

**STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES - TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING
VIA THE INTERNET & CONFERENCE CALL
7:00 P.M.**

ZOOM WEBINAR

Webinar ID: 818 4412 3064

Passcode: 856132

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Voting Members: Theresa Dell, Chair; Jay Tepper, Vice Chair; Jennifer Godzeno, Secretary; Michael Buccino (Arrived at 7:15) and Michael Totilo. Alternates: William Levin and Stephen Perry. Present for staff: Anthony Romano, Management Analyst, Office of Policy & Management and Lindsey Cohen, Associate Planner.

Ms. Dell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Dell introduced the members of the Board and staff present and introduced the first item on the agenda.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 28, 2023 (Tabled from the December 12, 2023 Meeting): After a brief discussion, Mr. Tepper moved to recommend *approval* of the Planning Board Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023; Mr. Perry seconded the motion, and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 4-0 (Dell, Levin, Perry and Tepper). (Ms. Godzeno and Mr. Totilo were ineligible to vote as they were absent at the November 28, 2023 meeting.)

January 9, 2024: After a brief discussion, Mr. Perry moved to recommend *approval* of the Planning Board Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023; Ms. Godzeno seconded the motion, and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Godzeno, Perry, Tepper and Totilo). (Mr. Levin was ineligible to vote as he was absent at the January 9, 2024 meeting.)

Ms. Dell opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING BEGAN AT 7:10 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON THE 2024-2025 CAPITAL BUDGET & CITY OF STAMFORD CITY-WIDE PARKING STUDY

- *Speakers from the public will have 5 minutes each to speak.*
- *Any public speaker wishing to submit written testimony prior to the meeting can send it to Lindsey Cohen, Associate Planner at lcohen@stamfordct.gov or to Theresa Dell, Planning Board Chair at tdell@stamfordct.gov or submit the request through a Chat message to the Planning Board Chair during the meeting.*
- *During the meeting, please do not send Chat messages to “Everyone” as it is distracting for all attendees.*
- *All public speakers wishing to speak at the Public Hearing shall send a Chat message to the Moderator/Planning Board Chair with their name and address to sign-up to speak.*
- *All public speakers shall announce their name and address clearly for the record prior to speaking.*

Ms. Dell introduced Ms. Cohen and Mr. Romano.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

In accordance with Section C-611.3 of the Stamford Charter, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing to hear public comments on the recommended Capital Budget for 2024-2025 and Capital Plan for 2025-2031.

Ms. Dell explained the procedure for the public to speak on the Capital Budget items and turned the meeting over to Ms. Cohen.

Ms. Cohen noted that there was one participant calling in and that they should use “*9” to raise their hand if they would like to speak.

The following people spoke on the Capital Budget:

- Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff, City of Stamford - Housing Development Fund
- Kylie Goslin, CEO, Housing Development Fund
- Jonathan Gotlieb, Charter Oak Communities - Housing Development Fund

Ms. Cohen stated that Ms. Godzeno needs to read the Legal Notice into the record and was done as follows:

**LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING BOARD
THE CITY OF STAMFORD**

*In accordance with Section C-611.3 of the Stamford Charter, the **STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD** will hold a **Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** via phone and internet video conference to hear public comments on the recommended **CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 & CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2025-2031** and **THE CITY OF STAMFORD CITY-WIDE PARKING STUDY**. Copies of both documents are available on the Planning Board website at www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/planning-board.*

**ATTEST: THERESA DELL, CHAIR
STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD**

Dated at the City of Stamford this 17th day of January 2024.

Ms. Dell also noted that there were several letters received from Christine Schilling, Zach Oberholtzer, Jerry Silber, K. Boginski and Jordan Force with comments in reference to the Housing Development Fund, Citywide sidewalks & reconstruction, roadway design, safe routes, Strawberry Hill and Vision Zero.

Ms. Dell also noted a letter was received from Melanie Hollas, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission.

All the correspondence has been made part of the public record.

Ms. Cohen returned to the public speakers as follows:

- Alice Knapp, CEO, Ferguson Library
- Sue Halpern - 30 Elmcroft Road - Affordable Housing
- Angelo B. - Bedford Street - Affordable Housing & Traffic Concerns
- Jordan Force - Strawberry Hill/Newfield Ave Corridor Improvements & Sidewalks

Ms. Dell called for anyone else from the public who would like to speak; there was no response.

Ms. Dell closed the public portion of the Hearing for the Capital Budget.

Ms. Dell asked if there was someone in attendance to speak about the Parking Study.

Ms. Cohen explained that the Parking Study is its own Public Hearing item and Mr. Petise and Mr. Bittenwieser are in attendance to speak about the Study.

Ms. Dell asked the Board if the discussion on the Capital Budget could be **TABLED** and begin discussions on the Parking Study; all Board members agreed.

Ms. Dell introduced Mr. Petise.

CITY OF STAMFORD CITY-WIDE PARKING STUDY:

The Stamford City-Wide Parking Study was initiated in February 2020, just prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas the pandemic affected some of the original work tasks and the study schedule, the overall goals of the Parking Study remained as initially planned: [a] undertake a City-wide parking assessment with a focus on key neighborhoods - Downtown, South End, West Side, Glenbrook and Springdale; and [b] develop a set of data-based recommendations and implementation strategies to strengthen the City's parking resources and requirements. As the study evolved over the 3-year period an additional need became apparent which was to assist the City of Stamford in dealing with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on its parking system usage.

Frank Petise, Transportation Bureau Chief, made some brief introductory comments and introduced Luke Bittenwieser, Transportation Planner, who made a presentation highlighting details of the Study and answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Dell opened the public portion of the Hearing for the Parking Study.

The following residents spoke:

- Barry Michelson - 111 Idlewood Drive
- Sue Halpern - 30 Elmcroft Road
- Angelo B. - Bedford Street
- Paul Arvoy - Lancer Lane
- Monica Twal - Downtown & South End
- Daniel Konen
- Zachary Oberholtzer - 2475 Summer Street
- Dave Adams

Ms. Dell asked Mr. Petise and Mr. Bittenwieser for final comments; Mr. Bittenwieser responded there were none.

Ms. Dell noted there was a message in the Q&A from Helen Timmerman asking Mr. Bittenwieser about the sidewalk in Glenbrook that runs from the Hope Street intersection with Glenbrook Road down the hill to Stark School. It almost disappears at one point and usually has bulging hedges next to it that belong to the condos.

Ms. Dell asked Mr. Bittenwieser if he could answer her question through the Q&A. Mr. Bittenwieser noted the importance of the Capital Budget funds for sidewalk repairs and suggested making a request through "Fix-it Stamford" or follow up with him through his City email and he would walk her through the process of submitting a repair request.

Ms. Dell called for any further public comments and allowed the following residents to speak again:

- Paul Arvoy
- Monica Twal

Ms. Dell closed the public portion of the Hearing for the Parking Study.

Ms. Dell called for final questions or comments from the Board.

Ms. Dell thanked Mr. Petise and Mr. Bittenwieser for coming and talking about the Parking Study and thanked everyone for all the public comments.

Ms. Dell closed the Public Hearing.

Ms. Dell stated due to the lateness of the hour, the Capital Budget discussion would be adjourned to the January 30, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Godzeno asked if the Board should vote to accept the Parking Study.

Ms. Cohen stated it should be accepted tonight if possible.

Ms. Dell asked the Board if they felt they could vote tonight or if there were further questions; all Board members agreed to vote and there were no further questions.

Ms. Dell asked Ms. Godzeno to make a motion for the Parking Study.

Ms. Godzeno made a motion to accept the Stamford City-Wide Parking Study; Mr. Buccino seconded the motion, and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Buccino, Godzeno, Tepper and Totilo).

Ms. Godzeno also suggested that the Board have a follow-up discussion at a future meeting with TTP on the Residential Parking Permit Program which would address many concerns with overcrowding parking in neighborhoods.

Ms. Dell asked Ms. Cohen to investigate possible meeting dates to schedule.

Ms. Dell asked Mr. Romano to meet to draft the transmittal letter for discussion at the January 30, 2024 meeting and to finalize at the February 13, 2024 meeting. Mr. Romano agreed to draft the transmittal letter for review.

Ms. Cohen noted that there are draft agendas in place for January 30 and February 13 are quite full and might be difficult to move items around to accommodate discussion of the Capital Budget.

Ms. Dell suggested a Special Meeting on February 6 to discuss and finalize the Capital Budget and all Board members agreed and stated they were available.

Next regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings are:

- January 30, 2024 (Regular Meeting)
- February 6, 2024 (Special Meeting - Capital Budget)
- February 13, 2024 (Regular Meeting)
- February 27, 2024 (Regular Meeting)

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Dell adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
January 25, 2024

Jennifer Godzeno, Secretary
Stamford Planning Board

NOTE: These proceedings were recorded on video and are available for review on the Planning Board website at http://cityofstamford.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=20