

*(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, February 18, 2015 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: Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Chair  
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio  
Councilman Mario Aceto  
Nicholas Capobianco  
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works

Absent: Matthew Papino  
Brian Dupont  
Amy Sinyei  
Michael Behm  
Senator Frank S. Lombardi  
Representative Joseph McNamara  
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Minority 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** stated that this item was placed on the agenda at Mr. Dupont's request and since he is not present this evening, he asked that it be continued.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

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

**Mr. Mason** stated that there really is no update regarding this item. He stated that NRCS did their cost benefit analysis and found it is not worthy of proceeding with this project, so there is no funding for this. The only other thing that could be looked at is initiate purchasing the homes affected by flooding.

**Councilman Aceto** stated that there seems to have been some construction on the Eastland Foods property on Fletcher Ave. He asked if this is due to the flooding. Mr. Mason stated that he is not responsible for issuing any permits, so he does not know.

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

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

**Chair** asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

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

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Snow Removal/Snow Flooding*** (Chair)

**Mr. Mason** stated that the Highway Department started to clean out the catch basins in the City today. This will continue Thursday, Friday and if necessary, Saturday.

**Chair** stated that he has noticed that the Cranston Stadium is being used to dump excess snow. He asked if there are any other designated areas in the City to transfer excess snow. Mr. Mason stated that right now, we are using the Police Academy area and, if needed, we could use the Marine Dr., former Cullion property. Chair asked Mr. Mason if he has thought of dumping excess snow in the Dyers Pond or Pocasset River. Mr. Mason stated that right now, they do not feel that is necessary.

**Council Minority Leader Favicchio** stated that ice damming and gutters on the homes frozen badly are a problem. We have to expect some issues as far as flooding. He thinks that the City has done a good job as far as plowing considering what they had to work with.

Mr. Capobianco stated that Wilbur Ave. area has to be considered when the snow melts, flooding. Mr. Mason stated that this is on our list.

**Mr. Mason** stated that the City has 7,000 catch basins to be inspected and cleaned. We are mandated to clean 20% every year. Our goal is to clean approximately 1,400 per year.

**Councilman Aceto** asked if the City has sand bags available. Mr. Mason stated that they do have some, a few pallets.

**Ms. Lee** asked if there is a list available of the areas of concern regarding flooding. Mr. Mason stated that the Highway Department has the list. Ms. Lee asked that this list be provided at the next Committee meeting.

- **Director of Public Works to give status update of \$6 million bonding to upgrade flood areas** (Chair)

**Mr. Mason** stated that this needs to go through the budget process. This was authorized by the voters back in 2008. Those bonds have not been sold. He also stated that in this Budget process, in the Capital Budget, there will be several project requests of the City Council to proceed with those projects. In this Budget, he is requesting monies to proceed with three locations for total of approximately \$1.8 million and for next Capital Budget, he will be requesting another \$1 million for fourth location.

**Councilman Aceto** asked if there is a priority list or list of projects of flooded areas that need to be done. Mr. Mason stated that this is not a flood bond issue, this is a drainage bond issue. He also stated that the locations are Garden St. at Garden and Lawnacre, Zinnia Dr. and Lodge and Abbott St. The fourth location is Webb St. off Cranston St.

**Council Minority Leader Favicchio** asked what the projected total costs is for the three projects. Mr. Mason stated, close to \$3 million. He cautioned that the Zinnia Dr. project could cost \$3 million. We would have to do this in phases. He is asking for \$965,000 for first phase.

**Mr. Capobianco** asked if Mr. Mason has contacted the Grant Writer to try and get funding for some of the flooded areas. Mr. Mason stated, no, he has not, but he can.

**Chair** asked that the following items be discussed at the next meeting:

- Update of members of the Committee – Chair asked that the Clerk contact the current members and find out who wants to continue to serve and who can't. The ones who can't continue to serve would need to be replaced.
- Council President to appoint Vice-Chair of Committee.
- Any vacancies - former Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee will be nominated for first available vacancy.

- *Spring cleaning of catch basins* (Chair)

**Chair** stated that this item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees