



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Tuesday, February 16, 2009

Agenda

5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz Chair, D. Sterner, S. Marmarou

I. Update – Stormwater Utility

II. Update – PennDOT Traffic Study at 5th and Bingaman Sts

III. Park Maintenance

- a. Update – discussions w/ County & Conservancy re outsourcing parks on periphery of City (R. Hottenstein)
- b. Impact of budget cuts on parks and recreation

V. Installation of Traffic Signal at N 13th & Richmond Sts

VI. Review Audit of Capital Projects

VII. Review & Update Goals

Follow-up Issues:

- Dec 2009 Installation of Street Lights – N 13th St – Rockland to city line (resolution approved May 2009)
- Dec 2009 Traffic study – installation of traffic signals at 5th and Oley or 5th and Douglass

➤ **January 2010 - Review Audits of Capital Projects**

➤ Public Works Committee
FY 2009
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: REVIEW AND RECOMMEND FOR ADOPTION A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH PA DEP REGULATIONS.

GOAL 2: EVALUATE CONTRACTS FOR LINE PAINTING AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE.

- Ensure the Public Works Department prepares specifications and awards contracts to the lowest responsible bidders, for the maintenance of essential operations.
- Develop areas, based on concerns related to individual Council Districts, requiring streetlight maintenance.

GOAL 3: REPAVE/RECONSTRUCT CITY STREETS/MAINTAIN CURBING AND SIDEWALKS

- Determine the most effective method of developing and implementing a citywide street reconstruction and repaving program.
- Develop priorities for street repaving and reconstruction.
- Identify, based on Council Districts, in need of infrastructure improvements.

GOAL 4: COMPLETE ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEWS FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITES.

- Ensure the Public Works Committee receives regular updates regarding development projects.

GOAL 5: ADDRESS THE CLEANLINESS OF CITY STREETS

- Evaluate current sweeping program procedures in an attempt to improve operations.

GOAL 6: BEAUTIFICATION/MAINTENANCE/EXPANSION OF THE PARKS SYSTEM

- Identify necessary, amongst the existing park system, necessary aesthetic improvements and prioritize improvements.
- Receive regular updates on the implementation of the City Park Master Plan and improvements to the Pagoda.

GOAL 7: RENOVATIONS TO CITY FACILITIES.

- Ensure improvements to City facilities are completed in a timely manner.

GOAL 8: ENSURE TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN PROJECTS

- Monitor CIP projects and receive regular status report from Public Works Director and Managing Director.

GOAL 9: STRENGTHEN RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AS A WHOLE.

- Improve, through amendment, the existing Park and Recreation Advisory Council ordinance.
- Discuss opportunities of expanding recreation opportunities through partnering with other organizations and the community.
- Work with other external recreation providers to coordinate programs and activities
- Identify more effective methods of providing recreation opportunities to a larger segment of the community.
- Consider expanding the Park Security Program.

GOAL 10: RECEIVE REGULAR UPDATES ON COMPLIANCE WITH ALL WASTE WATER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS (NPDES AND Air Quality) AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS.

GOAL 11: REVIEW CONSENT ORDER AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN SCHEDULE

- Begin and continue reviewing the implementation of the wastewater treatment plant design and schedule including periodic updating of financial estimates.
- Approve Consent Decree timeline.
- Receive regular and complete financial updates

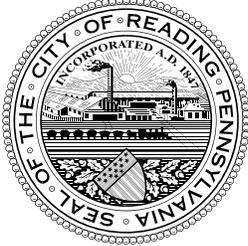
GOAL 12: CREATE STORMWATER UTILITY

- Review financial impact analysis.
- Develop legislation for review and adoption by City Council.

GOAL 13: MONITOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING OPERATIONS

- Determine if improvements to the existing ordinance are necessary.

- Assist with the development of an education and enforcement campaign for all city residents on proper set out requirements for all municipal solid waste and recyclables.



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

***Monday, December 21, 2009
Meeting Report***

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Sterner

Others Attending: L. Kelleher, C. Younger, R. Hottenstein, C. Jones, C. Weidel, W. Rehr

Lancaster Avenue Fire Station

Chief Rehr reported that the total cost of the Lancaster Avenue Fire Station is \$2.7M (\$1.9 for construction and the remainder for acquisition, demolition, etc.) The fire station is expected to open on October 1. Project meetings occur every two (2) weeks. The Chief described some of the unforeseen project events that occurred such as the discovery of twelve (12) feet of underground coal ash. He stated that this is not unusual as many areas were used to landfill coal ash. He described the steps used to deal with this issue. Chief Rehr also described the issues related to moving the water line. Unforeseen issues have delayed the project by only 24 days.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired about the availability of historical maps that can identify issues like these. It is unknown if maps with this type of detail exist.

Chief Rehr reported that while the City did not receive any funding from the first round of the Federal Stimulus, the City's application was not rejected either, which may make second round funding possible. Stimulus funds are expected to cover 58% of the total project cost.

5th and Bingaman Traffic Signal

Mr. Jones stated that PennDOT has not yet completed the traffic study.

Park Maintenance

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Public Works crews for their excellent snow removal efforts over the past weekend. Mr. Jones explained that two (2) crews of eight (8) men covered seven (7) districts around the City, working twelve (12) hour shifts. He agreed that the crew did a phenomenal job.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired about Public Work's ability to clear snow at City facilities and parks. Mr. Jones replied that the snow will be cleared as staff is available.

Mr. Hottenstein and Mr. Jones explained the use of a 12 hour shift for public works crews from December through March, which reduces overtime and provides round the clock staffing for winter weather events. Mr. Hottenstein added that evening crews perform tasks that cannot be accomplished during the regular work day. For example, this crew installed all the new street identifier signs during 2009.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the City has approached the County and Conservancy about assistance with park maintenance. Mr. Hottenstein stated that these discussions have not yet occurred. He suggested developing a list of linear parks (outside the City and near City boundary lines) for the County and Conservancy to consider.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the City should request assistance from the County considering their attitude regarding the recent BARTA issue.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested including the Conservancy in the conversation and the need to consider the capacity of both organizations to assist with the maintenance of parks. She suggested referring this issue to PARC and requesting their input about which parks could be cared for by the County or Conservancy. Mr. Hottenstein agreed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that the PARC is currently working to update the 10 Year Park and Recreation Plan which will allow them to build a list for the Committee to consider. She said that the PARC could possibly submit a recommendation by the end of March 2010.

Mr. Hottenstein and Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to consider parks and playgrounds separately. Mr. Hottenstein stated that the County is not interested in small parks or playgrounds. He stated that the County prefers larger passive parkland.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested creating agreements with the groups that assist the City with Egleman's Park, the Fire Tower, Rotary Park, etc. She noted that the agreements would define the responsibilities of the City and the organization.

Mr. Sterner suggested drafting a formal request to the County and Conservancy after deciding which parks could logically be shed. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that this issue become a Committee goal for 2010.

Mr. Sterner inquired about the RFP drafted to seek out recreation partners. Mr. Hottenstein stated that the RFP was prepared and apologized for not distributing it for Council review.

Mr. Jones stated that outsourcing recreation would only save the City approximately \$100K. He noted that the loss of custodial staff limits the ability of the City to run additional outside programs at the recreation centers. He also suggested seeking sponsors for summer programs.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz again suggested referring this issue to the PARC and having further discussion at the January Work Session.

13th and Richmond Traffic Signal

Mr. Jones noted the need for a traffic study. He stated that he plans to ask Albright to assist with the funding of the study. He expressed the belief that this intersection will qualify for PennDOT warrants due to the large amount of pedestrian traffic at this intersection.

Storm Water Utility

Mr. Jones stated that information on the rate study will be presented at the January meeting. The study will show properties to be included and excluded. The commercial property owners will be the hardest hit as these properties usually have a large amount of impervious surface. Impact to residential properties will be minimal. He stated that this utility fee will be applied to all properties, including non-profits.

Mr. Jones stated that the fee will be used to improve storm water quality and make repairs to the

storm water system.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested referring this issue to the EAC.

Ms. Kelleher inquired if the billing would be monthly or annually and if it would be attached to the water bill or billed separately. Mr. Jones expressed the belief that it would be most sensible to attach the fee to the monthly water/sewer bill.

5th and Oley - 5th and Douglass Traffic Signals

Mr. Jones stated that traffic studies were completed at these intersections approximately three (3) years ago. These intersections did not meet PennDOT warrants for traffic signals or stop signs.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for improved traffic control on Mineral Spring Road. She explained that the installation of traffic signals on Perkiomen Avenue has moved traffic up on to Mineral Spring Road, where speeding has now become a problem.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz also reported that some residents of Klein Street are unhappy that the street is now one-way.

Audits of Capital Projects

Ms. Kelleher reminded the Committee that the Auditor promised to begin auditing different projects in January. Mr. Cituk asked Council to provide a list of projects to audit; however, the need for the Auditor to do surprise audits on projects was expressed.

Bandshell Repair

Mr. Jones stated that he plans to re-bid the bandshell repair work. He stated that a new RFP will generate more interest and drive costs down. The work will occur around the summer concert schedule.

Mr. Jones, in response to a question, stated that the Orange and Cherry Park is complete and the dedication will occur in the spring.

Downtown 20/20

Mr. Hottenstein stated that the installation of new street lighting on Penn Street is set to begin. He also said that Council will be getting an update on the project in early 2010. He explained that the

Main Street Grant funds will be used to improve the 500 block of Franklin Street. This block was identified through the collaboration of many parties such as Public Works, Planning etc. This block was primarily chosen due to its proximity to North 5th Street, Penn Street, the BARTA facility, successful downtown bars, etc.

The Public Works Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk