



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Matherne, McMullen, Miller, Nabel, Stella, and Summerville; Mayor David Martin; Tom Madden, Director of Economic Development; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Dana Lee, Law Dept.; Chief Trevor Roach; Edward Browne and Larry Davidoff, EMS; Leigh Shemitz, SoundWaters; Melanie Hollas, Parks & Recreation Commissioner; and many members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. O30.094	ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; Prohibiting the Use and Application of Non-Organic Pesticides, Fungicides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides or Fertilizer on City-Owned Properties. 06/07/21 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Jacobson, Figueroa, Cottrell, Patterson, Saftic, Stella, Zelinsky and Pratt and Mayor Martin 06/29/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0 07/27/21 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 8-0-0	Approved 8-0-0

Mayor Martin spoke in favor of this ordinance. He stated he fully supports it with or without the proposed amendment regarding the Director's Report, and will do his best to make sure it happens. He said the benefits of implementing an ordinance such as this are difficult to measure in monetary terms. The process will probably require tweaking over time, but the City should definitely get started with it.

Chair Jacobson opened the Public Hearing at 6:45pm. Ten people spoke in favor of the ordinance. There being no one else from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

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Additionally, 11 people submitted written comments in favor of the ordinance, which are part this record, and Rep. Sherwood gave a brief summary of those comments.

There was discussion on this item.

- Rep. Sherwood explained that she has spent two and a half years researching this ordinance, has worked with every City department that will be effected, and has crafted the language to be executable with the least amount of resources.
- Since the Administration could change in November, it is important to have this ordinance passed with the current Administration.
- It was questioned why an ordinance is required to compel the Administration to do this if it is agreed that it is an important health issue.
- Since there is a clear public health benefit to this, what exactly would a cost benefit analysis do? Would the City not use organic pesticides if it cost a certain amount?
- A report explaining the process and how well it is doing would be important.
- The BOR should know if this process has a negative impact on field availability.

A motion was made that the annual report in Sec. H include studies and testing on a continuous basis and reporting back on the benefits of the new ordinance. The motion failed for lack of a second motion.

- A question was raised as to whether clarification is needed in the ordinance regarding Board of Education fields and City fields. Dana Lee stated that Sec. B addresses the application of pesticides on school property and that adequately informs intent so no further clarification is needed.

A motion to approve the proposed amendment to Sec. H, including adding "**and the effects thereof**" to the proposed amendment was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 1-7-0 (Rep. Mahoney in favor; Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Sherwood, and Watkins opposed).

A motion to approve Item O30.094 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

- ²². [O30.098](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; BOR's Recommendation on the use of the Old Police Station to the Mayor. **Held 8-0-0**
07/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson
07/27/21 – Held by Committee and public hearings approved, 8-0-0

Chair Jacobson opened the Public hearing at 7:58pm. Fire Chief Trevor Roach, and Edward Browne and Larry Davidoff of EMS spoke in favor of creating a headquarters for EMS, 911 dispatch and central fire department. Parks & Recreation Commissioner and Stamford resident Melanie Hollas spoke in favor of permanent green space. There being

² Video Time Stamp: 01:26:34

no one else wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed. Additionally, one member of the public submitted comments in favor of permanent green space.

There was Committee discussion on how to proceed procedurally with this item.

- Some representatives said that the Operations Committee should fully discuss this item and bring the decision to the full Board at a regular meeting.
- Some representatives said that a special meeting of the full Board should be held after the second public hearing to discuss and vote on this item.
- Committee Members agreed a second Public Hearing is necessary since few people attended this evening.
- Chair Jacobson explained that he believes a knock-out style voting process would be the most practical and democratic process to determine the outcome of the old police building site.
- Chair Jacobson stated that he will request a second public hearing at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

A motion to hold Item O30.098 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

- ³³. [O30.101](#) RESOLUTION; Accepting a Gift of Used Office Furniture from W.R. Berkley Corporation. **Approved as Amended 8-0-0**
08/03/21 – Submitted by Thomas Madden

Mr. Madden explained this item and there was discussion.

- This gift was offered because when the company to new offices at the Metro Center there was furniture leftover.
- Most of the furniture at the Government Center is 40 years old and many pieces are broken.
- The pieces will be stored on the 4th and 6th floors, and two pods will be rented at approximately \$200 each per month, and stored at the Operations Center. It will take two to three months to empty the pods.
- W.R. Berkley Corp. does not have anything coming up to the BOR soon that would affect this gift.
- The items were worth \$400,000 new, and have been discounted by 75% in this resolution. All pieces were catalogued and looked up online to arrive at this figure.
- It was suggested that perhaps in the future gifts like this are priced in a more objective manner.
- Matthew Stuhlman, Safety Officer, will submit a report every three months to the BOR detailing where the furniture has been assigned.

A motion to add “**three refrigerators and three televisions**” to the list of furniture was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

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A motion to approve Item O30.101 as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

44. [O30.065](#) REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge **Held 8-0-0**
12/04/2019 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
12/30/19 – Held in Committee 7-0-0
01/28/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee
8-0-0
02/26/20 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
12/29/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0
01/11/21 – Moved to Pending
05/25/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0
06/29/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0
07/27/21 – Report Made and Held by Committee,
8-0-0

Mr. Casolo gave an update on this item and there was discussion.

- Four steps have been taken since the Mayor's update in June.
- A thorough inspection of the existing bridge integrity was completed on July 20, 2021, by Pederson Engineering and recommendations were submitted on August 20, 2021. The bridge remains in critical condition due to advanced destruction. However, the pedestrian bridge is safe to remain open for now due to the gangways being stable and secure.
- Initiate engineering design work on pre-fabricated pedestrian bridge: RFP's were sent out, five proposals received, and a preliminary layout was submitted on August 13, 2021. The contract bid documents are due in December.
- Permitting: initial meetings were held with the EPB and DEEP to determine requirements. Permits plans are submitted to regulatory agencies at 90% complete. Permit review time is two to four months.
- Bidding the bridge: once permits are in place, the project is advertised, it goes to award and construction begins in Spring of 2022.
- If construction begins in Spring of 2022, it should be completed by the end of year 2022, barring any supply chain delays.
- This is for a new, permanent, prefabricated pedestrian bridge, not temporary. It would allow for ambulances, and have utility hangers. The existing bridge is not currently part of the design scope. The new bridge would be next to the existing bridge.
- Reps. de la Cruz and Nabel explained their intent of drafting the resolution was to create a means to push the Administration to move forward with a plan that satisfies the needs of the community and safety requirements, and creates a permanent useful bridge.
- Can the money that was voted on to restore the original bridge now be put towards a new bridge?
- Some Committee members agreed that more work needs to be done on the resolution.

A motion to hold Item O30.065 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

5. [O30.100](#) REVIEW; Street and Residential Flooding Caused **Report Made**
by Tropical Storm Elsa or Other Reasons.
07/12/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis,
Sandford, Adams, Coleman, Pratt, Zelinsky, and
de la Cruz.
07/12/21 – Moved to Pending

Mr. Casolo reviewed this item.

- There are several locations in the City that have flooding problems whenever there is a big precipitation event.
- An extensive analysis and investment is required to upgrading the older infrastructure to prevent the problems from happening.
- City should look at which problems areas to evaluate and determine the most practical solution.
- This requires a big commitment. Many of the pipes are from the 1930's, there are probably capacity issues, and there are utilities located in the ground.
- It has been challenging to obtain funds for drainage issues. The Engineering Department usually gets less funds than what is requested.
- If the pipe structures were not built with the current population anticipated, eventually things are going to break down.
- The process should be evaluated the same way as a master plan, so there is an actual plan for a remedy, and not just reactionary improvements.

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 10:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [Video](#)

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 03:48:46