

(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 Wednesday, November 19, 2014 quorum.

Present: Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Chair
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Nicholas Capobianco
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works

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

Also Present: Councilman Donald Botts
Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee

Clerk stated that Mr. Dupont contacted her today via e-mail and stated that he is ill and will not be attending this evening.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Favicchio, 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:

- **Affordable Flood Insurance on Federal Level (Cont. from 2/19/2014)**

Chair indicated that this item was requested by Mr. Dupont and since he is not present this evening, it be continued.

- **Status of Fletcher Ave. Flood Wall (Councilman Santamaria)**

Mr. Mason stated that the Planning Director met with NRCS yesterday and they advised him that they will not fund this project due to the cost. NRCS indicated to Mr. Lapola that there are other options that the City could pursue with money available. One option would be buying out the homes that are in the floodplain. There are approximately 12 homes that are in the floodplain and also the businesses. The businesses are not currently available for buyouts, but could be available for flood proofing.

Council President Lanni stated that something has to be done. Maybe we would have to allocate money through bonds to address these problems. It is not fair to the homeowners and the businesses that are incurring these problems. We should look into possibly buying out the homes similar to the buyouts that have occurred in other flooded areas in the City.

Mr. Capobianco questioned if the City could apply for grants through CDBG to buyout homes on Fletcher Ave. **Mr. Mason** stated that we have received some grants from CDBG to buyout four homes on Perkins Ave. He can check into this.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Vincent D'Ambra of Marlborough St. – problem from 8/13/2014 rainstorm (Chair)**

Vincent D'Ambra, 15 Marlborough St., appeared to speak and stated that his car engine was damaged due to the rainstorm from August 13th. He also stated that his neighbor had a similar problem, which damage was less than his, and he was told that he received reimbursement from the City for the damages. When asked who from the City, **Mr. D'Ambra** stated that, the Mayor. **Mr. D'Ambra** stated that he submitted a claim and was denied by the Claims Committee. He presented documents to the Flood Committee. **Chair** asked that these documents be sent to the Flood Committee members for their review.

- **Report from Public Works Director regarding list of road closures which occurred due to the 8/13/2014 rainstorm (Chair)**

Mr. Mason presented a report.

Chair asked why Lake St. was not part of the road closures in this report. Mr. Mason stated that the City Highway Department was not made aware of the issues on Lake St. area. If this occurs in the future during the time that City Hall is closed, he suggested that calls be made to the Police Department and they will get in touch with him or one of his Directors to close off the street.

Mr. Mason stated that there is really no solution to fix the flooding problem at Lake St. During heaving rainstorms, the lake or ponds nearby are full at that point and there is nowhere for the water to go.

- **Wilbur Ave. and Oaklawn Ave. (Councilman Aceto)**

Mr. Mason presented a memo explaining why we have this issue at this location.

Councilwoman Lee asked if the road could be raised to alleviate some of the flooding problems. Mr. Mason stated that this may not work because when it floods, it's usually four or five feet of water.

Mr. Capobianco asked if there is any way we could float a bond to correct that problem. Mr. Mason stated that in 2008, the voters passed a \$6 million bond for storm water repairs. To date, none of this money has been exercised.

Council President Lanni stated that at some time, these issues have to be addressed. We can't look the other way. As to the bond money not used, the Finance Director should be asked why it has not been used.

- **Status update on Fordson Ave./Riverview Condo. Area (Matthew Papino)**

Mr. Mason stated that Fordson Ave. condos was addressed this summer. This summer, at the request of the condo association, the City Highway crew did work there by removing some of the dead trees and clearing debris.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilman Botts stated that a constituent, who did not want to be identified, contacted him and stated concerns in regards to a backhoe behind Willowbrook Apartments of earth being removed. He also stated that he contacted Picerne Properties and they indicated to him that they were making a dog walking area. Due to the constituent's concerns, they stated to him that they will repair what was done. Councilman Botts stated that he is bringing this up to make the City aware of this. Chair asked that Mr. Mason update the Committee at its next meeting.

Mr. Mason presented a handout and stated that the City retained an Engineering firm to come up with proposed fixes for: Wedge St., Zinnia and Poplar Dr., Lodge St. and Garden St. area. The Engineering firm did a survey of the piping and catch basins. Also, as part of the report, are estimated costs.

The next Flood Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees