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June 26, 2018

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Councillors Joel Kaddy (chair), Paul Beauchemin, Dave Clark, Marissa Fleming, Sam Squailia

Committee Members Absent: (none)

Others Present: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington
Councillor Tom Donnelly

Action taken as follows:

Petition 038-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin and City Solicitor Vincent Pusateri to petition the City Council to authorize all actions to ensure that the property located at 150 Legros St be provided access via public ways. It appears the City will be required to cause a survey, obtain an appraisal and perform a taking by eminent domain.

Discussion: Solicitor Pusateri stated via telephone that he researched the matter further and the only way the city can resolve the problem is to take a section of the former paper street by eminent domain. Councillor Kaddy questioned whether the city should get involved in a private property matter, while Councillor Donnelly said that an easement might take care of it. Also, the "Shea Street" sign should be removed since the street is now private property. Some members of the Committee would like to hear additional details from Solicitor Pusateri before the full Council. The Committee voted, 3-2, to GRANT the petition (Kaddy and Fleming opposed).

Petition 048-18: Councillors Elizabeth Walsh and Marcus DiNatale along with resident Mary Fritz, to erect jersey barriers at the corner of 400 Rollstone Road (intersection of Rollstone Road and Brittany Lane), to mitigate frequent motor vehicle accidents occurring on residents property.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington met the property owner on site. They agreed that DPW should install bollards and additional boulders. This will accomplish the same thing as jersey barriers but would be more esthetically pleasing. Cost is about \$500. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 131-18: Councillors Marisa Fleming and Marcus DiNatale on behalf of Raul and Yeydi Jimenez, to investigate and implement remedies to mitigate/ and or prevent property damage to 162 Townsend Street resulting from motor vehicle incidents that frequently damage the property's fencing..

Discussion: Councillor Fleming stated that there have been several motor vehicle accidents at this location, resulting in damage to the property, and there used to be a guardrail at this location. Councillor Donnelly believes that it would be a bad precedent for the city to install a barrier or guard rail. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition, requesting Superintendent Withington to work on a solution with the property owner.

Petition 132-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to establish a height limit for utility poles in the City of Fitchburg.

Discussion: Councillor Beauchemin wants to limit pole heights because 75' poles were proposed last year, and tall poles would be unsightly. Commissioner Laakso has not yet received an opinion from the City Solicitor on whether the City can impose restrictions on utilities that are already regulated by Department of Public Utilities. Councillor Kaddy said that this is an engineering matter so the Council should not dictate any restrictions on poles. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 183-18: Councillor Marisa Fleming to install a berm at 453 Fisher Road just after the right hand turn from Pearl Hill Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington looked at the site and agrees that a berm is required to control runoff. Estimated cost is \$500. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 184-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of George Schmidt, to place "no parking" signs from FHA at Valley Street to Romano Ave.

Discussion: This petition was submitted for an opinion from DPW Commissioner. Commissioner Laakso stated that he assumes that the petition involves Canton Street even though it was not so stated. Councillor Beauchemin said that removing the parking would invite speeding. Councillor Donnelly added that residents would have no place for visitors to park on holidays, etc. Councillor Squailia has heard concerns that the street is too narrow during the winter when vehicles park adjacent to snow banks. Commissioner Laakso said that he will review this with the Police Dept. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 197-18: Councillor Amy Green to repair sunken manhole cover at 260 Walton Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that the manhole will be repaired as part of routine maintenance. Cost is about \$600. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 198-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of Peter Tosoni, 52 Albee Street, to remedy the bamboo issue at the corner of Albee and Nimity property that is causing damage to city and private property.

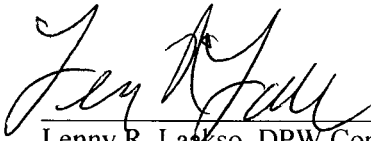
Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that the Knotweed will be cut by the DPW brush cutter during its routine. Cost is about \$50. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 199-18: Councillor Michael Kushmerek to repair a city-owned fence on the Marshal Street portion of a property located at 20 Simonds Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that DPW will repair the fence while installing the new sidewalks at this location. Cost is about \$700. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lenny R. Laakso, DPW Commissioner
Clerk of Committee

Distribution:

Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
City Clerk, City Councillors
Gary Bevilacqua, Assistant City Engineer
Gary Withington, Superintendent of Streets
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