

Public Works Committee

Chairman Buonopane, Forbes,  
Seaboyer, Conn, Tramontozzi  
Attending: Boisselle, Brodeur,  
Infurna, Wright, Mortimer

Public Works called to order by Chairman Buonopane at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Buonopane says there is a public hearing on Order No. 08-015, Authorizing betterments on: portions of Trenton Street between Foster Street and W. Wyoming Ave.; portions of Hurd Street between Trenton Street and Cottage Street; 4 locations on Melrose Street and one location on Vinton Street as set forth herein.

Alderman Forbes motions to open Public Participation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Paul Grover, 195 Melrose Street, speaks on the Melrose Street portion of the public hearing. He says the betterments are a safety issue. The road needs to be serviced. The asphalt sidewalk has settled and people stumble on it. His neighbors at 191 Melrose Street have a serious problem with their frontage. At 187 Melrose it's even more serious. Repairs need to be done. Upgrading to concrete would be a continuation of what is there up to his property line and granite curbing is the only thing that would stand up to large snow plows; the berm that was in place is long gone.

Alderman Forbes motions to close Public Participation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Alderman Conn asks if public participation constitutes the public hearing of the betterment. Chairman Buonopane says yes.

Alderman Tramontozzi says he would like to speak on behalf of the residents on Melrose and Vinton Streets in favor of the betterment, and asks the committee to approve this. It will affect the home owners as they share the cost of the betterment.

Alderman Tramontozzi moves to recommend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Forbes.

Chairman Buonopane says there is a letter from the Mayor stating that there are funds for betterments in the FY08 budget.

Alderman Conn asks if the work on the Tremont Street area is going to be concrete sidewalks and granite curbing. Alderman Wright says yes; roadwork is being done now and the neighbors asked for an upgrade to granite and concrete. A neighborhood meeting was held six weeks ago. Between 15 and 18 people attended and all of them are enthusiastic about the upgrade. Alderman Conn asks if there is no significant opposition to this. Alderman Wright says no one in opposition appeared at the neighborhood meeting. He had one person call who indicated that he would be at tonight's public hearing if he opposed.

Alderman Boisselle asks if the city's engineers have a sign-off from the abutters accepting their share of the cost. Alderman Wright says he doesn't know.

Alderman Infurna says she has had positive experiences with sidewalk upgrades. She is not a member of the committee but would suggest the interest rate be set at 0%.

Alderman Brodeur says he lives very close to this area but it doesn't affect his property.

Alderman Forbes asks if the betterment assessment is paid over 20 years. Alderman Infurna says the property owners have a choice to pay it all at once or spread over 20 years.

Alderman Forbes moves to amend by adding "Betterments will be assessed at zero percent (0%) interest.", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Conn. All in favor.

Alderman Conn moves to recommend as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Alderman Conn says the person associated with the one order in the Protection and License Committee is not available this evening, and therefore he will not hold that committee meeting.

Alderman Conn motions to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Public Works adjourns at 7:43 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington  
*Clerk of Committees*