



## **Operations Committee - Board of Representatives**

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 29, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> 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., Adams, Coleman, Liebson, Jacobson, Mahoney and McMullen. Absent or excused was Committee Member Rep. Giraldo. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo, Nabel, Okun and Ryan; Michael Pollard, Special Asst. to the Mayor; Mike Toma, Law Department; Paul Zeiss, Anti-Blight Officer; William Brink, SWPCA; Tyler Theder, Storm Water Management; and David Michel.

Chair Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">O29.081</a>	<p>ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; Amendment of Chapter 200, Sewers, <a href="#">Section 200-33</a>, Regarding the Responsibility for the Maintenance and Repair of Sewer Laterals within the City Right of Way.</p> <p>03/08/17 – Submitted by Reps. McMullen, Mahoney, McGarry, Jacobson and de la Cruz</p> <p>04/24/17 – Held in Committee</p> <p>05/30/17 – Approved by Committee, as amended</p> <p>06/05/17 – Returned to Committee by Full Board</p> <p>07/06/17 – Held in Committee</p> <p>8/02/2017 – Approved by Committee, as amended, for publication.</p>	Approved 7-0-1

Chair Coppola called opened the Public Hearing. He read part of a letter from a constituent requesting a claim regarding this ordinance. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

The committee discussed the constituent's letter, and whether or not a person would have any recourse on a claim occurring prior to the adoption of this ordinance. Mr. Toma said he would have to look further into the specifics of the constituent's specific

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<sup>1</sup> Video time stamp: 04:15 (Video Part 1)

issue. A motion to approve the ordinance was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-1 (Reps. Coppola, Zelinsky, Coleman, Jacobson, Liebson, Mahoney, McMullen in favor; Rep. Adams abstaining).

- <sup>2</sup>2. [O29.086](#) APPROVAL; Contract with A. Vitti Excavators, LLC Approved 8-0-0  
for Replacement of Riverbank Road Bridge Over the  
East Branch of the Mianus River – Conn DOT  
Project No. 135011.  
08/09/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
08/24/17- To be considered by Board of Finance

Mr. Casolo discussed this item. He explained the bridge is almost 76 years old, has been closed since April, and there are long detour routes. The project has been fast tracked due to restrictions by DEEP to be out of the instream area by Sept. 30th, and in order to be finished before the winter shutdown period. There were four bids and A. Vitti Excavators came in under budget. The technical aspects of the project was explained. A motion was made and seconded to hold this item for one month to look into the issue of the contractor's current City violations. It was agreed upon that regardless of that issue, the bridge project needs to move forward so it can be completed before winter. The motion was withdrawn. Mr. Casolo stated that this contractor has done a lot of work for the City and is very reliable. He anticipates the new bridge will be opened by December, weather permitting. Mr. Pollard said that while the City has the authority to prohibit certain contractors from bidding on projects, this is restricted to the inability to perform on previous City projects. Mr. Casolo said the utility relocation phase is on schedule, so there should be no delays.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Coppola, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Jacobson, Liebson, Mahoney, McMullen in favor).

- <sup>3</sup>3. O29.083 REVIEW; Outstanding Blight Complaints. Report Made  
06/05/17 – Submitted by Reps. Coppola and Fedeli  
07/06/17 – Held in Committee  
07/31/17 – Held in Committee

Mr. Zeiss gave an overview of the Anti-Blight complaints are processed. There are currently 80 open complaints. He spends 10-20 hours per week investigating, and has one assistant to help with paperwork. He reviewed the Anti-Blight Update presentation ([attached](#)). Some complaints can take a long time to resolve, and others only a few hours. Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances wherein the homeowner is not capable of cleaning up the blight, and Mr. Zeiss tries to figure out a way to resolve it with the homeowner. The homeowner, not the City, is responsible for removing blight on their property. Mr. Zeiss will get back to the committee with an analysis of the blight budget over the past five years.

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<sup>2</sup> Video time stamp: 11:59 (Video Part 1)

<sup>3</sup> Video time stamp: 48:50 (Video Part 1)

4. O29.084      REVIEW; Compliance with US DEP Order re: Clean      Report Made  
Water Act - NDPEs Permit #CT0030279 Authorizing  
Storm Water Discharge via MS4.  
06/05/17 – Submitted by Rep. Ryan  
07/06/17 – Held in Committee  
07/31/17 – Held in Committee

Rep. Ryan explained that he brought this issue to the committee because the City drains storm water directly from the street into Long Island Sound, and this includes sewage. Mr. Pollard said that in 2013 the City was notified it was in violation of MS4, and as a result, assets were invested in to comply with the MS4 program. Mr. Theder and Mr. Brink explained managing storm water discharge. Stamford is the only municipality in Connecticut that has a Phase #1 NDPEs. In the last reporting year, 1,767 catch basins were cleaned, and 3,000 tons of liquid and solid materials were removed which would have been washed out into Long Island Sound. There are approximately 11,000 basins on City property, and 5,000 on private property. Private property owners are responsible for cleaning basins on their property. There are new medallions in English and Spanish on the basins telling citizens not to dump, which helps with enforcement. There is educational outreach in middle schools. The best way to make a complaint is either through Citizens Services or online with the Storm Water Management Department.

Chair Coppola adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Coppola, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) and [Pt. 2](#))

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<sup>4</sup> Video time stamp: 1:18:30 (Video Part 1) and continues on (Video Part 2)