn't really understand.

George Stachowicz: That is something that I want to put on the website because it is road preservation. We have to keep saving these roads.

Chairman McPherson: We always look before we put our agendas together, upstairs to see if anyone has a bond release coming. We try to keep on top of these for the roads, when a project goes in and they take the bond out on the maintenance/performance. I think there is a two-year period that has to go by before it comes to us. I know around one year ago I received a call, and I said that we are not going to act on it until we are sure that we get the recommendation from Planning & Zoning and the City Engineer, that all of the conditions are met to their satisfaction and to the satisfaction of the Street Committee. I am not going to rush it through until we have all of our documentation until everything has been looked at, etc. If I am not confident that it has not been addressed it will not come on the agenda, and it will not go to the Full Board agenda either.

3.3 WOONSOCKET UPDATE –

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: I received a phone call around one month ago. I went up to Woonsocket Avenue; it is in the section when heading towards Toas.

George Stachowicz: It is 19-20 Woonsocket Avenue.

Chairman McPherson: I am not so sure which side is the odd or even side, but if you are going down on the left the road is just broken up. It is beyond me that it is broken up after we did that road two years ago, especially with the fact that we had a mild winter this year. I did not see any heaving.

George Stachowicz: What happens over there is that people park on the shoulders on the road, and when it gets soft in the wintertime it starts cracking from the shoulder, out and it gets worse

and worse. I am not sure if that is the case, but I will have to go and look early in the morning to see if people are parking there. When you are congested in areas like that when there are driveways and people park on the street; people have more than one car nowadays.

Chairman McPherson: We have the machine; can't we just go up and fix that section?

George Stachowicz: Yes I have looked at it. I just have to see what the best remedy is.

Chairman McPherson: Then across from that, part of the curb got taken off and there was water running off onto the property.

George Stachowicz: Usually when we are there we try to take care of what is in that area.

Chairman McPherson: For the curb, we can get the curbing machine to put that curb back to the way it was?

George Stachowicz: I do not know how long this section is. Our machine only works in longer sections; I would say at least 40 feet.

Chairman McPherson: It is not that long; it may be 5 feet?

George Stachowicz: We have a curb repair list that we go through every year. This year was exceptionally long because nothing froze.

Alderman Kudej: Speaking of curbs, I have a big whole in the road from my driveway, and the road from my driveway, down has disappeared. The curb has disappeared and it has a large gully now. I was going to say if you were in the neighborhood and you have your curb machine, maybe you could take a look at it? What I am really concerned about is that whole street from Coram Road, all of the way down is like a jigsaw puzzle. That road has cracks all over the place, and I was wondering if it would be worthwhile to get some of that liquid stuff that you use to fill in the cracks? Belmont Avenue was done a couple of years ago, the last time a job was done on Plaskon Road. Belmont is like a picture perfect road all of the way down because it is solid. There is only one little patch where someone dug in to put a water pipe in, or something.

George Stachowicz: Yes that was because it was beyond another treatment. We had to actually go in there and mill it down, grate it and repave it. You have to understand that is ten times the cost of the chip seal.

Alderman Kudej: I know it was a more expensive job than the chip sealing. However, try to explain to the people of what we are trying to do; we are trying to do a good job with the least amount of money.

George Stachowicz: When we look at things, I have to look at the whole town and every street has cracks in them.

Alderman Kudej: I had my street done at least three time within the past ten years and it is still not where it is supposed to be.

George Stachowicz: Crescent Street, Belmont Avenue is going to crack within the next three to four years, lateral cracking.

Chairman McPherson: On Plaskon, I think he has heavy truck traffic, and I thought maybe at some point do you make it as “no thru trucks allowed”? Do you do something like that? I know that would be more of a Traffic Division issue.

George Stachowicz: It is very hard to enforce, and I think the Traffic Division will tell you that.

Chairman McPherson: I have a question: From Riverview and William connect, when someone is doing some digging, do you guys get notified? Someone told me that we already did William Street last year and there are already markings. I asked Bob on William Street because we just did this? It is near where Riverview and William connect, but it is a few feet up. He said that he had to go pull all of the call before you dig tickets to see what it is.

George Stachowicz: Engineering is notified when someone is digging.

Chairman McPherson: He then has to go out to make sure that they re-patch it to our standards, right?

George Stachowicz: Right.

Chairman McPherson: When someone did that on Coram Road in front of St. Joseph’s Church, somebody dug that up and I said that they did a crappy job. Bob got ahold of them and had them get back out there redoing it.

George Stachowicz: Some are temporary patches and then come around to do the permanent ones, and as far as that goes it looks like a good job from what I have seen. It happens all of the time and there is no real solution to stop it; you cannot have a moratorium on it.

Chairman McPherson: Is it the utility company? Are they having something installed?

George Stachowicz: Sometimes it is a gas service, or a sewer repair. The only thing that we do is have them put a proper patch back in.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN- none presented.

5. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REPORTS OF:

D. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alderman Kudej: Laurel Heights Road on the bottom where Ballaro is building; chances of a guardrail?

George Stachowicz: The Highway Department does not think that we should be installing it. If they change grades, there are variances. Personally, we don't know how high they are going to backfillup to the hill. The slope that is there now may not be there in the final plan.

Alderman Kudej: I am not saying that we should do it; if everybody agrees that there should be a guardrail –

George Stachowicz: I think Paul talked to someone in Planning & Zoning; it was Mr. Schultz I believe.

Alderman Kudej: I just wanted to bring it up because we were talking about it for a while.

Alderman Kudej: I have one more item to bring up: Riverview Park. I know that you did not have the money to do that and it is not approved. Is that going to get any treatment?

George Stachowicz: I would be more than happy to do it but we do not have a line item for it, to take it out of a certain account.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Kudej made a motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Street Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Brittany Gannon
Brittany Gannon

