

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Lazenby, Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Perkins (6:35 p.m.), Reynolds and Becksted

ABSENT: Councilor Denton

STAFF: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Andrew Purgiel, Deputy Finance Director; Robert Merner, Chief of Police; Steve Achilles, Fire Chief; Peter Rice, Public Works Director; Brian Goetz, Deputy Public Works Director; Terry Desmarais, City Engineer; Steve Zadavec, Superintendent of Schools; Steve Bartlett, School Business Administrator; Juliet Walker, Planning Director; Alan Brady, Information Technology; Karen Senecal, Police Department; Nancy Colbert Puff, Deputy City Manager; and Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

OTHER: Richard Gamester, Fire Commissioner

I. Call to Order – Jack Blalock, Mayor

Mayor Blalock called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Introduction – John P. Bohenko, City Manager

City Manager Bohenko said we will present the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that we started preparing last summer. He stated each element provides priorities and there are 7 appendixes outlining various parts of the CIP for improvements to process and the document has served the public greatly. He reported that for FY20 over \$2 million projects were submitted and the City goal is to approve 2% of last year's CIP budget. City Manager Bohenko said projects that are bonded require a two-thirds vote of the City Council. He advised the City Council that on February 19th a public hearing will be held on the CIP. He requested Department Heads to review the projects as outlined in the plan.

III. Review of Projects FY20 – FY25 - Various Department Heads

Fire Chief Achilles spoke to the departments various programs and projects. He addressed the rolling stock items and the replacement of protective equipment.

Councilor Pearson asked if any of the equipment is larger than what we currently have in the City or wider. Fire Chief Achilles said no and that they will all fit on the streets.

Councilor Reynolds asked about the generator for Central Station. He said some people are going with electric generators versus fuel generators. He said he would like to see the RFP for a fuel or battery operated generator. City Manager Bohenko said the Senior Center could look at a battery operated generator. Councilor Reynolds said he would like to see what information we learn from the RFP.

Councilor Roberts said the out year vehicles are for identification purposes only. Fire Chief Achilles said that is correct.

Police Chief Merner spoke to the Police Department projects. He addressed the space needs study and the request for the purchase of land for a new Police Station. He said a new station is needed and this is a place holder. He further stated the needs study was completed in 2014.

Business Administrator Bartlett spoke to out year projects and addressed improvements needed at the High School. He also spoke to the various elementary school projects.

City Clerk Barnaby reviewed the document preservation project and a permanent records storage facility.

Planning Director Walker spoke to various Planning Department projects and land acquisition. She addressed the Vaughan-Worth-Bridge project.

Public Works Director Rice spoke on upgrades to existing ball fields. He said that we are revisiting our community center needs from the 2010 study. He spoke to the project for phase 2 for outdoor recreational fields. He addressed the on-going master plan for Peirce Island. Public Works Director Rice said that there are 12 playgrounds and Goodwin Park that are next to be upgraded. He spoke to the continued investment for the Prescott Park Facilities.

Fire Chief Achilles addressed our emergency management plans and the need for two spaces for use after an emergency.

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff addressed the McIntyre Building site redevelopment project.

Public Works Director Rice addressed the tree replacement program. He advised the Council he would hold off for a year on the recycling and solid waste totes. He spoke to the upgrades to the High Hanover Parking Facility in 2022.

Councilor Dwyer asked about the Lister Academy improvements. She said it has been discussed whether the facility should remain and how the improvements would be a major expenditure for the City to put that amount of money into the building. She stated the School Department should look at whether they want to keep the building and operations at the site.

Business Administrator Bartlett spoke on space uses at the New Franklin School. He said the average number of students has increased and it is anticipated that the numbers will continue to increase.

Councilor Becksted asked about the project for the Campus Drive. Public Works Director Rice reported it is the former stump dump. Councilor Becksted said it would be nice to do work on that field now. He addressed the \$1,000,000.00 for city improvements and stated maybe those funds should be spent on other buildings than City Hall. Public Works Director Rice said it is not intended to spend all the funds on City Hall. Councilor Becksted asked about the \$25,000.00 for the McIntyre Building and whether that was for a consultant. Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said those funds are for a consultant.

Councilor Dwyer spoke to the playground that was never replaced when the new Library was built and she would like to see that happen. She also spoke to the need for a playground at Wentworth School for the neighborhood.

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff spoke to our technology needs, which is a multi-year project. She also addressed server virtualization.

Fire Chief Achilles addressed incident reporting and data management system that they're working with the Police Department on.

Police Chief Merner said the system they currently use is over 15 years old and they need to have a new system in place. He stated this is a 5 year project with an RFP to follow soon.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby asked about the computer projects and why they're out into the future. Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said we need to learn more about the implementation of the project and our infrastructure.

Councilor Dwyer said she would have liked to see the number of servers needed reduced. Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said there should be a reduction in the number of servers. Councilor Dwyer asked Police Chief Merner about the number of computers in the department compared to City Hall. Chief Merner said many systems are not in use and are antiquated. He stated they need to update the system in the fall. He advised the City Council that regular maintenance is being done on the system and the programs are not working.

Public Works Director Rice spoke to the public private relationship for shared parking modes. He addressed parking funding being set aside for parking matters.

Planning Director Walker addressed the wayfinding system in and around the downtown.

Public Works Director Rice addressed upgrades to Market Square and that the work would be in conjunction with work on Fleet Street. He also spoke to sidewalks being installed on Sagamore Avenue from Odiorne Point Road to the Golden Egg.

Planning Director Walker spoke to Elwyn Park sidewalks being installed for access to Dondero School. Public Works Director Rice addressed the pedestrian connector from Ocean Road to the Banfield Road master plan. He spoke to the sidewalk reconstruction program and traffic signal upgrades throughout the City. He addressed sidewalk intersection improvements of Russell Street to Market Street intersection upgrades as an out year project. He spoke to the Peirce Island bridge replacement for an out year project. He said the bridge has been inspected and there has been no damage from the truck traffic to the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Planning Director Walker said we are on hold for doing any work for the Cate Street Bridge and the place holder project for the Cate Street connector project will provide less traffic in the Bartlett Street neighborhood. She stated that this is a private public partnership with a 50/50 split.

Public Works Director Rice spoke to the Islington Street corridor improvements and construction from the Bypass to Albany Street should be done in the spring. He said the project will be split into parts.

Councilor Pearson spoke to the wayfinding and having signs that indicate how long it takes to get from one point to another. Planning Director Walker said she would look into those types of signs.

Mayor Blalock asked about the Islington Street project. Public Works Director Rice said originally the costs were at \$6,000,000.00 however, the costs have increased significantly and we are looking at bid alternates. He stated based on opinions and costs we would not have enough funding for the improvements needed.

Councilor Becksted asked if we have considered seeking funding from the State for the bridge improvements. Public Works Director Rice said that is for further discussion. Councilor Becksted said on Grafton Road we will be getting a multi-purpose path and sidewalks that will connect to Pannaway Manor. He said a simple crosswalk should be put in place. Public Works Director Rice said he would reach out to the PDA on this matter. Councilor Becksted said we should look at splitting costs with the PDA for a signaled crosswalk.

Councilor Reynolds spoke to the Sagamore Avenue sidewalks. He stated he had made a request of the biking community that at the highest point of the road for a reduction in where the shoulder connects to the road and he would like to see improvements made. Public Works Director Rice said we will not use the breakdown lane. He said we will be in the gravel part near the utility pole. He said the roadway was looked at and how to balance the needs for people going down the hill.

Councilor Dwyer asked if Public Works took the number of people using the road in account. Public Works Director Rice said it is data driven.

Councilor Roberts asked if the City is responsible for fixing all the roads at the Pease Tradeport. City Manager Bohenko said yes we are, and that it is part of the Municipal Services Agreement. Councilor Roberts asked about Market Square and if any thought has been given to streetscape improvements. Public Works Director Rice said yes, and that electric and water/sewer needs to be addressed. Councilor Roberts asked about Cate Street improvements and said there would be an increase in traffic on Bartlett Street and asked what the implications are downstream. Planning Director Walker said next Thursday there is a work session at the Planning Board on that matter. She said the road has benefits for connecting services to Borthwick Avenue and the hospital.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said there are 3 projects on paving and sidewalk improvements and they all have significant money each year. City Manager Bohenko said it was also to spread out the work. Public Works Director Rice said we have a busy year and the work depends on how much funding we have. He said it has worked out well for the department. Assistant Mayor Lazenby asked if we would have the federal funding and if the project would move forward. Public Works Director Rice said yes.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby asked if there are Safe Routes to School funding for Dondero sidewalks. Planning Director Walker said that funding is not available but we put it in for funding, which would be an 80/20 split.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like to see a location summary costs for some projects. She said we need to understand they are spread out in the Capital Improvement Plan. City Manager Bohenko said we could take certain size projects and create an appendix with a map and suggestions.

City Manager Bohenko said \$1.8 million is coming out of the General Fund and bonding money would be put in to pay off the bond. He said that non-operating general fund items all come back to the City Council for a vote. City Manager Bohenko spoke to the different funds and funding sources.

Deputy City Public Works Director Goetz spoke to the annual water line replacement funds. He spoke to upgrades to facilities and reservoir management that need to have an irrigation system. He spoke to water main improvements on Pleasant Street and Maplewood Avenue. He also addressed water system upgrades needed to the Department of Public Works Complex.

Councilor Reynolds asked about the water transmission main replacement. Deputy Public Works Director Goetz said we may not need a full replacement and will find that out this week. He also indicated there may be some option for in-kind funding.

City Engineer Desmarais spoke to annual sewer line replacement, consent decree mitigation and that we had to make modifications to the schedule. He also spoke to wastewater pumping improvements and the Mechanic Street station upgrades. He addressed the regional digester at Pease and said the study is underway and reviewing the feasibility of this type of system. He spoke to sewer separation projects and the long term plan for the improvements.

Councilor Becksted asked about the improvements need to the Public Works Facility. Public Works Director Rice said when the facility was built there was not a section built for the water and sewer employees and we need to create that space.

City Manager Bohenko announced a public hearing will be held on February 19th and the City Council would be acting on the entire plan at the March 4th City Council meeting.

IV. Questions and Discussion

V. Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Blalock closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CNHMC
City Clerk