

A Special Meeting of the **Capital Improvement and Strategic Planning Committee** was held on March 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 1, City Hall West, 131 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Members Present: Mayor Caggiano, John Smith, Glenn Heiser, Tom Hislop, Sebastian Panioto, Marie O'Brien, Jacqueline Olsen, and Cheryl Thibeault.

Also Present: Diane Waldron, Robin Manuele, Jessica Pilgrim, Ray Rogozinski, Richard Hart, Peter Fusco, Kate Carbone, Roger Rousseau

1. Call to order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the February 22, 2023 minutes and to take any action as necessary

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commission Olsen "to approve the minutes from February 22, 2023." Motion approved.

3. To review the Scorecard Rankings for the 2023-2024 Capital Budget and to take any action as necessary

The Committee reviewed the scorecard ranking presented by Departments Heads on their individual projects and the rankings of the projects by each individual Commissioner. The projects were presented in ranking order from highest to lowest and discussed. Mayor Caggiano discussed the ranking system is not the end all to approving the projects as some Commissioners looked at things differently, but it will be one method used. If there are projects that have been started and paid for, such as Page Park we should move forward with completing those projects.

Commissioner O'Brien discussed the bottom three projects, the Bike Path and Culinary Programs, that both have grant funding components. Discussion included what happens if the City doesn't get the grant, or if the grant funding can be used for other projects.

The Fire Department requests were discussed. The Pumping Apparatus does rank above the Aerial Apparatus, as the second truck request was added later, however the Committee needs to look at how much would the City save by doing this now, and how much could economic factors with supply chain affect these estimates. Chief Hart explained the cost to commit to a purchase by June 30th is \$1.7 million for the Aerial Apparatus and \$850,000 for the Pumping Apparatus. The City would be locked in to a three year delivery date, not any sooner, so actual cash to pay for this equipment will not be needed until then. The Chief explained the existing cummings motor will no longer exist for these types of trucks in the future, and with a new motor comes a cost increase.

Commissioner Heiser questioned if the price is locked in now by committing to the purchase, the City will not be funding it now, it will be funded on delivery. Roger Rousseau explained typically speaking there is not a deposit, however if there is an option to pay for a portion of the chaises or prepay for the vehicle there is usually a discount.

Commissioner Thibeault stated the new fire station is being built to accommodate a new ladder truck. Commissioner Hislop questioned if the new truck would increase staffing. Chief Hart stated it would, he would pursue a grant to help offset those costs for the first few years. Commissioner Smith stated the total cost of the truck is not just the truck but the cost for ongoing staffing and related costs that keep escalating. The estimated cost is \$1.6 million for 16 new firefighters.

Mayor Caggiano stated the Page Park Revitalization project may have ranked lower because it has a high dollar cost without any other funding source, but it is an ongoing project. The design is done, and the City would be moving forward to match what has been done at Rockwell Park. Commissioner Smith stated there has to be equity among the parks. A large amount has recently been spent at Rockwell Park and the pool at Page was just redone. The possibility of trust funds could be used to offset some of the cost.

Commissioner Thibeault stated the Parks projects have an economic impact, as the pavilion is now being rented and recreation classes bring in revenue. The current fee structure should be reviewed and evaluated to see if they are reasonable and up to date.

Commissioner Olsen reviewed the Animal Control Facility project and the work leading up to this point. There are many safety issues for the animals and people who work there. Three options were presented and it made sense to have the new building. Public outcry about the current facility was tremendous, no HVAC, internet, and a safer environment were the biggest concerns.

Mayor Caggiano asked the Committee to review the list, those ranking 125 and below will need serious conversation about approval.

The Committee is working towards strategic planning, a six-year plan is more manageable and not making decisions in a one year vacuum.

4. To review the Capital Budget for 2023-2024 and to take any action as necessary

No discussion on this item.

5. To review the Capital Improvement Program and to take any action as necessary.

No discussion on this item.

6. Adjournment

*Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commission Smith "to adjourn" at 4:59 p.m.
Motion approved.*

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary