

City of Cambridge

In City Council..... May 7, 1979.....

The Finance Committee, comprised of the entire membership of the City Council, conducted a public hearing beginning at 6:22 P. M. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall on April 30, 1979. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss potholes ~~to which~~ and street repair throughout the city.

At the request of Councillor Crane, Commissioner of Public Works Conrad Fagone appeared before the Council to explain the expenditures for potholes and street repairs during the current fiscal year. Commissioner Fagone stated that Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000) was allocated and expended from Block Grant Funds during fiscal year 79. In addition, some Two Hundred Thousand Dollars was expended from state funds in accordance with Chapter 76 of the General Laws. A partial listing of streets and sidewalks repaired during this period included Inman Street, Maple Avenue and part of Broadway, Lamont Avenue, Huron Avenue by Granville Road, Hancock Park, Porter Road and Erie Street.

Councillor Crane questioned whether or not any contingency money was available at this time.

Commissioner Fagone stated that he did not believe so. He further stated that during FY 77-78 Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000) from Block Grant Funds was spent on street and sidewalk repair. Furthermore he stated that only primary roads could be repaved with the use of Chapter 76 money since it was mandated within the legislation. During the period 1975 to 1977, he ^{Reports,} said, the city received on the average of One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars each year from the state.

Councillor Crane questioned the fact since the city no longer has to pay 25% of the cost of repaving streets with state money, the city should be appropriating a sum of money through the budget process to continue street and sidewalk repairs.

Commissioner Fagone stated that since 1973 the Public Works Department has spent \$3.4 million on street and sidewalk repair and in the past 4½ years some \$10 million has been spent on sewer construction; 50% of which has been reimbursed by the Federal Government. All street work, he said, done with Block Grant Funds is publicly bid.

Councillor Crane stated he believed a misconception exists in the minds of many neighborhood people who participate in the Block Grant public hearings. They think that once a list has been established, the streets will soon be repaired in that year, when, in fact, it could be two years or not at all depending on the availability of funds. Councillor Crane further stated that he hoped that the City Manager would present to the Council a supplemental appropriation, if necessary, to repair those streets which had been listed through the Block Grant process but not yet repaired.

REPORT

Committee on

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Councillor Duehay requested Commissioner Fagone to forward to the City Council a map indicating street and sidewalk repair over the past ten years as well as indicating which streets and sidewalks are proposed for repair.

Commissioner Fagone indicated he would comply with the request and also stated that within the next six weeks sewer construction would begin in the Aberdeen Avenue/Holworthy Street area.

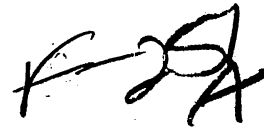
Councillor Crane questioned whether any thought had been given to curb installation where there isn't any.

Commissioner Fagone stated he was looking at that currently and he has hired an auditor to determine what money is available for just such a project. Once he has the figure he will notify the City Manager and City Council.

For the Committee,



Councillor Kevin Crane
Chairman



Comm. from Councillor Kevin P. Crane, Chairman,
Committee on Finance, transmitting report of
the committee meeting held April 30, 1979 re:
potholes and street repair throughout the city.

In City Council,

May 14, 1979

5/14/79

Placed on File -

Copy to City Manager

Copy sent 5-16-79