

(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 Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 4, 2013, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by the Chairman.

Present: Councilman Mario Aceto, Chair
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Vice-Chair
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee
Councilman Michael W. Favicchio
Council Vice-President Michael J Farina
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Steven Stycos
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
Marissa Campisani, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
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 Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC HEARING:

James Turtle, 48 Garden Hills Dr., appeared to speak and stated that what needs to stop is when a private vendor plows a side street and plows the snow across a main road to the opposite side. This is what causes the high mounds of snow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Appeal dated November 21, 2012 from ruling dated November 5, 2012 on Aug. 15, 2012 Fine Notice. (Cont. 12/3/2012).

[\[click here to view\]](#)

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Dec. 7, 2012 Appeal of Fine Notice dated Aug. 15, 2012. (Cont. 1/14/2013). [\[click here to view\]](#)

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he should have an update in two weeks. Chair asked that these items be continued.

Wayland, Scituate and Phenix Avenues traffic improvements – Adm. report
(Cont. 11/26/2012 City Council).

Mr. Cordy stated that there is no formal communication update from RIDOT.

Councilman Santamaria asked if there is an update on the proposed traffic light at Walnut Grove and Atwood Ave. **Mr. Cordy** stated that this was not requested for this evening and he does not have any information with him at this time. He will provide this information tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution in support of installing speed bumps and signage near the intersection of Laurel Hill Avenue and Chestnut Hill Avenue. [\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni stated that he would rather the City look into various options regarding this issue and decide what type of device to use at this location because Laurel Hill Ave. is a very busy street.

Councilman Archetto stated that this is just a Resolution making this request, it is not an Ordinance. If the Committee wishes to table this, he would not be opposed.

Mr. Lopez stated that the City is working diligently to increase the signage at this intersection. He also stated that humps or bumps would be a danger to plows when plowing the street, among other dangers for emergency vehicles.

Councilman Archetto stated that he would be willing to amend this Resolution by deleting lines #38-46 in regards to “speed bumps”.

Ms. Campisani stated that the Acting Traffic Engineer has concerns if bumps were installed, where vehicles at a high speed on a high grade may result a vehicle becoming airborne. He also stated that vehicles traveling uphill would cause a traction problem, especially in inclement weather.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Council Vice-President Farina, it was voted to amend this Resolution by deleting lines #38-46. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Council Vice-President Farina, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair suggested that increased Police patrol remain and possibly install speed machine in the area.

Snow Removal Policy – Administrative Report and policy discussion

Councilman Archetto asked how many plows the City has that are operational. Mr. Cordy stated that the last snowstorm, the City had 150 pieces of equipment working, including contractors.

Councilman Archetto asked how the plows are designated to each Ward. Mr. Lopez stated that the entire City is broken up into snow districts for total of 16 districts. The equipment is distributed based on the topography of the districts and the areas with hills are distributed larger equipment.

Chair asked if the hills are pre-treated. Mr. Lopez stated that the State pre-treats with a type of chemical, which once it hits the roads and snow falls on it, it turns to water and does not accumulate. The City uses a much lower concentrate and different mix. The State uses a straight mix of rock salt. The City's mix is salt and sand. The City's role is to make the roads passable.

Councilman Stycos asked what determines the districts and how they are separated. Mr. Lopez stated that he does not have this answer, but he can obtain this information. Councilman Stycos asked if anyone has been fined for not clearing their sidewalk. Mr. Lopez stated, not residents, warnings were issued. Police enforced the clearing of sidewalks on a lot of businesses.

Councilman Stycos stated that he has a large business in his Ward who do not clear the sidewalk. We need to address the fines for businesses more then for the homeowners. Businesses should pay more in fines then homeowners.

Councilman Archetto asked Mr. Cordy to forward the following information to him: how many plow trucks the City has that are operational and if there is a snow policy on paper. Mr. Cordy stated that he does not have the information with him on the number of equipment the City has, but he has the number of equipment allocated to Ward 3. He also stated that under normal circumstances, this Ward has one large City truck, a six-wheeler, six vendors and one dispatcher. During the blizzard, a second heavy six-wheeler and sander and a five yard pay loader were added to this Ward.

Councilman Santamaria asked who the contact person is during a storm for addressing concerns and questions. Council President Lanni stated that Councilman Aceto was appointed Emergency Liaison and he should be contacted.

Councilman Aceto asked Mr. Lopez to provide the Council members with a policy manual and protocol on snow storms in terms of communication and policy. Mr. Lopez stated that he can provide this, but asked that the Council members do not hold the Administration to it because every storm is different.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is a need for more heavy equipment or if there are any plans for purchasing more. Mr. Cordy stated that a few years ago, the City purchased three new six-wheelers and it is on the agenda this Fiscal Year also.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees