

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

October 14, 2020

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in via teleconference.

Chairwoman Kelly

As Chairwoman of the Human Affairs Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom and the meeting link can be found on the agenda as well as on the City's website.

You can also join by telephone by dialing: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 848 2154 4590 and Password: 741343. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Alderman Wilshire called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her. The roll call was taken with members of the Human Affairs Committee present:

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Vice Chair
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Members of the Committee absent: Alderman Patricia Klee

Chairwoman Kelly

Just let the record know that both Alderman Klee and Alderman Lopez reached out to me and said they were unable to make the meeting.

Also in Attendance: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Division Director
Dan Hudson. City Engineer

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATION - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-074

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$821,500 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY “BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-20-074, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

So this is a grant that we applied for in May in the middle of the COVID pandemic and massive kudos to Camille Pattison the Transportation Manager and her team for pulling this together because it wasn't easy. This grant is specifically to augment the transit center project that is under final design right now to be in construction next year. It's a pretty massive upgrade but this money will help to fund the cost of construction of renovated, revised bathrooms very specifically to help make them safer, and more accessible, and to discourage some of the illicit behaviors that we have had from the current design. So these will be more like your airport bathroom without the locked door as you enter and exit. So they'll help fund that improvement and also probably more interesting to our ridership, this

has the money to provide some significant technology upgrades. So to be able to provide live GTS stream feeds and essentially getting us to a place where you can use an app on your phone to see when the bus is coming if you missed it. Is it coming to your stop and where it is? This is a pretty huge grant for us and as part of getting it rolling, we were able to secure some escrow funds for the grant match just recently and the rest of the funds will need to be appropriated with the FY22 budget which timing wise will work out just fine. I am here before you for this grant with partial match and it will have to go to the full Board for the multi-year appropriation.

Chairwoman Kelly

Does anyone from the committee have a question?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. This is very exciting and I want to thank your department and your division Camille whoever did this because that's good money.

You're not concerned about the FY22 the remaining match that you'll have budget for?

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

I am.

Alderman Wilshire

Just thought I'd ask.

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

We were told we were awarded this grant and it's a team effort. It's an amazing group but we were told we were awarded this grant just at the end of August. So it was after budgeting this year and feel pretty lucky that we were able to secure part of the funds through the escrow process because I do understand next year's budget is going to be extremely tight. It seems like a pretty good value for the dollar in that 80 percent of the funds, a little over \$1 million, is coming from the total grant. Over \$800,000 is coming from the federal government and the City will put in just under \$200,000. It's a pretty good bang for the buck to be able to do these improvements.

Alderman Wilshire

And they're sorely needed. Thank you for that. I'm all set. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Wilshire. Are there other questions from the committee?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I really had the same question about 22 but I know you guys have been at this for a long time and I'm sure that you've figured out other things you might apply for to help pay for that instead of the City as well. I'm sure we'll be able to do a part of that as well come that time. I'm really excited too that we're going to have such nice locations, nice bathrooms and everything. That would be great. I know it's been a chore to keep up with all that and even with the ones that were over at the parking lot garage. I'm excited.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you.

I'll just comment similar to the previous speakers. I'm excited for this. I did have one question. You may not be able to answer this. What happens if we don't come up with the matching fund in the second year?

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

We will not be able to spend the money. Essentially we will be going out to bid on this project in the spring anyways and so we will not have already spent necessarily the 72 and so we will only spend what we have matching funds for. In the past, the State of New Hampshire has stepped up and provided some capital match for capital projects. That is not on the table any more so we'll be in conversations with them as well to see if that comes back on the table at some point but we will evaluate what happens. If we don't have the matching funds, we have to give the money back and it doesn't happen.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Obviously you've heard positively from these committee members that we're committed to making sure you get that and I'm sure you have a plan in your head as well. I was just more interested around the bigger picture of what happens. Thank you for your team for bringing this forward and doing the hard work in the middle of the pandemic.

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

You're welcome.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire	4
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-075

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
- Alderman Skip Cleaver
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
- Alderman Jan Schmidt
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$7,060.53 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTO DPW GRANT ACTIVITY "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – CHARLOTTE AVENUE"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-20-075, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

I believe Mr. Hudson wanted to speak on this piece.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes thank you. So this project is to improve pedestrian safety at Charlotte Ave. Elementary School. It involves constructing a new sidewalk on the north side of Charlotte Ave. between Burgess Street and Meade Street, removing a couple of cross walks and consolidating everybody down to a central crosswalk which will include a bump out to shorten the crossing distance. We'll be narrowing lanes also to help to slow traffic down and then there's some intersection geometry changes at Charlotte Ave. and Charlotte Street – trying to tighten up that corner to also make that move occur more slowly. You've probably already noticed that an all way stop has been installed there. These changes we feel will help improve safety of the intersection. DOT had granted us \$100,000 previously. We received bids and cost even higher than we anticipated so they've agreed to kick in another \$7,000. Not a lot but every bit helps. We look forward to receiving that.

Construction is under way. We hope to be complete before November 3rd election. With that, I'll answer any questions that anybody has but we ask for your favorable support of this.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Mr. Hudson. Are there question from the committee?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you Mr. Hudson for that information. When you talk about this crosswalk, the construction on this project has already started because I've seen the equipment out there and everything. You're not going all the way down to the 8 foot sidewalk are you?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

No. The new sidewalk is on the north side. There's no sidewalk connected right there. There's going to be new segments of sidewalk. There's only the bump out improvement on the south side and then spot improvements here and there. What they've done to date is they've installed drainage, curbing (inaudible) is going to come in on Friday and soon after that you'll see the actual sidewalk going in.

Alderman Wilshire

Okay. The next question is on that intersection of Charlotte Street and Charlotte Ave. where it's all painted red, is that where you're talking about making a change or another improvement?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yeah so the corner is painted red and that was to try to make people follow a pattern which we'll formalize with curbing so that it will feel tighter with curbing added in and bumped out a little bit there.

Alderman Wilshire

I think that's a good thing because I know that traffic goes really fast down that street and the stop sign I think has been a good improvement there. Thank you for what you're doing over there. I think it's a good improvement.

Chairwoman Kelly

Are you all set Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

The same question could be asked - I think it was FY22, I don't have it in front of me, but I think the last part of the work was FY22 but you did state that if you ran into a problem you would ask to extend that to FY23 which I think is a great idea. That's all. Is that correct?

Chairwoman Kelly

Was that question directed at me?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

No at Mr. Hudson I think.

Alderwoman Kelly

I just didn't know if June was also asking a question.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Sorry I misunderstood. The work is occurring this fiscal year. The money will be this fiscal year. The matching funding has already been appropriated so there's no issue with match. We should be all wrapping up this fiscal year.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Okay. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Alderman Caron did you want to speak as well?

Alderman Caron

Yes. I think this is a great improvement over in that area. I know it's been a long time coming and I'm glad the DOT gave us some money so that we could get this project done. I agree with Alderman Wilshire that that can be a speed zone constantly. I think this is great and Mr. Hudson I think you've done a great job in getting this done for the kids and before the snow flies. Thank you.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you. I appreciate that. I just want to give credit to the folks that came before me. I've only been here since December. Alderman Dowd and others were instrumental in getting the grant applications in, receiving the funding. It has taken many years to get to this but we're finally here in construction. It's a great project to be able to complete it.

Alderman Wilshire

Since I've been on this committee for a long time, we used to get a lot of money on this safe routes to school. It seems to have been years that we didn't get it. Is it competitive or have we not applied for it every time? Do you know? I know you're fairly new but we used to get this safe routes to school money on a more regular basis earlier. I don't know if the funding dried up but maybe you have an answer.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

So this program is winding down for the federal level. They've replaced it with some other programs. There's one called "Transportation Alternatives" and I know the City is benefitting from these different programs. We're doing some trail work for other bicycle and pedestrian improvements elsewhere. There are always different pots of money. Maybe not this specific program and it is always competitive and we do try to apply so that we get the city's fair share of that funding.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. Appreciate it.

Alderwoman Kelly

Are there any other comments?

Alderman Dowd

Yeah just some historical on this. We applied for this money five years ago back when Donna Lee was Mayor. It's taken us 5 years to get the money but I'm glad it's finally being done. The concept is if you go in over to Charlotte Avenue right now, there are three crosswalks. The one farthest to the west has been a problem as cars used to come around that corner too fast and we've already had this past school year one bus that got hit from behind when it was stopped to allow kids to cross. The concept was that we were only going to have wider crosswalk in front of the school and it will go over to the sidewalk and the children can go east or west so they can get up the side streets without having to cross again. It's a much safer situation. The bump out is right where the crosswalk is.

Also there's going to be two electronic signs – one on either end of the school from the street that will indicate that you're speeding. It's a 20 mph during school hours and 30 normally. I'm strongly considering doing what we did on Beauview and changing it to 25 mph because the cars are far too fast on that street.

Also I think we did apply for some additional funding in Ward 3 but Alderman Klee would have to fill you in on that. She's got the details. I'm not sure if there are any others in the city that we've applied for or are waiting for or something. This has been a long time coming and I have Dan's assurance that it will be completed so that our City Clerk doesn't have anything else to worry about.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Dowd for that history. Five years is a long time to be working on it. I appreciate you and the team moving this forward.

Is there anyone else from the committee that has a question or a comment? Okay. Alderman Wilshire can you please call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire	4
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Dowd

I just wanted to know for the record that I was attending the meeting. I didn't hear the Clerk call my name.

Chairwoman Kelly

That is correct. Under other aldermen that were here, Alderman Dowd. Did we miss anybody else? That was it, right?

Alderman Wilshire

That was it. Sorry Alderman Dowd.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIR ETO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Committee Clerk