

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY and TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly; Co-chair, Lyons; Co-chair,
A. Ayala, M. Ayala, Brantley, *Bonney, *Taylor-Moye,

*= *arrived late*

NON-COMMITTEE: Council members: Baker, M. McCarthy

Co-chair Brannelly called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes: March 1, 2011

** **COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA SECONDED**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

44-10 Letter of Commitment – Pavement Rehabilitation and Resurfacing
of John Street, Lafayette Boulevard, Water Street and North
Frontage Road Utilizing Funding from the STP-Urban Program;
State Project No. 15-352.

John Urquidi, Engineering Supervisor stated that the project was implemented by OPED and GBRPA for a streets pavement project. It was found that some non-eligible roadways scheduled for storm/sewer separation would be excluded from the project and limited to the following roadways:

- John Street from West Avenue to Water Street
- Lafayette Blvd. from North Frontage Road to John Street
- Water Street from North Frontage Road to Stratford Avenue
- North Frontage Road from Water Street to the overpass carrying the S.B. 1-95 Exit 27 off-ramp to Lafayette Blvd.

He explained that there will be a 3” mill and overlay of the existing roadway and trench work. He stated that 80% of the project will be federally funded and 20% of the cost will come from the city.

Council member A. Ayala started the he has received calls from downtown business owners. He commented that he talked to the Mayor about the 3" layer surface, noting that there was some concern that it wouldn't last long and that it will eventually have to be redone. Mr. Urquidi stated that prior to construction, they will advise that the roadway needs to be put in and within the next six months, they will then do the utilities work.

Council member A. Ayala asked if the four streets are the only ones they are resurfacing. Mr. Urquidi said the four streets are coming out of the federal pot of money. Council member A. Ayala asked if he could meet with him before Friday, to discuss the matter further. Mr. Urquidi acknowledged the request.

Co-chair Brannelly asked what the cost will be to the city. Mr. Urquidi said the total estimated cost is \$2.7 million or approximately \$525k for each street.

Council member Brantley asked who would come back to do the digging. Mr. Urquidi explained there will be portions of the project where the trenches are in bad shape. So they will take out 12"-16" of stone underneath and compact it with a finished surface on top.

Council member Brantley asked what area of Lafayette Blvd. they would be paving. Mr. Urquidi said it will be the area from Prospect Street to John Street.

Council member Baker asked if Stratford Avenue was owned by the state. Mr. Urquidi said the portion of Stratford Avenue to be paved isn't a state road.

Co-chair Lyons asked if there was anything that needed to be fixed for this project in the public utilities area. Mr. Urquidi responded right now no, however, if they find that there is work to be done, then they will go in to do it. He commented that the utility company has to be accountable for the work they do.

Co-chair Lyons asked about the area surrounding the railroad station, in terms beautification. She questioned if the funds they were speaking of, was in addition to the beautification projects funding. It was stated that the money for the project they are speaking of tonight is independent of the beautification grant money. This project is specific to roadway paving only. It was noted that 20% of the city's contribution will come out of the capital improvements fund.

Council member Brantley asked about the area between Broad Street and State Street. Mr. Urquidi said they cancelled that portion of the project, because of the storm sewer separation project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

48-10 Agreement with Connecticut Department of Transportation for federal assistance under the Surface Transportation Program (STPB) Bridgeport-Stamford Urban Area re: Planning Study for Pedestrian Bridge and Walkway over Ash Creek.

Mike Nidoh, Director of Planning stated that he had instructions from the Assistant city clerk on how to proceed with this item in terms of the amendment – *he distributed copies of the amended resolution.*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE
RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND SUBMITTED
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

Mr. Nidoh explained that the new train station will be named Fairfield Metro. Although the project wasn't initially embraced, they are now going forward. There is a section of Fox Street where they will build a pedestrian bridge over Ash Creek to allow people to walk over and access the train station. They received federal funding in the amount of \$120k and the City of Bridgeport will fund \$30k of the project, so it's an 80/40 split. He noted that the city will work with Brian Bidolli, GBRPA on the project. They entered into an agreement with GBRPA and the City of Bridgeport instead of the State DOT. He mentioned that they were looking at doing a feasibility study to create the walkway.

Co-chair Brannelly asked if he knew the amount of funding it will be to do the project. Mr. Nidoh said the state requires that the study be done first, before they can ascertain funding for the design and construction. Mr. Bidolli agreed this was correct.

Mr. Nidoh mentioned that there's a watercourse to consider between the two municipalities.

Council member Brantley asked if they will also look at safety issues related to the project. Mr. Nidoh's response was yes. He said as far as who will be responsible if someone gets hurt, that will have to be worked out between the two municipalities. He agreed there will be an element of safety to consider from street traffic flow.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked the start and ending dates for the project. Mr. Nidoh said the feasibility will take six to nine months to complete.

Council member A. Ayala asked if the Town of Fairfield has been contacted about the project. Mr. Bidolli said yes, they're all aware of the project and in favor of it.

Council member M. McCarthy stated that as a representative of the district, he wholeheartedly supported the project. He said he believed the project will raise property values and get the multi-units filled up. Co-chair Brannelly echoed his comments.

Council member Baker asked what line item of the budget was the funding for the feasibility study coming from. Mr. Nidoh said he wasn't sure. However, he noted that Tom Sherwood advised him that the money will be found, but that he will have to wait until budget time is over.

Council member Baker recommended that Mr. Sherwood submit the line item budget source that the money was coming from. Co-chair Lyons agreed and she suggested that they should also submit the same information for items 44-10; 48-10 and 49-10.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM BASED UPON THE CONDITION RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER THAT OPM SUBMIT THE BUDGET LINE ITEM INFORMATION**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

Co-chair Lyons announced that the agenda would be taken out of order to take up the following item:

56-10 Request to Honor Bishop Jonathan Powell by the ceremonial designation of Wilmot Avenue as Bishop Jonathan Powell Avenue by adding his name above street signage on Wilmot Avenue.

Co-chair Lyons updated that WPCA didn't have any objection to the request. Co-chair Lyons read over the comments from the city engineer, John Urquidi who recommended that the honorary name be placed above the existing street name; instead of having two street signs.

Mr. Urquidi stated that per his comments, he didn't have a problem with the request. He explained that his comments only reflected the same recommendation he has made in the past for similar types of requests, from a public safety perspective. Co-chair Lyons stated that it might be a good idea to consider the city engineer's comments by possibly adopting a policy in the future.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

49-10 Agreement with Connecticut Department of Transportation for federal assistance under the Surface Transportation Program (STPB) Bridgeport-Stamford Urban Area re: Planning Study for Realignment of Lafayette Circle.

Mr. Nidoh stated that this project was similar to item 48-10. It involves the Connecticut Department of Transportation under the Surface Transportation Program Urban Area for the realignment of Lafayette Circle. They received 80% of state funding and the city will fund the 20% match - *he distributed the new resolution*. He said a feasibility study will be done to straighten out Lafayette Circle. He referred to the old master plan that outlined plans to realign Lafayette Boulevard. The study will outline the recommendation and the cost estimate.

Council member A. Ayala asked the exact location where the project will be done. Mr. Nidoh said the project will be done at the Sikorsky Federal Credit Union location at the entrance on the left. This project will eliminate the circle and realign the roadway leading to I-95. He noted that the project is similar to what was done on Tresser Boulevard in Stamford.

Council member A. Ayala asked if the exit ramp will be changed. Mr. Nidoh said there will be minor changes that will involve 10 to 15 feet at best.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO AMEND
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Nidoh stated that he wasn't sure where the \$30k for the cost of the project would come from. However, as with the other project they discussed; Mr. Sherwood said he would find the money in the budget.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
** COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

53-10 Application for Driveway Permit: #680 Park Avenue – Roosevelt School.

Mr. Nidoh updated that Roosevelt School will be demolished and there will be a new school built. He said the project passed the preliminary design stage and the new front door will now be located on Prospect Street. He explained that the city ordinance requires a maximum 20 ft. wide flare drive opening, so they are asking for a driveway permit waiver to widen the driveway at the school. He noted that this was done for the newer schools that were built.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if there will be a front door on the Park Avenue side of the school. Mr. Nidoh said no, but there will be an emergency access gate on that side for emergencies only. Otherwise, the gate will be locked and the main entrance will be on Prospect Street.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if the design plans were available yet. Mr. Urquidi said no, the matter has to go before zoning for approval first.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
*Consent calendar**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTELY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services