



**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
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015
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, September 1, 2015 called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen Street Committee to order at 6:05 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

Aldermen Farrell

Also Present

Paul DiMauro, Public Works Director

Jane Dowty, Mayor's Office Staff

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mike DeCamp, 147-149 North Oak Avenue

Why is it illegal to have those mirrors up on the telephone poles? There is obviously a safety purpose for them? Obviously no one is going to buy one to put on the pole to look at their house.

Alderman Kudej: Nothing is supposed to be on telephone poles because it interferes with the guys climbing up and down, servicing the wires.

Mike DeCamp: I believe it was you who said they are not even complaining about it.

Alderman Kudej: The people are not complaining about it.

Chairman McPherson: He meant to say the residents are not complaining about it.

Alderman Kudej: UI has stated that it is illegal and they do not endorse it but we have not done anything about it.

Chairman McPherson: We are at North Oak Avenue, and met with Chris.

Mike DeCamp: Chris is not coming here tonight?

Chairman McPherson: No he is not going to be here tonight. We have met with Chris about North Oak. I guess part of the issue stemmed from that huge tree that is there. The Tree Warden came by and removed some of the branches from it; I guess stuff was falling from the trees.

Mike DeCamp: Acorns were falling.

Chairman McPherson: The acorns were doing a number on everyone's cars. We were asked to come down, and he has showed us some plans, which would have brought the parking from diagonal parking to parallel parking. He showed Stan and I the plans to align, like they do on Elizabeth Street in Derby, where they do the parallel parking for the vehicles. We did not know how many vehicles he was talking about at the time, so I asked him what he was talking about. He said it was two per house, but then he said he parks one of his vehicles in that little driveway that he got. So, it would be seven vehicles that he is talking about.

Mike DeCamp: Two per house, but I have a three-family house.

Chairman McPherson: Do you have the brick house on the corner?

Mike DeCamp: Correct.

Chairman McPherson: I thought I saw you today because I had the Traffic Sergeant down there. He was walking through the area, and taking some measurements. There are a lot of different things to look into because to even line that the way Chris was talking about and according to that plan, there needs to be 25-feet before you can put any lines. You need to knock 25-feet from the corner from where Shelton Avenue starts in, so you cannot start anywhere before that. The Sergeant took the measurements, found where the 25-foot marker was, just before that little patch of asphalt.

Mike DeCamp: Of my driveway.

Chairman McPherson: Right, it is a little bit before that. Then he is saying about 10-feet per space. So he measured my Jeep, and my Jeep was a little over 10-feet. Then he measured his cruiser and that was around 14-feet, so then he said if you have ten cars and I did not know until later that it would give or take 7 cars. They said that would be if

you use the ten car number, it would be around 170-feet so he measured from where that 25-foot ends where you can begin to put lines because you have the roller that measures. Almost to the end where the barricade is, is only 160-feet. So you are ten feet short if we were even to line that. The other thing too, he needs to check with the Fire Marshal because you have the issue of getting any fire vehicles in there. We have the issue of getting the garbage trucks in there. I guess the intent was to maybe make it a little bit easier to access if the vehicles were not parked diagonally, the way they are now. It would open up the road a bit more if we were to line it with the lined parking spots. After talking with the Sergeant, he needs to look into a lot of things, he needs to talk with the Fire Marshal so it is going to require a little more of digging before we can say one way or the other. I think overall, it is going to be the Police Department, Traffic Division, which is going to have the say with that. Then, the Fire Marshal may have to sign off, as well. So we are not sure where it is going to go yet but we need to look at everything so that is why I met with him today.

Mike DeCamp: The only problem that I have, and I have nothing against Chris, I cannot rent my apartments out if I do not have parking for them and you are going to go 25-feet from the corner. That means that I am going to have one parking spot for my residency; that is not going to work. I am renting out a three-family house. When I moved there I was a renter. A couple of months later, the owner came up to me and told me he was going to sell the house and wanted to know if I wanted to buy it. The girl next door, who is a renter, was livid about the parking because there was no organization whatsoever. She came to me after I bought it and asked if I can now do something about it. Where the stop sign is, there is a white line if you recall. From there to the tree, there are three parking spots. Those were the three parking spots that I have guaranteed to my tenants. I park on the grass on the other side, which I have no problem doing that just to make it easier for everyone else.

Chairman McPherson: When you exit that driveway, do you pull straight out onto Shelton Avenue?

Mike DeCamp: Yes.

Chairman McPherson: I told the Sergeant that he would not back up, so it is a good loop. I said that I think you pull all of the way out, because that would be tough to back all of the way up.

Mike DeCamp: What I am saying now is that would be nice to have but one of tenants has been with me for almost 14 years. That tenant has a son, who is high school age, and when he gets a car or if she gets a car and the tenant upstairs fortunately has one car. If they leave, how can I rent that? Here is a beautiful apartment, nice place, beautiful town, great schools, but you cannot park here because there will not be any parking. That will infringe on my livelihood.

Chairman McPherson: Sure. So if you count from the other three houses-

Mike DeCamp: Those other houses do come into play. The last house does not come into play.

Chairman McPherson: No because they have a driveway.

Mike DeCamp: They do not have a driveway. Where the stop sign and that patch of land stops and the other house is over here, so they do not come into play. The folks over there have parking. They have parking for each tenant. Now, if you take that away from me I have a very serious problem.

Chris' thinking is not doing a good job of it because where his house is; he can pull up on his sidewalk and park away from the tree. Plus he has a driveway where his wife does park; he has plenty of parking if all he has to do to go up on the sidewalk. I had my Jeep brand new and I pulled in, and an acorn hit it. Then I had a house in Derby, and I had the blueberry things so it is nature; what are you going to do? He does have plenty of space to park off of the street. I have seen him pull right up on the street because he wants my tenants, and says now I am going to parallel park from now on which he shouldn't have done that. I have owned the house for 19 years, and that is not going to change overnight because he wants it to change. When he was parked, the people could not get through and it was rude. He did not have to do that. He has plenty of space to park off of the road; two-thirds of his truck could go off of the road.

Chairman McPherson: His truck alone is around 20 feet. When I met with the Sergeant, he has a lot of looking into to do some things. Even again, the Fire Marshal would have to assess it.

Mike DeCamp: Are there any streets that do not get the big trucks for the garbage, because the street is so small that they have smaller trucks to pick up the garbage?

Chairman McPherson: I only know of the big ones that we have.

Mike DeCamp: You are telling me that every street in Shelton except for mine they cannot get down?

Chairman McPherson: The part of Cliff Street, just down below where you are, I think the truck has to go down one side because the thing is only on one side. I heard and I forgot to ask the Public Works Director when he was here, that when the truck comes back out he needs to turn around and back down to collect on the other side.

Mike DeCamp: They are just wheeling their garbage to my corner.

Chairman McPherson: If I am going on to your street and your house is on my right, the house at the end on the very left, are they wheeling their garbage out?

Mike DeCamp: I believe they are; there must be around 4 to 8 cans.

Chairman McPherson: The Sergeant asked me why don't they wheel it across the street, where the bucket can do it there?

Mike DeCamp: The bucket only goes as far as Chris' house and that is it. I believe there are only one or two cars down that side. The tenants have been bringing their garbage out front, so it is a routine and it is a nuisance in the snow.

Chairman McPherson: Those trucks are very large.

Mike DeCamp: That is why I was questioning another smaller service. I know for a fact there is one in Oxford.

Alderman Kudej: I have not seen any smaller ones with the automatic lifts.

Chairman McPherson: The city owns those trucks. We own the trucks, and the company lease the trucks from us as part of the contract that we have. We do not have any smaller ones; what you see is what it is.

Mike DeCamp: Are you 100% positive on that?

Chairman McPherson: I am sure. We own all of them.

Mike DeCamp: On Thursdays I go to the Oxford Reservoir, and there is a residency that I know where I get bottles and cans and I give them to charities. I go there on Thursdays because I can get a \$1.50 to \$2.00 worth of cans from them, and they have their blue bucket. Everybody else has the big tubs.

Chairman McPherson: It might be a private service.

Alderman Kudej: A lot of the condos have their own private pickup.

Mike DeCamp: I know our Parks Department does our plowing.

Chairman McPherson: Yes because we cannot get a big truck in there, but that is a concern too. I think with what the Police Department looks into and with what the Fire Marshal says, I think that will really determine whether that is what is going to happen.

Mike DeCamp: I am glad that it is not just going to happen.

Alderman Kudej: There is going to be a lot of talk before it happens.

Mike DeCamp: Maybe if you angle things, or do something. What I do not want is my livelihood to be affected by it.

Alderman Kudej: You are absolutely right; you have a three-family house right now and it could go over to 4 or 5 vehicles.

Mike DeCamp: I can guarantee now that one of them can park across the street, and on North Oak towards the golf course.

Chairman McPherson: This is not something that is going to be decided immediately.

Mike DeCamp: You are going to have to come out 25 feet from that corner; you are not going to get anything from my house. He is not going to get any parking, and if I park in front of him where is he going to park? I can park a car in front of his because it is city parking. I do not own that parking spot.

Chairman McPherson: It is a city street.

Mike DeCamp: I think he is thinking he is going to get two parking spots, and no one is going to touch them.

Chairman McPherson: Some parts on Howe Avenue, some of the residents put cones out. It is a public street. You cannot block off a public street.

Mike DeCamp: I want to ask, why did you stop the bulk pickup? Like if I have a chair and can't put it on the sidewalk.

Chairman McPherson: That stopped years ago.

Alderman Kudej: So before we do anything, you will get notified.

Chairman McPherson: This is going to be a while because there is a lot to look into.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 SPECIAL STREET COMMITTEE MEETING- JULY 7, 2015

Alderman Kudej MOVED to waive the reading and approve the Special Street Committee Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2015.

SECONDED by Chairman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED 3-0.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 TEN COAT LANE

DISCUSSION:

Paul DiMauro: What is the item on Ten Coat Lane for?

Chairman McPherson: A woman sent in an email; I guess it has been many years since it was done over there.

Paul DiMauro: The request should be sent to Highways and Bridges, and Public Works. We are looking at every street in the City. We are getting close to been able to say to you, "this is how much we will need to give it a go around throughout the City". So by the end of this season, I will be able to give you that information of how many roads are left.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 SIGNS ON CITY PROPERTY/POLES

Paul DiMauro: Okay folks, now you can talk about the signs on property/poles. I just think you need some direction on who is going to be responsible in the City, to take them down off the poles when we already have the authority, because that is by state statute. By state statute, the City is allowed to remove the signs. That is a state statute, so you do not need an ordinance for that.

Paul DiMauro left the meeting room at approximately 6:16 P.M.

Chairman McPherson: Speaking of the Tree Warden, under the state statutes, powers and duties of the Tree Wardens, it is Section 23-59: *"The town or borough tree warden shall have the care and control of all trees, shrubs, in whole or part within the limits of public road, grounds, or within the limits of the town/borough, except those along state highways, under the control of the Commissioner of Transportation".* Then it goes on to say: *"The tree warden shall remove, or cause to be removed any illegally erected sign, advertisements placed on poles, trees or other objects within public roads or place, under the tree warden's jurisdiction".*

Alderman Farrell: Oh that is good. Who is the Tree Warden?

Chairman McPherson: Dean Cawthra. I believe we can use this because this is a state statute, in addition the other state statute, which I forgot the section number that has to do with signs on utility poles. State statute mandates that the cities/towns need to enforce it. They also carry a \$50.00 fine for that. When we had written the ordinance, we had incorporated that into the ordinance but I think this is really a two-part process. Gene Sullivan already had received the information on the kiosks. If we go ahead and do that, we would get one at a time. You can put all of your non-profit stuff on them. Then, the question came up with people and their businesses. Can they go on the kiosk and they could be charged to go on it? Those fees would go towards the upkeep of these things and the maintenance. I would guess that would not be a bad idea. We need to start somewhere, so the first thing is what the costs are for these.

Jane Dowty: I was just going to ask you what those costs would be.

Chairman McPherson: I think they are anywhere between \$17,000 and \$24,000. It depends on the size and what the capabilities are. Then of course, who would you have to administer it? Would it be Rudy? Likely? Maybe? Someone would have to go and put the stuff in, then we would then have to come up with a policy for how long the signs need to be on there.

Jane Dowty: There would be a beginning, and end and what comes up and what come down. You are going to need an approval form.

Chairman McPherson: Like an application form, I would imagine? So that would probably be needed. We would need to know how long the sign would be posted on the kiosk, and after a certain amount of days it will be done. When they have a charity event or what not, it should come down the day after the event. What we have right now is people putting up their signs, or when their event is over they never come back to take the signs down. This is why we wind up where we are at right now.

Jane Dowty: It is no different from the people who place signs for tag sales.

Chairman McPherson: When I am in downtown Shelton and I see them on the poles, I take them down because they do not bother to do it. Then what happens is that the signs blow off goes all over the place and now becomes litter. We could use the litter ordinance. About a one-year or so ago, a company from Fairfield came here to post over 100 signs and plastered them all over the city. It was some company promoting SAT scores; they were everywhere. Fred Wills had contacted the guy, and he said that he did not put them there. He had said that he had hired employees to put the signs up. He said he did not care and that it was our signs. They are responsible; they know where they are putting them and you cannot do that. The guy was supposed to meet with Fred and myself, and the guy just blew us off. I had then called him from home, and I had gotten into a real discussion with him and said that he will be hearing from the Police Department because we have a littering ordinance that carries a \$250 fine. I said that I will have you fined \$250 per sign, and he had around 100 signs all over the city. I had contacted the Police Department, and the Police Chief had an officer contact that person. It was not long after that the signs were gone. That is a tool that we can use right now, for the time being until we get a policy set in place. If we do the kiosks, then we need to have a policy for that. Then, I think there is something else that says that you cannot be plastering signs on phone poles, and everything else.

Jane Dowty: Once we know what is going to happen, that information can be sent to the public at that time to notify them of the procedure.

Chairman McPherson: If we can do that, we can put it on the City's website. It is kind a hard thing to undertake, so we will need a lot of guidance of where we are going to go on this and how we are going to do it. I think for the time being this is a start. For the time being, we do have things at our disposal that we can craft something. For the administrative part if we were doing the kiosk thing, it would come out of the administration for how this is going to work. Then we would need something coming from the Street Committee for the rest of it.

Jane Dowty: Right because we are in the early stages right now, and we will have to tweak it along the way.

Chairman McPherson: I think any ordinance over a period of time; we need to bring it back. We may also need to bring back the trash ordinance and tweak that again.

Jane Dowty: Did Gene have a lot of information, with regards to the kiosk, as you have said with their capabilities and different levels?

Chairman McPherson: I know he had a cost breakdown. I think the Town of Cheshire has them.

Jane Dowty: There are a number of other towns that have them as well. I know Cheshire has them because I have seen them.

Chairman McPherson: I know that he has those numbers. We were looking for what kind of ordinance or a policy that they had regarding it. I will check with Gene to see where we are going with this. I am wondering if you can put more than one up at a time.

Jane Dowty: Yes usually because you see it goes from one to the next.

Chairman McPherson: So it is not where you can put six up at one time?

Jane Dowty: No.

Chairman McPherson: So we will let Gene get us that information on what they can do. The other thing is who is going to manage it? That is the other thing we need to do as well.

Jane Dowty: That may go through the Mayor's Office, we do not know.

Chairman McPherson: We would try to come up with the other half of that, because there still needs to be something that says you cannot plaster signs everywhere. For that, we may need to bring back the old ordinance.

Alderman Kudej: You keep referring to signs, and such. It is against our policy to have mirrors on telephone poles, and there seems to be more and more of them coming up. It is supposed to be illegal, but I noticed there is more and more popping up.

Jane Dowty: How do you track it to find out who put them up?

Alderman Kudej: The people from UI know who is doing it, but they are not complaining. The neighbors feel that it is helpful because they can spot the traffic. It is helpful to the drivers, but it is also illegal. So what do you do there?

Chairman McPherson: So going forward, there is a lot to look into with this, and the how-to's so I do not suspect this will be a quick solution. It will probably take several months. We will pick up again, and go from there.

Combined discussion on Items 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4:

3.2 CORNER OF LAUREL HEIGHTS ROAD & CORAM ROAD – UPDATES

3.3 CORAM ROAD BRUSH/ CANOPY

3.4 CORAM ROAD BETWEEN AUDOBON & PLASKON- UPDATES

Paul DiMauro: We have already cut the brushes; we cannot use the machine that we have. Anything with a canopy would have to be referred to the Tree Warden, so I would ask that we would send a notice to the Tree Warden for him to address those canopies in the area of Audobon and Plaskon.

Chairman McPherson: I think it is the issue of the canopies.

Paul DiMauro: Yes because we already did the best that we could with our machine with whatever we could do, weeks ago.

Now with the corner of Laurel Heights Road and Coram – This is a large, private hedging that has been growing out into Coram for years and years. Now it has become to the point of a site line issue. I had the City Engineer go ahead to look at it, and had instructed him to send a letter to the property owner. Per ordinance, they need to address it and take care of the site line and cut it. By ordinance, if they do not do it within thirty days, then we will have to address it ourselves and do it through the ordinance.

Alderman Kudej: I had noticed that it had been trimmed a little bit on the edge that had been sticking out.

Paul DiMauro: So the City Engineer has been authorized to send a letter to him, pursuant to the ordinance, and they have within thirty days to resolve the issue. The new ordinance reads that if there is an obstruction of some sort we can do it, but when it is ornamental in this nature, you need to give the resident a chance to trim it properly rather than having us put our machine on it.

3.5 JOHN STREET- UPDATE

Paul DiMauro: John Street should not be on here, but for informational purposes it is on our schedule to be done for this year. Time permitting, we do intend to mill and overlay that on John Street. There are a few streets in that area that we are trying to hit; we have to rent a milling machine to do it.

Combined discussion on Items 3.6 and 3.7:

3.6 GUIDE RAIL REQUEST- WALNUT TREE HILL ROAD NEAR INTERSECTION OF SAW MILL CITY ROAD (MEANS BROOK)- UPDATE

3.7 GUIDE RAIL REQUEST – ROCKY REST ROAD HEADING TOWARDS RIVER ROAD NEAR INTERSECTION OF OLD CORAM - UPDATE

Paul DiMauro: As you all have a copy of the memo that was sent to the Traffic Division, because I think they were the ones who originated this. With guide rail requests, I believe they need to get reviewed by the Traffic Division and City Engineer, but mostly the Traffic Division quite honestly. They should be saying for safety reasons, which are why we need them. In the way that he had drawn it up, I think that it is a problem. I think someone needs to talk to the residents before anything gets done because if they are still using a driveway, then we are blocking off a driveway there. The rail should come into the driveway, on the bottom side. I do not know if they are going to go ahead with this? We might need to go back to Sergeant Siglinger to contact George or I, to coordinate the installation of a guardrail on Rocky Rest, so it does not interfere what seems to appear a driveway still in use by the resident.

On the same item, there was something on Walnut Tree Hill Road, in which we need further clarification on what exactly where that was. I do not know who brought that up originally, but it was Saw Mill City Road and it says Means Brook, which can lead you into two or three places up there. So whoever brought that up needs to give us further clarification, or else we are going to drop that item for now.

Chairman McPherson: I remember when this first came up there was a lot of confusion, as to where it was.

Paul DiMauro: There is still a lot of confusion, because no one seems to know where it is.

Chairman McPherson: I will have to do some research of where this originated.

Paul DiMauro: This does not need to wait for the next meeting, or on this agenda so you can get back to us on that. Just send it to us so that we could automatically take care of this for you.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN –None.

5. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REPORTS OF:

D. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman McPherson: Paul before you leave, I want you to pass these on to Ernie. I emailed him some pictures, and I also have to get the Housing Officer involved, regarding Cliff Street. The tenant moved out, and it is one of those rentals; he dumped all of the stuff out on the sidewalk. I took the pictures, and sent them to Ernie. In this one, they had overstuffed the recycle bins. I had sent him the pictures late this afternoon.

Paul DiMauro: I am happy when they overstuff the recycle bins because I am happy to give them another recycling bin. I am refusing any requests for additional trash containers because it is absolute nonsense. If you had lived with it for three years, you should be able to live with it. There should not be more, unless you are not recycling properly. We will give residents an additional recycling container at no cost.

Chairman McPherson: I had noticed that on Friday, Shelton Pizza had garbage stuffed into the blue bin, as well.

Paul DiMauro: You need to get a picture of that, or give us a call and we will take care of that. There are a lot of more people that are asking for additional recycling containers, so that is good. We are three years into the program; we had started September 1st three years ago.

Alderman Farrell: The recycling bin at the transfer station always fills up fast, and it is hard to get into that because you need to be really tall.

Paul DiMauro: There are people there, and there is no reason why that someone should not be assisting you. If they are not assisting you, I will make a point of that. I am going to put a sign over there saying if you need a hand, to please ask or something like that.

Alderman Farrell: Thank you. I have helped some people.

Paul DiMauro: There is no reason why we should have that problem. They are doing a good job over at the Transfer Station. I have Bob Shuby in charge, John, who lives on Long Hill Avenue and Alex is the young fellow.

Alderman Farrell: They are all very nice.

Paul DiMauro: They have been instructed to help people as much as possible.

Alderman Farrell: They are wonderful; I always talk to them. I have been going there for years.

Paul DiMauro: It is a good operation over there; as well the mattresses are getting recycled as well.

Alderman Kudej: Are trees being reported to you (Paul DiMauro)?

Paul DiMauro: Dean reports to me.

Alderman Kudej: I did not see New Street on the list, so I was wondering where that was.

Paul DiMauro: Anything on that request, please notify him (Dean) directly and copy me.

Alderman Kudej: I believe it was 5 New Street. Right at the beginning when going up the hill, there are trees that are dead.

Paul DiMauro: That should be a routine matter. If it is dead, he should be taking them down. Jane, please copy me on those requests so I could follow up with him. Dean is the Tree Warden, and yes he does answer to me.

Paul DiMauro: Okay folks, now you can talk about the signs on property/poles. I just think you need some direction on who is going to be responsible in the City, to take them down off the poles when we already have the authority, because that is by state statute. By state statute, the City is allowed to remove the signs. That is a state statute, so you do not need an ordinance for that.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Brittany Gannon
Brittany Gannon

