

3-5
TJA

MINUTES

City Council Workshop Meeting

February 17, 2015

City Council Chambers 5:30PM

Present: Mayor Bouley; Councilors Todd, Herschlag, McClure, Champlin, Grady Sexton, Shurtleff, Coen, Keach, Bennett, Matson, White Bouchard, and St. Hilaire. Councilors Werner and Nyhan were absent.

Mayor Bouley opened the meeting at approximately 5:40 PM. He explained the purpose of the session was to discuss the City's highway improvement program, as well as the "out years" of the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Highway Improvement Program

The City Manager and staff from the General Services Department exhibited a presentation to the City Council which detailed the current condition of the City's local roadway system, historical spending levels on annual roadway reconstruction programs, as well as future projections of the amount of highway which will be reconstructed given current spending levels. The presentation included a recommendation for the City to issue a \$4 million bond to assist with reconstruction of local highways over the next two years.

Capital Improvement Program

The City Council then undertook a detailed review of the out years of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The out years of the CIP are FY 2016-2024. The review was done by topical area.

1. Airport: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
2. Arena: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
3. Bridges: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:
 - a. Discussion of the State Bridge Aid Program ensued. It was noted that demand for State funding was not presently high and that the City Administration should consider expediting CIP 361, 478, or 498 to take advantage of potentially available State funds.
 - b. CIP 518 Turtle Town Dam: Councilor McClure suggested that the City consider removing the dam to restore natural flow of the water body. Ed Roberge, City Engineer, discussed the City's historical approach for managing flowage and specific repairs needed for the dam. Following the discussion, no changes were made to the project.
4. Cemeteries: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
5. Community Planning: No changes were made to any projects in this category.

6. Downtown: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
7. Fire Vehicles: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
8. Golf: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
9. General Services Vehicles: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
10. Information Technology and Communications: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
11. Intersections: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
12. Other Vehicles: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
13. Parking: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
14. Parks and Open Space: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:
 - a. CIP 51 White Park: It was the consensus of the City Council to delay the new skate house project from FY2016 to a future out year due to lack of private donations to undertake the project in the next fiscal year.
 - b. CIP 557: There were several comments offered by multiple City Councilors regarding the potential need for a Needs Assessment and Master Plan for Memorial Field; however, no decision was made in this regard. There was also significant discussion of the condition of the bleachers at the football field and Doanne Diamond.
15. Public Buildings: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however significant discussion was as follows:
 - a. CIP 558 City Hall Campus Renovation / Expansion and CIP 68 New Library: Discussion ensued about the concept of a new City Library, Police Station, and master plan for the City Hall Campus. The City Manager noted that the City Council should consider providing direction regarding the future of the Library, whether it be a new facility downtown per the 2007 Library Needs Assessment, renovation and expansion of the Library at the present Green Street location, and the need for branch locations (especially in light of CIP 443 City Wide Community Center Project). Discussion ensued but no direction was provided and it was the consensus of the City Council to seek additional information about the subject of the Library for a potential future workshop.
16. Public Safety: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:

- a. CIP 252 Fire Station Improvements: Discussion of the proposed needs assessment for the four fire stations occurred, as well as a relocation study for the Heights Station on Loudon Road. The City Council asked that the location study include all four stations in the system to determine whether they are best located for future growth in the City.
17. Sewer Collection: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
18. Sewer Treatment: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:
- a. CIP 89 Hall Street Waste Water Plant Odor Control: Discussion of the status of the project occurred. City Administration explained that it would prefer to delay the third and final phase of improvements to see whether the recently completed Phase II improvements achieved desired reductions in odor emissions.
19. Sidewalks and Streetscapes: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
20. Solid Waste Management: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:
- a. CIP 381 Landfill Closure and Maintenance: Discussion of the need to formally close and cap the Old Suncook Road Landfill ensued, including the status of regulatory orders and permits. Discussion of potential recreational opportunities currently included in the plan to cap the facility also occurred. However, no changes were made to the project.
21. Storm Sewer: No changes were made to any projects in this category.
22. Street Corridor Improvements: No changes were made to any projects in this category; however, significant discussion was as follows:
- a. CIP 503 Eastman Street Streetscape Improvements: A discussion ensued about the viability of this project, given that the City is no longer eligible to seek Congestion Mitigation Air Quality improvement grants from the Federal Government, as central New Hampshire is in compliance with air quality standards. City Administration noted it may terminate the project.
23. Streets New Construction:
- a. CIP 40 Langley Parkway: Mayor Bouley shared an email he had received from Councilor Herschlag asking that he recuse himself from discussing the Langley Parkway project, as his consulting firm represents Concord Hospital. It was noted that the Hospital stands to benefit from the project and has financially supported design and construction of previous phases of the project. The Mayor noted that he did not believe he personally had a conflict of interest with the project, as his business partner represents Concord Hospital, but stated that he would recuse himself from the discussion. The Mayor then stated that he felt the process of declaring a conflict and recusal should be referred to the Council Rules

Committee in order to reconcile and clarify potentially conflicting terms within the City's Ethics Ordinance and City Council Rules. The Mayor then left the Council table with Mayor Pro Tem serving as acting Mayor for the discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Shurtleff to delay CIP 40 from FY2017 /2018 /2019 to FY2018 / 2019 / 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bennett. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Following the vote, Mayor Bouley rejoined the City Council and resumed his normal duties.

24. Water Distribution: No changes were made to any projects in this category.

25. Water Treatment: No changes were made to any projects in this category.

MOTION: Councilor White Bouchard moved to adjourn the work session. Councilor Matson seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. The session adjourned at 9:35 PM.

A true copy; I attest:

Matthew R. Walsh
Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects