



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Coppola, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Jacobson, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman and Giraldo. Also present were Reps. McGarry and Ryan; Bill Brink, WPCA; Burt Rosenberg, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Thomas Turk, Highways; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; and Mayor Martin.

Chair Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O29.072	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amendment of Chapter 200, Sewers, Section 200-33 , Regarding the Responsibility for the Maintenance and Repair of Sewer Laterals within the City Right of Way. 07/25/16 – Submitted by Director Handler 08/30/16 – Approved by Committee for publication	Approved, as amended, 6-0-0

Chair Coppola opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Representative McMullen made a motion to amend the ordinance to Subsection L, to eliminate the requirement that the property owner repair the lateral line under the City's right of way, to impose the obligation to repair the lateral from the property owner's building to the property line on the property owner and to impose the obligation to repair the lateral from property line to the sanitary sewer, including those portions of the lateral located under the City's right of way, on the WPCA. (See [proposed amendment](#))

Mr. Brink stated that it has been the long standing practice of the WPCA that it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain and repair a lateral sewer line from the property owner's building to the connection to the sanitary sewer, including the lateral

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:01:05

line segments located under the owner's property and the under City's right of way. The language which had been submitted to the Committee was developed by the WPCA Board, which reviewed the issues, including reviewing the responsibility for repairs of the lateral beyond the property line, but WPCA staff was in favor of keeping the current practice. Items considered by the WPCA in reaching this decision were that:

- The WPCA does not always know beforehand if there is a repair issue or a maintenance issue
- The Technical Committee surveyed 100 other towns and 70% have the same policy as the WPCA (the other 30% have a "mishmash" of policies)
- Darien, which the WPCA serves, has the same policy

He requested that any changes be referred back to the Technical Committee.

Committee members expressed concern that homeowners do not have control over what goes on in the street, which may result in damage to the lateral. Other utilities do not make the homeowner responsible for repairs beyond the property line.

Mr. Brink stated that if the WPCA is responsible for the repair, they can't do an investigation within the house for a blockage. If they find no repair is warranted, they will charge the homeowner. This will shift the cost from the individual homeowner to a shared cost which will be distributed through user charges.

A motion to approve the amendment was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Coppola, Zelinsky, Jacobson, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor).

Committee members discussed whether the ordinance would need to be republished. Chair Coppola stated that he would rely on the determination of the Law Department as to whether or not the ordinance needed to be republished.

A motion to approve the ordinance, as amended, for final adoption unless republication is required, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Coppola, Zelinsky, Jacobson, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor).

- ². [O29.069](#) **ORDINANCE for publication; Amendment of [Section 214-19 of the Code of Ordinances](#) to Increase the permit fee and decrease the time period for such permit.** **Held in Committee 4-2-0**
06/0816 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky
08/30/16 – Held in Committee

Mr. Casolo distributed [proposed revisions](#) to this ordinance. He explained that these changes are to double the proposed fees, permit the Director of Operations to waive the fees in the event the work is a condition imposed by the Zoning Board and to reinstate, with changes, the provision previously struck by the Committee regarding the Mayor's ability to adjust the fees.

² Video Time Stamp 00:34:48

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-2-0 (Reps. Coppola, Jacobson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor; Reps. Liebson and Zelinsky opposed).

- ³3. O29.071 REVIEW; Road Conditions, Maintenance and Repairs **REPORT MADE**
in the City of Stamford.
07/14/16 – Submitted by Rep. Caterbone
08/30/16 – Held in Committee

Mr. Casolo explained that the City had done a pavement condition survey which was completed in Fall, 2015. Over the winter, the company which had done the survey put together a database of the results and then trained City officials on how to use the software in April. The City wants to use the information to make the best use of money available in the budget for paving and has been researching paving strategies. The City is currently evaluating roads based upon their existing condition and possible strategies.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Turk, Mr. Casolo and Mayor Martin explained:

- The City has 2 hot boxes, which are finicky and often need to be repaired
- It takes 6 people to run the hot asphalt process
- Pot holes are filled based on a list kept by Citizens Services
- Manhole covers might be the responsibility of the utility companies
- Utility cuts are not the responsibility of the Highway Department
- The data from 2015 is still valuable and allows the City to make more valuable strategic decisions.

As a Secondary Committee:

1. [CS29.016](#) RESOLUTION; Increasing the fees for applications to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
05/03/16 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Chair Coppola adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Coppola, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

³ Video Time Stamp 00:55:30