



***Waltham City Council  
Public Works and Public Safety Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, May 21, 2018***

***Hoover Committee Room  
City Hall, 610 Main Street  
Waltham, Massachusetts***

Chairman Vidal called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Attendance:

Present: Brasco, Harris, Randy LeBlanc, Romard, Vidal

Absent: None

Councillor Romard moved approval of the minutes from 5/7/2018. Then motion was approved on a voice vote.

Tabled matters:

***Paving Resolution***

Councillor Randy LeBlanc moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Randy LeBlanc moved to suspend the rules to hear from an off committee member the motion was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Randy LeBlanc questioned the need to have people appear before the City Council for a street opening under the moratorium (General Ordinance 17-25). Councillor LeBlanc said 90% just get approved. Why not require the standards imposed by the Council and require a bond but let the Public Works Director make the decision regarding if the street is to be opened. Chris Gamble announced that he was recording the meeting. Director Chiasson reviewed the process for a standard street opening and passed out a requirements document dated 10/21/2011. Director Chaisson said the big difference would be that street openings under the moratorium would no longer be subject to a public process. For a standard street opening abutters are not notified. Councilor Randy LeBlanc asked about inspections. Director Chiasson said he believes his department is doing a better job at inspections and has given his inspectors feedback about what is acceptable and what is not. Councillor Harris said that this should only apply to by right development. Councillor Harris asked what abutter notification would look like. Director Chaisson said abutters would not be notified. Director Chaisson said he would

be open to using different ways including the website to let people know about street openings. Councillor Harris said there should be communication so that neighbors have lead time to make plans in case of disruption. Councillor Harris asked what the process is for notifying a contractor about a poor paving job. Director Chiasson said the process is to first send a letter to the contractor letting them know that they need to fix the work. If there is not a response a second letter is sent with a copy to the contractor's bonding company. If the matter is not resolved the bonding company is notified and payment to the city is made. Another contractor is hired to repair the work. The contractor would no longer be allowed to do excavation on city streets. President LeBlanc said she thought people would be upset if a newly repaved street was opened and they were not notified. Residents wait a long time to have their streets repaved. Councillor Romard asked clarifying questions about when someone is required to appear before the Council for a street opening. Councillor Romard says he has voted for many street openings but only because individuals have not been properly notified about the moratorium. Councillor Romard asked questions about the Mayor's proposal. Director Chiasson said he had not seen it. Councillor Randy LeBlanc said that a bond could be required for each job rather than a contractor having a bond on file for all of their work. Councillor Romard said he did not think CPW would adequately inspect the street repair work as they do not appear to be able to do so today given the condition of City roads. Chairman Vidal expressed concern about the need for public notice. Councillor Randy LeBlanc said he didn't see how having Councillors ask questions of someone looking to open a street results in a better patch job. Councillor Randy LeBlanc moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

*Resolution regarding converting private ways to public ways*

President LeBlanc moved to take the resolution regarding converting private ways to public ways from the table. Councillor Romard moved to request that the clerk request information on the partially private ways from the board of survey and planning. The request was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked questions about narrowing the list and raised concerns about possible speed bumps. Councillor Randy LeBlanc moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Councillor Romard moved to adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph W. Vizard  
Assistant City Clerk