Appropriations Committee

Chairman Brodeur, Boisselle, Mortimer, Infurna, Forbes, Wright, McAteer-Margolis, Seaboyer, Medeiros, Conn
Absent: Tramontozzi
In attendance: City Planner Denise Gaffey

Appropriations called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 7:36 p.m. Alderman Mortimer motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Medeiros. All in favor.

Susan Kelleher, 67 Meridian Street, says she is here to speak to the water and sewer ordinance change. She was here in June speaking about the backwards billing. She has old water bills from 1995 when the City was able to apportion the money collected, ongoing to 1994. Mr. Beshara gave her the order changing the billing rate in 2005. She knows from past experience that DPW says it will cost the City more money if the billing goes back to the old way. She says it's about $160,000 but that can be made up with the state's increase in relief.

Alderman Mortimer motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 08-269, Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 228-15 by adding paragraph C as set forth herein. (AL-2) (A-2)

Chairman Brodeur says the administration is working through some software issues with programming and will be able to address it at the next full board meeting.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis motions to place the order on hold, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Order No. 08-271, Capital Improvement Program Updated FY'09 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Report

Chairman Brodeur says the Aldermen received the report a month or two ago.

City Planner Denise Gaffey says her office has been doing the report since 1995. Department Heads are asked to project which projects they would like to see happen over the next five years. A committee consisting of Aldermen and community members analyze and rate the projects. The projects are rated A through E. A-rated projects are urgent, high-priority projects that should be done if at all possible. B-rated projects are high priority projects that should be done as soon as possible. C-rated projects are worthwhile projects to be considered if funding becomes available. D-rated projects are low-priority projects that are not essential. E-rated projects are very low priority and/or not desirable. There were no D- or E-rated projects this year. Priority Group A projects include upgrades to the High School and a new Public Safety facility. Priority Group B projects include fire command vehicles, cemetery expansion and burial development and traffic signal upgrades among others. The report is given to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen and the Capital Stabilization Fund makes these projects more secure.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis thanks Ms. Gaffey for continuing to chair the CIP committee and asks her for an update on the High School work that is being done. Ms. Gaffey says the Aldermen appropriated funds for a multi-phase capital project at the High School for electrical upgrades and technology investment. The work is progressing very well; all electrical work is done at this point. The installation of projectors and Smartboards will be completed by the beginning of the school year. Alderman McAteer-Margolis asks about the similar work being done at the Hoover and Winthrop schools; Ms. Gaffey says the work is completed.

Alderman Boisselle asks about the Public Safety building on the Priority A list. Ms. Gaffey says there have been two meetings with the National Guard which went very well and were well received. There is great opportunity to share the facility. The City will fund a feasibility study in the fall to understand and analyze space needs.

Alderman Forbes asks about the Hoover School windows being on the C list; Ms. Gaffey says the Department Heads are asked to look over the list and prioritize their projects.

Alderman Seaboyer asks about the C group including a new fire station. Ms. Gaffey says that project was suggested by Chief O'Brien and there is a sense that the current fire station has some infrastructure concerns and restraints. Perhaps the better solution is to renovate or join it with the Public Safety building.

Alderman Boisselle says Group C includes the total renovation of Memorial Hall and asks if that will be removed from the list after the HVAC construction is completed. Ms. Gaffey says it won't be taken off the list but the description and dollar amount will change to address the infrastructure issues. The current project is on schedule and will be completed by mid-October.

Alderman Medeiros motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Appropriations adjourns at 7:55 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees