

# MEMORANDUM

To: Robyn Lee, Planner  
City of Salem Department of Planning & Community Development

From: Joseph C. Correnti, Esquire

Re: Status Report on 4 Franklin Street

Date: May 2, 2024

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On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the city-wide moratorium on street opening permits was lifted and the project engineer and contractors were able to open the street to find, cut and cap two water services. This cut and cap process is required as a pre-condition to building demolition. This work was done this past week by Mackey Construction on behalf of the developer, under the supervision of Griffin Engineering and Bill Ross, Clerk of the Works.

During this process, a gas line for the building was discovered and we are now waiting for National Grid to confirm the line is no longer active so that it can be abandoned at the main. That should happen in the next week. There are two (possibly three) sewer services that need to be cut and capped in the street. The service to be re-used is to be temporarily cut and capped at the lot line, while the others will need to be abandoned at the main which runs down the middle of Franklin Street.

One problem is the main is 11 feet deep and approximately 6 feet below the water table. A specialty contractor might be necessary to abandon the service from inside the pipe. Discussions with Bill Ross and the City Engineer's office are ongoing regarding temporarily cutting and capping the service at the lot line so as to allow building demolition to move forward. Mr. Ross has agreed to speak with the City Engineer's office to determine whether some of these tasks can be segmented between the demolition permit and the building permit to allow demolition to move forward. If allowed, our contractor can file a new trench permit, which takes one to two weeks to obtain approval and, once approved, the temporary cut and cap of the three services can be done in one or two days.

One of the challenges involving this site is the lack of City records concerning the utilities and their location within the Franklin Street right of way. Working closely with the City Engineer's office over the past several months has allowed progress to be made and the hope is that the building demolition and site grading will commence soon.