



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice-Chair Zelinsky, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Saftic. Also in attendance were Reps. Lion, Matherne, McGarry, Morson, and Nabel. Also in attendance were Mayor David Martin; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Burt Rosenberg, Law Dept.; Kathy Emmett, Law Dept.; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept., Arnold Knittel, Engineering Dept.; and three members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O30.002	REVIEW; Overview of Operations Department with Director Ernie Orgera. 12/27/17 – Submitted by President Quinones	Report Made

Mr. Orgera gave an overview of the Office of Operations, and distributed the [attached](#) presentation to the Committee. Representatives asked questions of Mr. Orgera, and there was some discussion. He agreed to get information to the representatives at a later date regarding some of the questions. Chair Jacobson said that any questions the representatives had which were not included in this item discussion would be put on the Steering Agenda within the upcoming months.

A motion to take a five minute recess was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor). The Committee took a recess at 8:25 p.m. and resumed at 8:32 p.m.

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:01:31 - Part 1

- ²2. [O30.003](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending [Section 214-29](#), Excavation Permit Required, to Update Street Opening Permit Procedures.
01/03/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Mayor Martin discussed that this item stems from a reassessment of how the City is handling roads. A substantial amount of deterioration from roads is due to road openings that were not properly patched. He would like to create a process to ensure that after companies are finished working on the roads, that the patches are done properly. In addition, the previous ordinance implied that patches only need to last a few years. It is important that patches should last as long as the roads are expected to last. The time that the utility companies are responsible for their patch should be extended. There should be compensation to reflect the patch on the road, and the compensation should be proportional to what was done to the road.

Mayor Martin and Mr. Rosenberg explained that these efforts are hindered because there is case law in Connecticut whereby utility companies have successfully defended themselves against these fees. The City requires a great deal of work to make sure patches are completed properly, and these fees are to help cover the costs of making sure this is done. Eversource has sent the City a letter challenging what their responsibilities are regarding patching procedures. The Law Department will get a copy of this letter to the Committee.

Mr. Casolo explained the process of street opening permits. The Engineering Department has a meeting with the company and a permit is drawn up that articulates the specifications of the street opening and patching. He stated that certain utility companies and subcontractors do a better job of patching than others.

There was discussion amongst the Committee members on this item. The Committee discussed receiving more information before moving forward on this ordinance.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

- ³3. [O30.004](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Held 8-0-0
Establishing Fees as Provided by Section 214-29.
01/03/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

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

² Video Time Stamp 00:00:17 - Part 2

³ Video Time Stamp 00:53:14 – Part 2