

*(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).*

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro, Chair  
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.  
Councilman Steven A. Stycos  
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier, Vice-President  
Council President Anthony J. Lupino

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano

Also Present: Councilman Paul H. Archetto  
Councilman James E. Donahue  
Councilman Michael W. Favicchio  
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Mike Igoe, City Controller  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chair** asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting tragedy in Tucson, Arizona.

**Council Vice-President Pelletier** stated that Councilwoman Luciano will not be attending this meeting due to a personal matter.

**Council President Lupino** stated that at some point, this Committee needs to schedule an Executive Session with the members of this Committee to discuss some of the issues that have been discussed in Executive Session, such as the RI Resource Recovery issue, with prior Committee members to bring them up to date. Chair stated that this can be discussed under New Business.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### *Election of Committee Vice-Chair*

**Councilman Stycos** nominated Councilman Santamaria as Vice-Chair of this Committee. Council Vice-President Pelletier seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Santamaria accepted the nomination.

Councilman Santamaria was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of this Committee.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- *Status of Illegal Sewer Tie-ins shut-off notices including RI Resource Recovery*

**Solicitor Kirshenbaum** stated that this agenda states “illegal connections”. He indicated that the inter-jurisdictional agreement governs all connections between Johnston and Cranston.

**Councilman Santamaria** asked what the estimated what the amount of tie-ins are that are in question. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that there is a plaza abutting Plainfield Pike and several senior assisted facilities and 3-4 businesses in the Lakeside Commons Center. The inter-jurisdictional agreement states that any tie-ins are to be approved by the City Council, and they were never approved by the Council.

**Council Vice-President Pelletier** asked if Cranston is looking at Johnston to recoup any of the costs for the pre-treatment. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that we cannot bill the Town of Johnston directly.

**Council President Lupino** asked if Veolia is cooperating fully in doing assessments and inspections and are there costs. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that they are doing the inspections, but he does not know about the costs. Council President Lupino asked that this information be provided for the next meeting.

**Councilman Santamaria** asked what the status is of the bill we sent to them. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that the bill is not paid, they are having discussions in paying the bill. He would like to include this discussion in Executive Session.

**Council Vice-President Pelletier** asked, what if any, is Veolia’s involvement in the assessments. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this should be discussed in Executive Session. Council Vice-President Pelletier asked that this issue be included in the Executive Session meeting.

**Council President Lupino** stated that he has been told that there is no formal application submitted to NBC as to the potential Johnston tie-in. He asked that someone report on this at the next Committee meeting. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he would prefer discussing this in Executive Session.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Administration report: Storm drain back up at Wheatland & Dresden*

**Chair** stated he would like the Administration to provide a comprehensive type of study of all evaluation on this. Residents have told him that the City does go out and clean the drains, but after it has been cleaned, it still backs up. Mr. Cordy stated that this is not an unfamiliar drainage problem to the City. The Engineering Division has stated that if there are complaints, they will go out and scope the area drains. He also stated that he will have a full report for the next Committee meeting.

*\*RI Hope - Presentation on available assistance for flood victims*

**Lisa Cipolla** and **Jason Holandeski** of RI Hope, appeared to give a presentation and presented pamphlets to the Committee members of this organization.

**Mr. Holandeski** stated that RI Hope has been canvassing neighborhoods affected by floods educating them and informing them of the various resources available to them. They also go to the Senior Centers and Malls handing out pamphlets.

**Councilman Santamaria** stated that, as Chair of the Flood Commission, the next meeting of the Flood Commission will be held on Monday, January 31, 2011. He asked Ms. Cipolla if RI Hope would be willing to attend that meeting to speak regarding this organization and resources they have to offer to residents affected by the floods. Ms. Cipolla stated, absolutely.

**Council President Lupino** advised Ms. Cipolla to contact Brian Dupont, a member of the Flood Commission, who has formed an association group to help all flood victims and he has a list of people and contact information who belong to this organization.

**Chair** asked if information regarding RI Hope could be placed on the City's website as a resource. Mr. Cordy stated that he believes it already is, since a presentation from RI Hope was done at the Senior Center, but he will check.

**Chair** suggested that RI Hope presentation be placed on the Council docket for the next Council meeting in order for the full City Council to hear this presentation.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**Council Vice-President Pelletier** stated that he has a list of constituents in the Phenix Ave. and Wilbur Ave. area that have available sewer pipes, but have not been able to hook up and asked Administration why they have not been able to hook up. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that those pipes are return lines from Florida Power and Light. That line is a pressurized line. Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that since this issue is not on the agenda this evening, he would rather place this on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

**Councilman Santamaria** stated that the City's website stated that Site Plan Review has Salt Barn up in the beginning stages of development. He would like a chronological update on what has happened since March 22, 2010 to present, when the funds were approved. He would like this update at the next Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees