

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair M. Lyons; Co-chair R. Bonney; Council members: J. Olson, S. Stafstrom, R. Paoletto

NON-COMMITTEE: Council member Banta, Brantley, Council President McCarthy

Co-chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes: April 2, 2013 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Co-chair Lyons stated that the agenda would be taken out of order.

59-12 Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width located at 4200 Park Avenue – Jewish Home Fairfield County Project.

Attorney Raymond Rizio was in attendance to present the item to the committee. He stated that the matter had been through the zoning process and they received approval to move the Jewish Home from Fairfield to Bridgeport. He said the move will create jobs. He explained that the matter was before the committee for the limited purpose of constructing a driveway more than 20 feet wide. There are currently five (5) driveways and they are taking them down to two (2) curb cuts- *as pointed out on the map*. He went on to say there is a 60 foot opening that technically violates city council approval for width. He explained that the reason they need the large driveway is due to the location on Park Avenue to allow people going right and not north; people will need to

make a left hand turn, so it's important to have two (2) exit lanes. The second driveway will be located to the south that will accommodate emergency vehicles at 32 feet wide. He further explained that traffic wise, they are eliminating five (5) curb cuts and replacing them with only two (2) curb cuts. Overall, he stated that it's a better plan and it will align traffic in a more orderly manner.

Jon Urquidi, City Engineer added that the plan will reduce the number of aprons, but one of the driveways that he pointed out on the map will need to be a signalized intersection. He clarified that he didn't have any objection to the width of the driveway.

Attorney Rizio stated that he believed approval of the request was warranted and he reiterated that the city engineer had no objection to the increase in the driveway widths.

Co-chair Lyons asked what type of lighting was planned. Mr. Urquidi stated the lighting still needed to be reviewed and it will be taken care of through the building permit process.

Attorney Rizio clarified for Council member Olson exactly where the exits and entrance to the center would be by referencing the map.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

62-12 Iranistan Avenue Sidewalk Replacement – Utilizing Federal Funds under the Urban

(Ref. #36-11) Component of the Surface Transportation Program: State Project No. 15-358, Federal- Aid Project No. 1015(124).

Jon Urquidi, City Engineer presented the item to the committee. He recalled there were previous resolutions for this project and item 61-12. He said in order to move forward, they needed specific resolutions for each item according to the state agreement that will allow the Mayor to sign off on both contracts.

Council member Brantley asked where the project starts. Mr. Urquidi said it would start at State Street to Railroad Avenue.

Council member Brantley asked when the resolution was submitted. Mr. Urquidi said it was submitted during October. He relayed that trees were the reason the sidewalks are in disrepair. He stated that they received state and federal funding for the project, where normally the property owner would be responsible for fixing the sidewalk.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

61-12 Main Street Traffic Signal Improvements – Utilizing Federal Funds under the Urban

(Ref. #35-11) Component of the Surface Transportation Program: State Project No. 15-360, Federal- Aid Project No. 1015(126).

Jon Urquidi stated that this project was previously approved during February 2012. The project involves the replacement of twenty (20) signals on Main Street. He explained that the project will entail an overall intersection improvement from South Frontage to Old Town Road.

Council member Bonney asked when the signal lights are replaced, will a camera come with them. Mr. Urquidi said yes, but he clarified that the camera will **not** be used for monitoring speeding; it will only be used for reporting signal malfunction and strictly used for traffic control operation.

Council President McCarthy asked if they planned on replacing every single light on Main Street. Mr. Urquidi said yes, with the exception of the lights on Charles Street that was replaced two years ago.

Council member Brantley asked if the paving currently going on downtown would disrupt the project. Mr. Urquidi said the roadway won't be torn up, but the existing curb line may be. He mentioned that this is also a state project.

Council member Olson asked if the project was 100% federally funded. Mr. Urquidi said yes for the Main Street project. And the funding is 80%>20% for the Iranistan Avenue project.

Mr. Urquidi commented that the signals going in are meant to process and know when a car is coming. He explained that the signal delay will depend on the actual demand at a specific intersection.

Council President McCarthy questioned if the camera system stops functioning, will it default to a normal time schedule. Mr. Urquidi said yes, it will convert to recall on a fixed time.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

52-12 Appointment of William Marshall (D) to the Fire Commission.

William Marshall addressed the committee and stated that he is a lifelong resident of Bridgeport and has resided on the north end and east side of Bridgeport. He further stated that he is a business owner and has owned a barber shop for the seventeen years. He said he was also the pastor of a multi-cultural congregation. He expressed that he is in tune with what is going on in the city and he realizes the importance of serving on the commission.

Council member Brantley stated that William Marshall also served as a legislative aide at a young age for the late Margaret Morton and he did a great job for four years.

Council President McCarthy stated that he has known William Marshall for approximately one year and he has learned that he is a man of great character and a good person for the City of Bridgeport. He added that he has been instrumental working on the city charter, an open minded person and strong in his convictions. He expressed that he would be proud to support him.

Council member Olson asked Mr. Marshall why he wanted to serve on the Fire Commission. Mr. Marshall stated that in getting to know the fire men and women; he has learned the importance of what goes on internally.

Council member Paoletto stated that he worked with William Marshall a lot during the charter review committee meetings. And he felt that his past performance with the charter would serve him well on the Fire Commission.

Council member Bonney stated that he has known William Marshall since he was very young. He expressed that he watched him grow and he commended his accomplishments. He said he proudly supported the appointment to the Fire Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

It was stated that the appointment will become official, once it passes the full city council vote.

32-12 Resolution to schedule an information session to dialogue on Anti-Violence.

Co-chair Lyons stated that this item would be tabled, because the maker of the resolution wasn't present.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

47-12 Proposed Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street between Main Street and the Easement known as Middle Street.

Co-chair Lyons stated that Council member Taylor-Moye was in favor of the discontinue request – *she read a letter in support of the discontinuance from Council member Banta and Council member Taylor-Moye of the 134th District.*

Bill Coleman, Director Neighborhood Development submitted the 8-24 Referral approval from Planning & Zoning. He reviewed the area that is located between Main Street and Middle Street and the City Savings building. He pointed out that a portion of the street will be discontinued to create a pedestrian walkway. He said the investment will be made in the pedestrian plaza by Fletcher Thompson. He said there is a sewer

easement that is tight at 10 feet on either side that needs to stay open. And a utility road is planned to go in – *he stated that a note from Bill Robinson, WPCA was submitted.* Mr. Coleman asked for support of the project.

Council President McCarthy stated he was in favor of the project. He stated that the project in conjunction with Fletcher Thompson would bring a good project.

Mr. Urquidi oriented the committee to details about the project as he reference the map displayed.

Council member Paoletto thanked Bill Coleman for everything that was requested and in order for the committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE
SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL
** COUNCIL MEMBER TOM McCARTHY SECONDED**

***Consent calendar**

56-12 Proposed Resolution regarding the removal of a Utility Easement along the former Riparian Street.

Bill Coleman stated that when the city discloses properties, typically a public hearing should be held. He explained that Riparian Street was constructed years ago, noting that it's the first side street on the left from the old AGI rubber factory. He further explained that two paper parcels were separated and abandoned by the city council in 1975. He said there is a utility easement that needs to be abandoned, noting that the easement has been cleared from gas service.

He went on to explain that the reason there is interest in this street is because they have a developer looking to construct retail along the site and a public easement will be constructed. However, they want to make sure that title is clear and that's the reason for the easement approval. He clarified that the land would be sold, not given away per Council member Brantley's question.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
***Consent calendar**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE SCHEDULING**
OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL
**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services