(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 July 7, 2014, 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 (left at 7:05 p.m.)
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Council Majority Leader Archetto (arrived at 6:45 P.M.)
Council Vice-President Michael J Farina
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Steven Stycos
Councilman Donald Botts
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs
Steven Peltier, Assistant City Solicitor
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 Council President Lanni, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC HEARING:

OLD BUSINESS:

Storm water utility districts Update from administration on feasibility. (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. from 8/5/2013 for presentation by engineering firm regarding Phase I feasibility study). (Cont. 1/6/2014).

Councilman Stycos stated that at the last meeting, it was agreed that the Council would receive a quarterly update.

Chair asked that this item be placed on the September agenda.

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Appeal dated November 21, 2012 from ruling dated November 5, 2012 on Aug. 15, 2012 Fine Notice. (Cont. 6/3/2013, 1/6/2014 & 2/3/2014). [click here to view]

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Dec. 7, 2012 Appeal of Fine Notice dated Aug. 15, 2012. (Cont. 6/3/2013, 1/6/2014 & 2/3/2014). [click here to view]

Mr. Cordy stated that per Solicitor Kirshenbaum, this is still in litigation.

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to continue the above two items to the September meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

RIRRC Appeal of DPW Director's Decision on RIRRC's Petition for Review of Modification to Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit #1808. (Cont. 11/4/2013, 1/6/2014 & 2/3/2014). [click to view]

Chair asked that if there is an update for the above three items for the September meeting, solicitor Kirshenbaum contact the Clerk or himself and they will be placed back on the agenda for the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Closing portion of Pervale St**. (Chair)

Mr. Barone indicated that the correct spelling for this street is Peveril St. He stated that This street is too long for a dead end. He will speak to the Traffic Engineer again regarding this when the Public Works Director returns from vacation.

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

- **Petition from National Grid and Verizon for new joint pole location at Cranston St.** [click to view]

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to approve this petition request. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilman Santamaria addressed the new trash pickup system and stated that he has received a few phone calls from constituents regarding this. One thing that troubled him was that the constituents stated to him that that someone from the Administration told them that the City Council approved the new trash pins and to call their Council member with any concerns or problems. He asked if this is true. Mr. Barone stated that he handles the bulk of the calls and this is not a statement that he would have made to the constituents. Other departments in the City and Waste Management also fields calls. Councilman Santamaria stated that he wants to make sure that the constituents know that Board of Contract and Purchase approved this and not the Council.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is a procedure in place now that is clear if a constituent needs a new trash bin. Mr. Barone stated that there is a process in place, is it easy for everyone to understand, he does not know. There is an 800 number for the constituent to call Waste Management for the extra bin and they would pay $150 per year to Waste Management, which this fee is for the additional bin to be picked up.

Councilman Stycos stated that people have told him that the automated trucks are not allowed to go down both sides of a one-way street. He asked if this is correct. Mr. Barone stated that as far as he knows, trash trucks are allowed to go down both ways of a one-way street. He will clear this with the Police Department. Councilman Stycos asked that the Administration speak with Waste Management about how they handle one-way streets.

Councilman Stycos asked if there will be a second day scheduled for the constituents to drop off their old bins. Mr. Barone stated that the Administration is working on having an additional day for drop off. This would be for the old recycling bins and any trash bins that people may want to discard.

Council Majority Leader Archetto asked who negotiates the contracts for the City. Mr. Barone stated, the Purchasing Agent. Council Majority Leader Archetto asked who negotiates the details of the contracts. Mr. Barone stated, usually the department head, based on all the information obtained throughout the bid. Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that basically, the Executive Branch negotiated this contract with Waste Management. Mr. Barone stated yes, but it was approved by Board of Contract and Purchase.

Council President Lanni asked if the City can ask Waste Management if they could pick up trash for an additional day, at no charge, after a holiday. Mr. Barone stated that after this program is in effect for a while, the Administration will meet and see if there are some other alternatives that can be added to the program, which will include holidays, but we would also have to factor in the costs.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that he thinks that we need a procedure to deal with issues of utility companies working on the utility lines because there was an incident last week where streets were blocked off and because of this, the trash trucks could not get down the streets to pick up the trash. He also stated that Swansea charges $1 per extra bag. If you do the math, it costs more than $150 per year.

Councilman Aceto stated that he witnessed the truck picking up the bin and shaking it violently and whatever trash spilled to the ground was left there. If people think these bins are going to last five years, he is willing to bet that they won't. He also stated that he though the City Council had to approve any fees or tax that is charged to the residents. This was not done. Mr. Barone stated that the $150 fee for an additional bin or the $25 fee to switch size of bin is not imposed by the City, it is imposed by Waste Management and paid to Waste Management, and it is not a tax. This was taken up at the February meeting when the Council passed the Ordinance. Councilman Aceto stated that however we look at it, this is a tax.

Council Vice-President Farina stated that this boils down to a use tax and we are passing it to Waste Management.

Councilman Botts stated that the Ordinance passed by the Council on a vote of 8-1 was the City taking ownership of the bins and not the fee. He was hoping Waste Management would have put in a grace period of when they were going to charge for bins.

Councilman Stycos stated that this is the fourth year in a row that the Mayor has violated the Ordinance he sponsored and which was passed, about him using the back of the tax letter that is sent out with the tax bills educating the public about recycling. He stressed that we need more public education about recycling.

Council President Lanni addressed the $18 fee per item to be picked up and stated that six months from now, the City of Cranston employees will be out in every empty lot in the City picking up TV, mattresses and every other kind of item because people will not be able to afford to pay $18 per item.

Councilman Stycos stated that he has been told that as to the rat problem, the City Rodent Control Officer will go out and place the traps and he will not come back unless he is called to come back. He asked if this is true. Mr. Barone stated that this is not correct. The traps are placed and the employee automatically does a follow-up in two weeks. If more bait is needed, they will put more in. If bait is still there after two weeks, then the Rodent Control Officer knows there is a rat problem on the property. First thing he does is he will check for food source.

Councilman Stycos spoke regarding Pond and Magnolia and questioned a cone that has been there a very long time because there was a hole there. Mr. Barone stated that he will check into this.

Councilman Stycos spoke regarding the Vortex unit designed to capture sand, salt and runoff material so it does not go into Stillhouse Cove. He stated that it has not been cleaned in a while. Mr. Barone asked that Councilman Stycos e-mail him information regarding this issue and the prior issue and he will have them checked into.

Councilman Stycos asked if there is any responsibility for Providence Water to clean up the sand grave left when they dig up a street. Mr. Barone stated that it is the responsibility of Providence Water to clean up, but they pay the City to pave it. He asked that Councilman Stycos e-mail him the address where this is a problem and he will reach out to Providence Water to have this addressed.

Councilman Stycos asked what the status is of Tree Planting Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Barone stated that he has not heard from RI Tree Council. The Order has been placed, but we have not received the contract.

Councilman Aceto asked that for the next Council meeting, the Council be provided with a list of how many people have small trash bins. Mr. Barone stated that he has the information this evening. He stated that there are a total of 58,000 bins, approximately 3,000 are 35 gallon bins and approximately 55,000 are 65 gallon bins.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees