The meeting was called to order by Councilman Nocera at 6:30 p.m. Councilman McKeon moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated May 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Darnell Ford. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – LYCEUM ROAD

Dan Penney asked that his correspondence be included in the minutes and part of the public record.

Paula Rose of 460 Chamberlain Road. After listening and reading the minutes from the previous Public Works Commission meeting, and meeting with the Fire Chief, she feels that the cost to repair Lyceum Road to driver satisfaction comes at too high a cost. Other than utilities, nobody needs to drive on Lyceum Road. Too many essential roads in the area need repair before Lyceum and heavy equipment needed to do repairs would further damage Lee, Paddock, Chauncey and Chamberlain Roads. The cheapest fix for Lyceum is probably the most expensive in the long run due to the higher water table and increased drainage issues. The Fire Chief does not believe the closure of Lyceum would cause an increase in response time. Believes that the best solution is the city’s suggestion of gating Lyceum with keyed access for utilities, emergency services and farm traffic. This is the cheaper solution and addresses concerns of what happens if the bridge on Chamberlain Road were to fail. Many people have expressed to Paula that they are in favor of keeping Lyceum closed and her, her husband and Chris Bevans are willing to mail a survey, at their own expense, to gauge neighbor feedback on the closure. Requests clarification on the cost to mill and repave Lyceum. Questions what the Water Pollution Control Authority will be doing in the area over the next year. Should Lyceum remain closed until their work is complete? Would also like consideration to be given to mitigate speeding issues if the decision is made to repave the road or keeping it an unimproved farm road and doing nothing to it.

David Sandler of 460 Chamberlain Road. David, Paula and Dan are willing to send a survey to 191 households in the area they feel will be impacted by any decision made regarding Lyceum road. There would be three options that they could select from. One would be totally reconstructing the road, two
would be repairing or patching without addressing flooding issues, and three, keeping the road closed. The third option would allow access to maintenance crews and emergency services. They request that the commission hold off on any decisions until this survey could be sent out and responses collected.

Chris Bevans reinforced that there is a tremendous sentiment of the neighbors that he has spoken with that getting a community consensus on the decision of what to do with Lyceum Road is important. Another concern he has is that other roads in the area that need more repair and until issues relating to the rising water table are addressed, they will continue to have issues on Lyceum.

Commission members agreed to waive the rules, allowing members of the public to ask questions, as there was a small number of people in attendance.

Councilman Nocera stated that while there shouldn’t be an issue with conducting a survey, they need to ensure that the numbers for repair are correct before sending anything out.

Councilman McKeon agreed a survey of the 191 households would be helpful but they can be tricky as they are not professional survey creators. Additional information would be good to include on the survey.

Director Holden stated the survey could run through the Public Works Department and Councilman Nocera stated that it would need to be run through the Legal Department.

Councilman Darnell Ford agrees that the survey needs to have the correct information and ask the right questions of those households and that the survey would be beneficial.

Director Holden stated more information is better and this would get a better feel for what that neighborhood as a whole would like to see.

Peter stated that Councilman Nocera agreed to meet him at Lyceum Road to look at the Road together. The ditch being dug is not deep enough and the water flowing through is higher than the road. The water needs to be well below the roads surface. The road doesn’t need to be raised. Only one half of the road is of concern. Anyone else who would like to go meet at Lyceum is welcome to attend the walkthrough.

Paula Rose stated she would like to attend the walkthrough. They would want to be sure that the information on the survey to be accurate before it is sent out.

Dan Penney stated that he felt 190 surveys is minimal to the population that is affected by this decision. Work that was done 20 years ago is still standing today. The road is failing due to improper care to the swales. Feels that it is a small investment from the City to have corrected.

Director Holden states swales on either side of the road help surface water, not ground water. The depth of swales won't affect ground water under the road.
Peter stated that is not accurate and he has experience with his own driveway and class 4 roads in Vermont.

As there were no other members of the public present, public comment was closed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

David Sandler- Lyceum Road Closure Neighborhood Survey

Paula Rose- Lyceum Road Closure Neighborhood Survey

Daniel Penney-Lyceum Road

NEW BUSINESS:
None

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Lyceum Road – Councilman Nocera said their last goal was to get Lyceum open to traffic. For any survey sent the City would get involved in the construction of the survey and be sent by the Public Works Department after being reviewed by General Council. Director Holden stated a paving box needs to be rented to spread the asphalt across the road. The road would be opened as is and the paving would happen after. The next few weeks work will start to address the potholes. Director Holden believes once the potholes are addressed the road could be opened. This is a temporary fix until long term plans can be cemented. The deterioration of the road is due to the freeze and thaw cycles and the ground water.

b. Recreation Center Update – Director Holden announced execution of change order 3 so a significant amount of work and demolition can now begin and equipment can now be ordered. Director Lechowicz stated power will need to be shut down at the location for one day for work to be performed and that things are really moving along. Councilman Nocera thanked Director Holden and Director Lechowicz for the work put into this project. The hope is to “get in” by Christmas.

c. Veterans Pool and Splash Pad Update – Christopher Holden reported that the contracts are being finalized for this project and he will be meeting towards the end of the week with the whole team. The funding from the parks bond has been transferred into this project and site work and road work that will be needed has been able to come out of the road bond. The monies that are accumulated into the project will cover the total cost of the project, inspection fees and a 10% contingency. Councilman McKeon asked how the road bond money was transferred around as it is specific to certain roads. Director Holden clarified that it is for Walnut Grove Road, which cuts through the park. It would be used to address connectivity, site work and drainage for the area. Councilman McKeon also asked about the parking lot at the top of Vets Park and wondered if there was a plan to address the gravel parking area. Director Holden stated the parking was related to the upper pavilion and he will see if the design plans call for it being resized. Councilman Nocera asked if we would be rebidding the job. Director Holden confirmed no, we would not be, and would be going forward with the lowest bid.
d. Multiuse Trail Update – Director Holden stated that the big archeological survey dig will be scheduled soon. Councilman McKeon asked if a state archeologist would be on site to oversee the project. Director Holden stated yes, the company contracted specializes in this area. Councilman Nocera asked if he fielded any complaints or concerns regarding the trail that runs behind Wadsworth Mansion that runs behind Mercy and Snow School. Director Holden stated he has not had anyone reach out with concerns. Director Holden stated Wadsworth Mansion maintains their own grounds and he would need to look and see who would be responsible for that maintenance. Director Lechowicz stated there was a lot of water in that area which caused a lot of decay to the trail. Director Holden confirmed a large portion of the area that the trail is on is Wadsworth Mansion property. Councilman Nocera would like to have it added to the agenda for next month and explore if the multi-use trail project could assist them in the maintenance of that trail and potentially reconstructed in some areas due to the decay. Councilman McKeon questioned if the State may be able to get involved as Wadsworth is a state park.

e. Fencing and Scoreboard – Director Holden received the quote from Atlas for the fencing at a cost of $31,600. A portion of the Woodrow Wilson parks bond will be used towards this cost and a portion of the Pat Kidney bond will be used. Councilman Darnell Ford made a motion to transfer the funds from the Pat Kidney bond to the Woodrow Wilson bond to complete the fencing project. Councilman McKeon seconded. The scoreboard quote is still outstanding and expected to be less than $10,000. There were no additional questions regarding the motion for the fencing. The motion passed without opposition.

Additional New Business: none

OTHER: Reported on by Christopher Holden

a. Director Holden commented on how proud he was of the Public Works employees who worked the Pride event. They started at 7AM and finished at 12AM the next morning and their efforts had a great impact to the success of the event.

b. May 2022 Monthly Report - Highway Division- Sweeping, catch basins, bulk pickups

c. May 2022 Monthly Report - Parks Division – Using overtime right now to maintain fields and get ready for the Nutmeg Games. Baseball fields are being addressed.

d. May 2022 Public Works Overtime Report – Road projects are being extended at the end of the day to make completing projects more efficient.

e. May 2022 Building Permits – Permit fee revenue continues to increase, and is higher than projected at $863,000.

f. As the fiscal year comes to an end, transfers will be done to cover for the increase in costs associated with diesel, supplies and materials.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

Adjourn – As there were no further questions, Councilman Pessina moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.