

(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 Tuesday, October 16, 2013 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Paul H. Archetto, Chair
Councilman Michael W. Favicchio
Nicholas Capobianco
Brian Dupont
Matthew Papino
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works

Absent: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Senator Frank S. Lombardi
Representative Joseph McNamara
Michael Behm
Amy Sinyei

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Archetto, 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:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion regarding letters to Congressional and Senatorial Delegation (Sent 10/1/2013).

No discussion was held.

- Fletcher Ave. construction of the drain pipe.

Mr. Capobianco stated that he would like to walk the area with the Chair and the Public Works Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Flooding Issues at 41 Dellwood Rd. (Councilman Favicchio)

Councilman Favicchio stated that he received complaint from a constituent along with photos of flood in this area to see if the City could offer some assistance, even if it is just advice. He forwarded the photos to the Clerk today. Chair asked that Councilman Favicchio forward the photos to the members of this Committee.

Mr. Mason stated that the Dellwood Rd. area, along with Poplar Dr., is in the middle of a very large water shed of our drainage system. The water shed for the entire area is approximately 400 acres, which is a very large area. There is a Request for Proposal to go out to bid for Engineering Services for areas to be looked at:

- Poplar Dr. and Dellwood Rd., Zinnia and all the way down to where it discharges by CLCF;
- Garden St. near Potter St.
- Cranston St., Ledge St. area.

He stated that this Request for Proposal is for condition analysis and survey for solution on these three drainage areas. The proposal, hopefully, will go out by the end of this month. As to Poplar and Dellwood, he does not think there is a quick fix.

Mr. Capobianco asked where the funding will come from for this. Mr. Mason stated that there was a bond issue passed by the City in 2008 and funding for storm drain repairs and upgrades of approximately \$6 million, which he believes none of that \$6 million has been used.

Mr. Dupont asked, as to the problem in the areas stated by Mr. Mason, how long this has been going on and how much damage have these homeowners incurred. Mr. Mason stated that he does not know.

Council President Lanni stated that the problem at Zinnia Dr. has been going on for years. This is the first time that he is hearing that the Administration is planning to look into this and possibly use bond money and he is glad to see this.

Mr. Papino asked Councilman Favicchio what the damages were that were incurred on those streets. Councilman Favicchio showed photos that he was provided with.

- Affordable Flood Insurance (Federal Level)

Mr. Dupont provided copies of a Resolution passed by the City of Warwick with a letter from Mayor Avedesian regarding this issue. He stated that in his opinion, it is a very very serious issue that if you require flood insurance, your rates will increase dramatically. He suggested that this be brought to the Cranston City Council to see if a similar Resolution can be passed and possibly work with Warwick on this issue. This is just a start and if we can get other cities and towns to do the same, it may capture the State and Federal agencies' attention to look at the costs.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Papino stated that approximately two weeks ago, he walked the area of the Pawtuxet River and saw some machinery there. He questioned what was going on at this location. Mr. Mason stated that the City cut the banks back or all the brush and debris and a few shopping carts were removed and did some general cleanup. They did not do any dredging. Mr. Papino asked if there are any other plans to do any other work of the Pocasset along that area. Mr. Mason stated, no.

Marty Matlin, 131 Fordson Ave., appeared to speak and asked who determines what areas the funding are used for. Mr. Mason stated that as to the drainage studies being planned, it was himself and his Environmental Programmer. As to the condominium complex and Fordson Ave., the condos are right near the Pocasset River and when the river rises, you could have ten pipes and the problem will still be there. He does not know if there is a fix to this problem.

Council President Lanni stated that those condos should never have been built because of the location, but they were. He does not think there is a solution to the problem, but maybe we can alleviate the problems.

The next Flood Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee