

MINUTES
PLANNING COMMITTEE & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022, 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HURLEY BUILDING, 205 SALTONSTALL STREET

Planning Committee: Thomas Lyon, Chair
Nick Cutri
Steve Uebbing

Others Councilmembers Present: Mayor Palumbo
Sim Covington, Jr.
Erich Dittmar
Renee Sutton
Karen White

City Staff: John Goodwin, City Manager
David Hou, City Attorney

Absent: Dan Unrath

Guests: James Sprague, Director of Public Works

Chair Lyon opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Chair Lyon reviewed the changes made to the bylaws for the director appointments, which were adopted in 2019. A motion to approve the changes as reviewed was made by Councilmember Cutri and seconded by Councilmember Uebbing. Unanimously approved and carried on to the full council for their approval.

Chair Lyon moved to the second item a no left-hand turn change for traffic leaving the City Pier. City Manager Goodwin reviewed this request. Due to high traffic volume, the City is requesting a permanent sign be placed stopping left hand turns onto Lakeshore Drive heading to Main Street. Citing concerns from pedestrians and local businesses in the area and with the high traffic season ahead a change to the ordinance is requested. Questions from Councilmembers present on if a three or four way stop sign could be used, Director of Public Works, Jim Sprague reported that the traffic study that was done found neither of these options would work because of how the entrance into the old Wegman's Plaza is still used and there was not a safe option to place a sign. Having the no left-hand turn ban is the only safe option. Traffic will be routed to either Booth or Ellen Polimeni Way to return to Main Street. Councilmembers present agrees that this is the safest option. Councilmember Cutri motioned to approve the no left hand turn sign at the City Pier seconded by Councilmember Uebbing. Unanimously passed and carried.

Chair Lyon moved on the discussing the issues with the West Ave. Bridge. Recently, the Bridge was hit again by a man suffering from a seizure, the cement truck he was driving would have fit under the bridge had his medical event not taken place. City Manager Goodwin said that several residents have been contacting Councilmembers to discuss what to do about these incidents and

he reviewed several of the suggestions made by residents either through email or via social media. The Bridge is 100 years old and the bypass was created for trucks to get around the City and most of the accidents are from trucks heading west on Main Street. There are 14 signs from Buffalo Street Extension to the Bridge warning drivers of the low bridge. The City experiences a handful of these accidents annually. Most of the accidents occur from trucks using personal GPS through their phones as opposed to commercial GPS systems which directs the driver around the bridge. The biggest suggestions, using a drop-down sign or using laser to warn drivers would cost more money and still may not be affective. Councilmembers discussed a potential fine to drivers who hit the bridge as City Manager Goodwin noted that the City does not receive any monies from those fined who hit the bridge. The State of New York collects those monies. Councilmembers discussed if the City recoups any costs associated when these events occurs. The City does not pay for any truck towing. The Mayor has seen bridges that have signs that show the fee if hit. Corporation Council Hou said it might be possible to add a fine that comes to the City but overall restriction of trucks would be difficult as the Plaza near the Bridge on West Avenue still has deliveries and other needs for trucks to come. Councilmembers discussed a sign for trucks that are over the heigh restriction receiving the fine if the bridge is hit. City Manager Goodwin and Corporation Council Hou will review to put together a potential fine and change to the ordinance.

Chair Lyon reviewed an added agenda item as the NYS Consolidated Funding Application booklet was just released. City Manager Goodwin will review to see if any of the projects would be a good fit for an application. He reviewed some of the projects that the City would look for grant funding support. There may be potential within the Strategic Community Development investing under – ESD. City Manager will review for potential application and may have to use a grant writer should there be a potential project.

Councilmembers held a discussion on the Pier bathrooms and ongoing clean up of dog feces at Kershaw Park. Councilmember Sutton suggested that there is inground dog waste compost system that could be researched for use in the parks, while might not be the right fit for Kershaw, but for use elsewhere. The Mayor would like to see the bathrooms open before or around April 15th, at least after the ice has melted, the bathrooms could be open. Councilmembers discussed on the overall appearance of the park and maintenance of the area as it has been challenging. Councilmember Uebbing said that over the previous weekend the bathroom was closed and that was due to a leak, per City Manager Goodwin. The Mayor suggested using a commercial cleaning company potential due to staffing issues for DPW.

Chair Lyon moved to close the meeting.

Finance Committee: Steve Uebbing, Chair
Nick Cutri
Thomas Lyon

Others Present: Mayor Palumbo
Sim Covington, Jr.
Erich Dittmar

Renee Sutton

City Staff: John Goodwin, City Manager
David Hou, City Attorney

Absent: Dan Unrath

Guests: Nancy Abdallah, City Treasurer

Chair Uebbing opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He reviewed the Baker Park Tennis and Basketball Courts resurfacing project. The Bids were received on April 19th the lowest bid was from E-Z Paving which was \$11,700 more than what was budgeted due to the higher cost in materials. Councilmember Lyon motioned to award E-Z Paving the contract, seconded by Councilmember Cutri, unanimously passed and carried.

Chair Uebbing moved on to the second agenda item, the garbage and recycling totes for City Residents. The 2022 Budget included funding from the budget surplus from 2021 of \$580,000 for the purchase of 7200 totes (3600 of each) that are made from 100% recycled material. City Manager Goodwin explained that the current recycled totes in use are failing and have caused injuries to staff and have damaged property of residents. These issues are occurring daily. The propped plan would phase in giving residents new 96-gallon totes for both recycling and garbage. They include with a 12-year warranty and will have an RFID tag system to facilitate/manage their repair should something happen. Councilmembers discussed difficulty using the larger totes for residents that may have mobility issues. City Manager said it would be an administrative issue with residents using multiple sizes. Storage of the totes for some residents may also be challenging and full use issues were discussed. Goodwin noted that there are residents who will require more than the 96 gallons for garbage and others that may not fill it but 96 gallons are the industry standard. Councilmember Lyon inquired on grant funding for smaller totes 64 gallons with the County. Goodwin said that he looked into potential funding with the County and there could be some. He advocated those 96 gallons are ideal and 64 gallon is not enough for garbage from his discussion with City Staff. City residents would use both and if the trash is not in the proper totes, would not be picked up. Councilmembers discussed the price of the project and the fairness in only using the provided totes for waste and not a personal smaller unit. Goodwin said that it is a daily service in the City and by using the same totes it saves injury to the employees as they are not picking up the pails, the trucks are able to load the totes. Current recycling totes have been in use for the last 8 years and the warranty was for five. Director Sprague said that we offer twice the industry standard number of stops and the benefit to the employees on lifting. Discussion on composting and the previous project, which only 300 residents took advantage of the bins on ways of continuing to reduce waste. Director Sprague said that his discussions with staff is that most City residents are putting out two 32-gallon bins for their garbage pick up and they are being physically handled by City Staff. Discussions on using only the 64 gallons for trash pick-up. Councilmembers are in favor of the general strategy and Goodwin suggest if we move to the standard garbage to 64 and keep the recycling at 96 gallons is this something that would be able to move forward. Residents could purchase additional totes needed from the City. Councilmember Lyon motioned to approve the

project with 64-gallon totes for trash pick up with 96-gallon totes for recycling, Councilmember Cutri seconded, unanimously passed and carried.

Chair Uebbing moved into the Solid Waste and Recycling Fund. City Staff has been contemplating the creation of an Enterprise Fund (like the Water Fund and Sewer Fund) for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection, removing the costs of this service from the tax base and adding a quarterly fee for garbage and recycling on the quarterly water and sewer bill and wanted to discuss this program before moving forward. Councilmembers had a wide-ranging discussion on how the fee would work, Councilmembers were concerned on possible tax issues and whether or not this would be a true benefit to residents. City Treasurer Abdullah reviewed the details of the potential program along with Goodwin. Councilmembers want to see more details on the concept based on their discussion and not truly sure residents would support. Goodwin said that they may bounce some other ideas and potentially return to the topic.

Chair Uebbing held a general discussion on the State Budget and it's the potential impacts to us as summarized by NYCOM. AIM Funding will remain level to the current year. Transportation funding creating a new program on pave our potholes, through BRIDGE-NY, which may function similarly to CHIPS funding. There may be areas for funding for the City, but more details are needed. EPA funding will be explored for help with the potential parks plan for the City. The county has not supplied analysis for the gas tax has not been discussed yet. Video conferencing will be brought up at the ordinance meeting for changes to the Open Meeting Law. Pension changes will impact the City Budget but details are not known yet.

City Manager added a discussion on awarding a bid for a water supply parts to, Blair Supply Corporation for \$39K, adding it to the Council agenda for Thursday. Lyon motioned to add the details to the agenda for adoption, seconded by Councilmember Cutri unanimously passed and carried.

City Manager Goodwin discussed adding a grace period for water/sewer bills. There is a 20-day period for residents to pay their bills but after the 20 days a penalty is automatically assigned. Abdallah would like to propose a five-day grace period of five days, not moving the due date but would post the penalties on the sixth day after. Residents who sign up for CAPS are able to have their penalties reduced but not everyone does that. Council will add this for a resolution at their future meeting.

Chair Uebbing motioned to adjourn the meeting.