

*(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).*

## **FLOOD COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Flood Committee was held on Monday, June 18, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair  
Representative Robert Jacquard  
Brian Dupont  
Richard Martin  
Amy Sinyei  
Council President Anthony J. Lupino  
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano  
Council Vice-President Emilio L. Navarro, Vice-Chair  
Senator Beatrice Lanzi  
Michael Behm  
Matthew Papino

Also Present: Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Mr. Martin, 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:**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Report from Administration on Oaklawn Ave. drainage improvements

**Mr. Cordy** stated that there is no new update from the last meeting. FEMA and RIMA were at the site, along with our engineers, prior to the last meeting and we are waiting to hear back from them.

**Council President Lupino** asked if we have obtained a timetable of the cleaning of the drains on Oaklawn Ave. Mr. Cordy stated, no, however, during FEMA and RIMA's visit to the site, they asked us to open up the manhole covers for storm drains and it appears that they were flowing freely.

- Status of HUD Grant application

**Mr. Cordy** stated that as to the \$1.2 million grant, the first formal meeting with the residents who are affected by this grant will be this Thursday. As to the other HUD grant awarded to the State, we have applied for similar type of taking and not have received answer from the State.

- What impact would Phenix Lodge Development have on the Amanda neighborhood

**Mr. Cordy** stated that as to any impact, there is no way at this time, to evaluate the impact. There has been no engineering work done. The next step for the developer is to obtain a Zoning Variance.

- Update from Administration on the Pocasset River Flood Plain Restoration Project
- Fletcher Ave. Update

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the Pocasset River Flood Plain Restoration Project update ties into the Fletcher Ave. Update. The engineering contract has been awarded for the flood wall on Fletcher Ave.

**Council President Lupino** stated that there is work being done at the bridge on Reservoir Ave. He asked if this will improve flooding there. He asked that this issue be continued to the next meeting.

- Amanda Ct./Amanda St. Update

**Mr. Cordy** stated that we have applied, through NRCS for appropriations. This has to go through Congress.

- Perkins Ave. Update

Discussion held during other portions of the meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Public Speakers:**

**Robert Pelletier** appeared to speak regarding the Phenix Lodge Development and stated that the plan submitted to the Planning Commission did include for a building that was located in the flood zone. He indicated that there is a clear flood line. This proposed development will have an impact downstream.

**Deb Callahan**, 135 Amanda St., appeared to speak and asked if with the new mitigation plan, will it reduce the granting of FEMA grants. Mr. Cordy stated that the mitigation plan had nothing to do whether we received FEMA grants or not.

**Cindy Palmieri**, 1 Moore Ave., appeared to speak and asked if her area will be considered for the buyout from the new HUD money. Mr. Cordy stated that there will be a meeting for the second round of HUD money and it is not just geared to Perkins. He also stated that it was targeted for all the residents impacted by the 2005 flood. There will be a press conference once the City receives results of this application, similar to the previous one.

**Maureen Casey**, 87 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak and confirmed that she, along with other residents, received letters of the meeting on Thursday for the nine homes for possible buyout.

**Ms. Palmieri** asked for status of the flood insurance programs, which was before Congress. Mr. Dupont stated that it was extended, but he believes it has to be renewed.

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the Corps of Engineers received funding from the 2010 flood. They decided to do an overall assessment of all the flood plains and rivers in the State of Rhode Island. There is movement now, even though this is long-term. There is a caveat where the Cities and Towns have to match the funds to do this study. We have enlisted the State and there is a possibility that the State may match these funds for the Cities and Towns because this impacts the whole State.

**Mr. Dupont** stated that this may be a ray of hope for the residents of Amanda Ct. He thinks we are in a much better position now than we were a year or so ago. The Administration has been working very hard on the flooding issue.

**Council President Lupino** stated that the City Council has not had any involvement in response to the flood plain. He would have been in agreement to match the funds for Cranston. Mr. Cordy stated that, unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers was not going to do a study just for Cranston, it was for all or nothing. This is why we enlisted the State for possibly the State matching the funds.

**Chair** indicated that this Committee can either take the Summer off from meeting or can take this Committee and report out to the Public Works Committee and have all future meetings during the Public Works Committee meetings. He asked for Committee members' suggestions or opinions.

**Council President Lupino** stated that at any time, four members of this Committee can call a meeting as long as there is enough notice.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Chairman Santamaria, it was voted to adjourn this meeting to a time not certain with the understanding that four members of this body can call a meeting of this Committee and all future business, when necessary, be referred out at the Public Works Committee. Motion passed on a vote of 6-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Santamaria, Council President Lupino, Ms. Sinyei, Representative Jacquard, Mr. Dupont and Mr. Cordy -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Mr. Martin -1.

**Council President Lupino** indicated that there are three Council members who serve on this Committee and are members of the Public Works Committee.

**Mr. Dupont** stated that his concern is for the residents who won't be updated day to day if this Committee is disbanded.

**Chair** stated that as Council members, they can ask for any flood item to be placed on the Public Works Committee agenda.

**Representative Jacquard** questioned if this Committee does not meet, how would new members get appointed to the Committee in the future. Council President Lupino stated that this Committee was created by Resolution, which expires with the current Council, December 31<sup>st</sup>. When the new Council takes office in January, that Council would have to adopt a new Resolution and make new appointments.

**Mr. Dupont** stated that there were ideas on the table and items that this Committee did not get to address and by eliminating this Committee, he is afraid people will lose interest and would not attend the Public Works Committee meetings as they attend the meetings of this Committee.

**Mr. Martin** stated that he voted against putting this Committee on hiatus. It is very important for this Committee to meet periodically to be updated on what is going on. This Committee does not have to meet monthly, it could meet every two months. He also stated that the only issue addressed was the nine homes being bought out. The issue of Perkins, the issue of Amanda and the issue of Fletcher Ave. have not been addressed.

**Council President Lupino** stated that this Committee has made a lot of headway. There is a flood wall being proposed for Fletcher Ave. We are basically shackled with a lot of the other issues.

Motion and second to adjourn this meeting to a time not certain with the understanding that four members of this body can call a meeting of this Committee and all future business, when necessary, be referred out at the Public Works Committee were withdrawn

**Representative Jacquard** asked that this Committee ask the incoming Council in January, in Resolution form, to appoint a new Flood Committee at that time and this Resolution be forwarded to the incoming Council to adopt the Resolution and make appointments as soon as possible after taking office and for the Flood Committee to meet as soon as possible thereafter. Council President Lupino stated that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting and this type of request be made in a letter form from this Committee and signed by members of the Committee.

**Chair** announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Mr. Martin, it was voted to have a written request made to the Public Works Committee requesting as early in the new year, asking the incoming Council to re-commission the Flood Committee and appointments be made. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ms. Sinyei** asked if a question or request for an agenda item comes up, can they be posted through the City's website, since this Committee will not be meeting until September. Mr. Cordy stated that he does not know if this can be done. He suggested that any questions or requests be emailed to the City Council members through the City's website. Mr. Dupont stated that he has no problem fielding any questions and he can forward them to the City Council, the Administration and to the Clerk.

**Chairman Santamaria** stated that per the Resolution which formed this Committee, he will report this Committee out to the Public Works Committee indicating that this Committee will continue its meeting to September 17<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees