

STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020
VIA THE INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
11:00 a.m.

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Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Voting Members: Theresa Dell, Chair; Jay Tepper, Vice Chair; Jennifer Godzeno, Secretary and Michael Totilo. Alternates: Claire Fishman and William Levin
Absent: Michael Boccino, Voting Member. Present for staff: David W. Woods, PhD, FAICP, Deputy Director of Planning; James Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief; Garrett Bolella, Traffic Engineer; Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs; Cynthia Anger, Assistant Corporate Counsel and Sandra Dennies, Interim Director of Administration.

Ms. Dell called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and introduced the members of the Board and staff present.

Ms. Dell introduced the first item on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD & PULASKI STREET WIDENING PROJECT - ACQUISITION BY NEGOTIATION OR EMINENT DOMAIN OF RIGHTS OF WAY:

The Bureau of Transportation, Traffic & Parking proposes the roadway widening of Washington Boulevard, between Henry Street and Atlantic Street as well as Pulaski Street, between Washington Boulevard and the Pulaski Street Bridge (the "Project") to facilitate the completion of a long range plan to improve transportation and traffic operations around the Stamford Transportation Center, within the South End and connect to the City's \$5M+ investment in the Waterside neighborhood.

The Project would require property acquisitions, including the full-take acquisition of 21 Pulaski Street and three (3) partial take “sliver roadway widening” acquisitions (4 Pulaski Street, 256 Washington Boulevard and 274 Washington Boulevard) in addition to temporary Construction Easements to complete the Project.

Ms. Dell asked Mr. Travers and Mr. Bolella to make their initial presentation going through the aspects of the project allowed to be discussed in the public part of the meeting.

Ms. Dell adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 11: 30 a.m. (Video Time Stamp - 00:32:00) and moved into Executive Session.

The Planning Board returned from Executive Session to the public portion of the meeting at 12:49 p.m. (Video Time Stamp - 01:38:00) and Ms. Dell reopened the meeting.

Ms. Dell restated the Board members and staff present at the start of the meeting and the item on the agenda for discussion.

Ms. Dell stated the following for the record:

The Planning Board reviewed (the Washington Boulevard and Pulaski Street Widening Project) in public and in Executive Session. The Planning Board believes the new project brought forward, with a stronger plan, should go forward immediately. The City is presently negotiating in good faith and if necessary, the Planning Board agrees that if Eminent Domain is necessary upon conclusion of all negotiations, the Board would be in favor of going forward as the Board feels this is a very urgent and important project due to the closing of South State Street for two years starting in April 2021. The Planning Board urges all other Boards to support and improve this important City project.

After considerable discussion, Ms. Godzeno recommended approval of the Washington Boulevard and Pulsaski Street Widening Project - Acquisition by Negotiation or Eminent Domain of Rights of Way and this request has been reviewed pursuant to and is consistent with Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 and Section C6-30-13 of the City Charter, as well as consistent with the adopted 2015 Master Plan; Mr. Totilo seconded the motion and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Godzeno, Levin, Tepper and Totilo).

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Dell adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Dell, Chair
Stamford Planning Board

NOTE: *These proceedings were recorded on video and are available for review on the City of Stamford website at http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=20 and in the Land Use Bureau located on the 7th Floor of the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, during regular business hours.*