

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 114**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Committee Chair Michael Foley.

City Councilors Present: Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); Lawrence McWilliams (Ward 5); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President)

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (Legal Counsel); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Michael Sanphy (Mayor); Daniel Vaughan (Wastewater Supervisor)

APPEAL OF INSURANCE CLAIM DENIAL

Committee Chair Foley gave the floor to Mr. Bryant, who introduced Keri Li, owner of China Villa located at 910 Main Street.

Mr. Bryant stated that the City conducted paving work near Mechanic Street, in the alley behind the former Fire Station. The paving work included repairs to some significant potholes. Ms. Li approached Arty Ledoux, the Public Services Director of Operations, and asked about paving her private parking lot. The City provided Ms. Li with the contact information for the City's paving contractor, and Ms. Li worked out an arrangement with that contractor. The City only repaired the City right-of-way. Mr. Bryant noted that there is a private sewer drain in the rear of China Villa's parking lot. The City inspected the sewer drain to see where it discharged, in case it was still connected to a combined sewer. Due to partial blockage, the inspection was inconclusive. Ms. Li had her parking lot paved. Following the paving, China Villa noticed an overflow of water in the area of the stormwater drain. Ms. Li is concerned that the City damaged the line during our inspection. The City agrees that prior to resurfacing water was not flowing to the drain. Once the resurfacing occurred, we believed that the runoff exceeded the capacity of a partially blocked sewer line, causing overflow. Ms. Li filed a claim for damages, and the insurance company denied the claim. Ms. Li is presenting an appeal of this claim denial to City Council.

Committee Chair Foley asked Mr. Vaughan to the podium to provide additional information on the inspection conducted by Public Services. Mr. Vaughan stated that Public Services was asked to go into the basement of China Village to look at a pipe. Ms. Li pointed out a six-inch orangeburg pipe under the floor of the basement. Public Services thought the pipe may have been coming from the catchbasin and attempted to inspect it but found water in the catchbasin. Public Services cleared out three feet of water and six feet of sand from the catchbasin. Mr. Vaughan stated that they sucked sand out of the pipe but did not put anything into the pipe. In the basement, they did not see water flowing into the pipe. The standing water in the catchbasin meant that water was not draining properly in the first place, and Public Services cannot confirm whether the two pipes (the catchbasin and the orangeburg pipe in the basement) are connected. Mr. Vaughan stated that he suspects that the pipe may have collapsed over time.

Mr. Bryant stated that the City suspects the pipe hasn't been functional for a long time, and also suspects that before the lot was resurfaced the broken pavement allowed other pathways for water to drain. The lot has now been resurfaced and sculpted to allow water to drain to the catchbasin, but the catchbasin is not functional. Mr. Bryant noted that this is a private drain on private property.

Committee Chair Foley asked Ms. Li to the podium to speak. She stated that the catchbasin was connected to the pipe in the basement and observed that the catchbasin overflows since Public Services removed the dirt.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments. The following individuals spoke: President Rairdon, Councilor Peoples, Mr. Bryant, Councilor Chau, Crystal Cox (China Villa employee), Councilor McWilliams

Motion to accept the denial of the appeal.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Vice President Turcotte

Committee Chair Foley opened for the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried. Appeal denied. (Vote 5-1)

Ayes: Foley, McWilliams, Peoples, Rairdon, Turcotte

Nays: Chau

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:57pm

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.