

*(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 12, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano

Also Present: Councilman Paul H. Archetto  
Councilman James E. Donahue  
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Carlos Lopez, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs  
Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel  
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 President Lupino, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Chair** indicated that Councilwoman Luciano contacted him today and is ill and will not be attending this meeting.

**Council President Lupino** stated that since it did not make this agenda under Old Business he asked at the last meeting, through the Administration, from Carlos Lopez what backup we had from questions what were asked concerning the odor at the landfill. Prior to this meeting, he was given correspondence from Robert Vanderslice addressed to Mr. Lopez.

**Chair** stated that this item is not an agenda item and correspondence will not be accepted this evening. Council President Lupino asked for Solicitor's opinion. Chair asked Council President Lupino if he was reading the letter under Correspondence and Council President Lupino stated, yes.

**Council President Lupino** read the memo into the record.

**Chair** asked that this item be placed on next month's agenda under Old Business.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Wayland, Scituate and Phenix Avenues** traffic improvements – Administration report (Cont. from 7/14/2011, 8/11/2011, 9/15/2011, 10/13/2011, 11/17/2011 & 12/8/2011).

**Mr. Cordy** stated that we have finalized all the contracts and they have been signed. Final design is moving ahead and we are still anticipating Spring as start of the project.

**Council President Lupino** requested update for next month's meeting.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to continue this item for an update next month. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Warwick Avenue Pedestrian Safety** (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. 12/8/2011).

**Councilman Stycos** stated that he just received the traffic reports from Mr. Lopez today. He would like to have this item continued.

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Implementation of the tree ordinance** (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. 12/8/2011).

**Mr. Cordy** stated that since the last meeting, the Tree Warden has been researching how other communities are handling this type of issue. Hopefully, by this time next month, we should have a final policy.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to continue this item to next month.

#### Under Discussion:

**Council President Lupino** stated that by next month, he would like addressed in the policy a ruling regarding the timeframe of who might be negligent if it is determined that a tree needs to come down and in the meantime the tree falls down.

Motion to continued passed unanimously.

- **Bellefont Pond status of property** (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. 12/8/2011)

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the questions asked last month were in regards to the liability and testing of the property. Testing of the property is ongoing. In regards to whether the City would be interested in purchasing this property at some point, this has not been looked at.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Update on Atwood Ave. traffic signal installation** (Councilman Santamaria 12/8/2011)

**Chair** asked that this item be placed as the first item on next month's agenda under Old Business.

**Councilman Santamaria** asked for status update.

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the contract was signed after last month's meeting. The construction date has been changed from Spring of this year to Spring of 2013. The Administration will be questioning this from the State.

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

**Council President Lupino** asked Councilman Santamaria if he would like to sponsor a Resolution questioning the State D.O.T. why the construction start date was changed, he would be willing to co-sponsor this Resolution.

**Council President Lupino** suggested to Councilman Santamaria to draft this Resolution for introduction and the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting to be passed that evening and not be forwarded to this Committee, since this has been discussed this evening.

**City Clerk** stated that the Council Rules state that a Resolution has been referred to a Committee for Public Hearing, unless it is a ceremonial Resolution, unless Council suspends its rule.

**Solicitor** stated that this Resolution can be listed on the Council Docket and it could be passed that evening.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Council President Lupino, it was voted to have Councilman Santamaria draft a Resolution requesting that the State D.O.T. justify the reason for changing the start date of the construction on this project and it be listed on the Council Docket. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution** Requesting that the Cranston School Department Utilize Custodians for Trash Collection.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosalba Zanni".

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

THE CITY OF CRANSTON

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
**REQUESTING THAT THE CRANSTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT UTILIZE**  
**CUSTODIANS FOR TRASH COLLECTION**

No.

*Passed:*

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*Anthony J. Lupino, Council President*

**WHEREAS**, the Cranston School Committee, the Cranston City Council and Mayor Allan Fung have declared their desire to consolidate school and city operations where possible to reduce operating costs,

**WHEREAS**, the Cranston School Committee has achieved consolidation savings by directing its custodians to collect trash at twelve city playgrounds next to elementary schools for several years,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cranston City Council thanks the School Committee for its actions which have given City Recreation Department employees more time to maintain City parks, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cranston City Council requests that the Cranston School Department direct its custodians at Park View Middle School, Bain Middle School and Garden City Elementary School to collect the trash at athletic facilities.

Sponsored by Councilman Steven Stycos

Referred to Public Works Committee: January 12, 2012