(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 Thursday, March 9, 2015, 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 Steven A. Stycos, Vice-Chair
Councilman Michael J Farina
Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present:
Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Donald Botts
Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Anthony Moretti, City Council Internal Auditor
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 President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, 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:

10-14-08 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8.12 of the Code of the City of Cranston 2005, Entitled "Garbage, Rubbish, Etc." (Trash Amnesty Dates) (Cont. 12/1/2014 & 2/4/2015). [click to view]

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Santamaria asked what the amnesty dates are. Mr. Mason stated that the proposal was for the months of March and September.

Councilman Stycos questioned the fact that there is no Fiscal Note. Chair stated that this can be voted on and as to the Fiscal Note, that can be added to the next month's agenda. He also indicated that the cost for the amnesty days would be $75,000 for each month. He asked if the Administration is recommending this.

Mr. Mason stated that he has mixed emotions about the amnesty days. He does not think it is needed because the program is working fine the way it is now, but this Ordinance is being proposed at the request of the City Council.

Chair stated that the Trash Amnesty Sub-Committee met last week and recommended the two months for the amnesty. He believes the homeowners are finding ways to dispose of their trash appropriately.

Joe DiCarlo, Clean City Coordinator, appeared to speak and stated that he is out on the road five days a week and if there are bulky items out, he leaves violation notices and within a certain amount of time, those items are removed. He does not see excessive trash left out. He feels that by having these amnesty days, it will be causing frustration and confusion.

Councilman Botts stated that the Trash Amnesty Sub-Committee also approved an overflow bags program. With this program and two amnesty months, it will help mitigate any problems with excessive trash. He asked when the amnesty program will start. Mr. Mason stated that the earliest it would start would be September because we do not have the funds for this fiscal year. As to disposing of mattresses, there is State Legislation addressing that and would be implemented in January of 2016.

Public Speakers:

Roland Coutu, 25 Lee St., appeared to speak and stated that he is a Ward 5 resident and it is ridiculous that a resident has to pay to have items picked up. He will wait until the amnesty days to put items out to be picked up for free.

Anna Price, 21 Malvern St., appeared to speak and stated that she is paying additional money to get rid of items by having a dumpster pick up the items.

On motion by Council Vice-President Santamaria, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: delete "Chapter 8.12" and add "Chapter 8.12.121"; delete all language after "following new" and add following: "paragraph:"

- "The Department of Public Works shall pick up bulky waste during the months of March and September, free of charge, subject to the following guidelines: Each residential property shall eligible for one pick up in the month of March and one pick up in the month of September.
- Pickups will be limited to three items per event.
- Bulky waste does not include mattresses, construction debris, TV's or electronic goods, white goods, or any household trash/garbage that would fit into the City provided 65 gallon car.
- Bulky waste pick up during this time period will require the property owner to call and make an appointment with the disposal contractor employed by the City.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto stated that he thinks that this would be complicating the program. There should be an announcement in the Cranston Herald stating the actual dates of the pickup.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that he thinks that Waste Management might not be able to handle that if you have everyone put items out at the same time.

Steven Faraone, 19 Thunder Trail of Waste Management, appeared to speak and stated that how he envisions this would work would be for residents to put those bulk items out on their normal trash day. This would give the residents multiple opportunities to put them out. It could be by appointment, which would make it easier.

Councilman Botts stated that his concern is everyone would be getting four bites at the apple and this would not be limiting three items per resident. This may affect our tipping fees. If we do it by appointment, there would be a way to track how many items a certain resident has put out.

Mr. Mason clarified that the amnesty would be just during the months of March and September and the owner would call and make an appointment for just one pick up for each month.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend the above Ordinance and motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos, Farina, Paplauskas, Council Vice-President Santamaria and Council President Lanni -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Aceto -1.

Roll call was taken on main motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended and motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Aceto, Farina, Paplauskas, Council Vice-President Santamaria and Council President Lanni -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Stycos -1.

Chair asked that Mr. Mason have the Fiscal Note for this Ordinance available for the March 23rd Special Finance Committee meeting.

- **Park View Blvd. (field at end of street) Report on Brownfield Phase 2 clean-up costs. (Cont. 2/4/2015).**

Councilman Stycos stated that this item was placed on the agenda in error.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution Instituting Proceedings for the Abandonment of a portion of Malvern St. [click to view] Referred back from City Council 2/23/2015.

Sheila Resseger, 50 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this proposed Abandonment.

Anna Price, 21 Malvern Ave., appeared to speak and stated that this is a small street. The applicant is not a very good neighbor. They are blocking driveways and parking cars on the street. She is concerned about the traffic on the street and there are children in this area. Waste Management trucks have a hard time going down this street.

Mr. Coupe stated that the applicant is the owner of a business on this street and is currently engaged in negotiations with Municipal Court in a consent agreement. This Abandonment is the first step in this agreement. The applicant has asked for a continuance this evening, since he has engaged an attorney and the attorney had a conflict and is not able to attend this meeting.

City Clerk stated that this Abandonment was advertised three times and notices did go out to the abutters. The next step would be that this petition would go to the City Council as a Resolution authorizing the Abandonment.

Councilman Stycos stated that he asked that this be referred back to this Committee from the February 23rd Council meeting. His understanding is that the applicant has gone before Municipal Court and the Court is holding off on the violation of operating the business out of a residential property until the Abandonment is approved and then he would go to the Zoning Board for a Variance. He thinks this should be continued and we need definite information on the Zoning issue and Municipal Court issue. He would also like to explore leasing the property rather than abandoning it because he is concerned about future uses of the property if this is Abandoned.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to continue this Resolution to the April meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Waste Management Representative to discuss trash issue**

Charles Pumpus of Waste Management, appeared to speak.

Council Vice-President Santamaria questioned why the 65 gallon carts were offered to the residents and not the 95 gallon. Mr. Pumpus stated that the idea was to boost the recycling.

Councilman Botts asked Mr. Pumpus's opinion on the Waste Zero Program. Mr. Pumpus stated that it will work well. He does not think a lot of people will be using the extra bags other than on holidays.

Councilman Botts asked why we can't give the residents, for instance, 35 gallon cart as an extra cart for approximately $85 rather than the 95 gallon for $150. Mr. Mason stated that it is not in Waste Management's contract to offer that. We would have to purchase the 35 gallon carts and they would cost money.

Councilman Botts stated that given the rats problem we have had in the City, now we are going to have plastic bags throughout the City again. He asked if the residents could purchase the 35 gallon carts directly through Waste Management. Mr. Faraone stated that that is something that they would have to look at.

Councilman Farina stated that the City is bound by the contract and they can't change the contract for seven years. They have to figure out a solution for now. All this discussion is moot.

Council President Lanni asked how many people have applied for an extra cart. Mr. Mason stated approximately 215. Council President Lanni stated that Waste Zero is a solution to the problem. Only 215 people in the entire City have the extra cart. We have discussed this issue for a year. The bottom line is we can't change the contract unless the City Council wants to spend millions of dollars to re-negotiate the contract, which the people of the City will not approve of.

Councilman Farina stated that the people can always spray paint "Waste Zero Bags" on their old trash barrels and place their extra trash bags in that barrel.

Everett Aubin appeared to speak and stated that people can't afford the $150 for the extra barrel. He would like to know how corporations and retail are taking part in this and how they are paying their fair share.

Chair stated that any trash for any corporation or condos are picked up by private trash haulers.

- **Procedure and discussion of rates for implementing the Sidewalk Reconstruction Cost Share Program. (Councilman Stycos)**

Councilman Stycos stated that he would like to know what the reimbursement rate is for this program and how priorities are set. Mr. Mason stated that his recommendation is $3 per sq. ft. for concrete sidewalks and $2 for asphalt sidewalks. Councilman Stycos asked if a separate Ordinance is needed for those rates. Mr. Quinlan stated that he would recommend having a separate Ordinance adopting the rates.

Councilman Stycos addressed the issue of setting priorities and stated that Mr. Coupe indicated to him that Mr. Mason feels that the language in the Ordinance for routes to schools is too vague. Mr. Mason suggested possibly having names of streets or a radius would help in determining the priorities.

Chair asked that Councilman Stycos to propose his amendments and place it on the Docket for the full Council to review.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS;

Chair stated that there are parents present this evening that would like to address the issue of snow removal.

Keri Kelleher appeared to speak on behalf of the children in the Schools and stated that the roads along the schools are awful. The roads are not sanded and Crossing Guards are shoveling walks that were not cleared. She is referring to businesses that have their parking lots plowed and not touched the sidewalks. Maybe a Sub-Committee, similar to the Trash Amnesty Sub-Committee, can be formed that can work with the School Department, parents and put a plan in place to get this fixed.

Solicitor indicated that this item is not on the agenda this evening and should possibly be placed on an agenda for a future meeting. This is an Open Meetings violation.

City Clerk stated that Open Meetings Act allows the Committee members to add this item for discussion only to the agenda and motion has to be unanimous.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to add this item to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Speakers:

Michelle Parenteau, 115 Concord Ave., parent of Eden Park School and Park View Middle School students, appeared to speak and asked why there hasn't been any sanding or salting of the roads.

Robert Wilson, 14 Mayflower Dr., appeared to speak and stated that his street is very narrow because it is a one-lane road the way it is plowed. He asked if there is any training involved in plowing the streets and if anyone follows up to make sure the streets are plowed correctly.

Councilman Farina stated that he would like to see a special meeting held including the School Department, School Committee, Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office and maybe all the City Council and parents to address and fix this issue.

Virginia Sanchez, 89 Concord Ave., parent of Eden Park School student, appeared to speak and stated that one of her children was almost killed by a car because the streets are icy and dangerous.

Maria Gould, 15 Gianna Dr., parent of Stone Hill Elementary School student, appeared to speak and stated that no sand has been put on the roads.

Jerry Damario, 162 Lyndon Rd., appeared to speak and stated that he witnessed trucks plowing down the middle of the road during the second snowstorm. This was ineffective and waste of money.

Roland Coutu, 25 Lee St., appeared to speak and stated that his street is plowed, but never sanded.

Alan Moio, President of Lawn Beauticians, appeared to speak and stated that he has done plowing for 43 years. He has done commercial and residential plowing. Approximately four years ago, he demonstrated a snow blower, which costs approximately $160,000 and the people in the City he demonstrated that to, stated to him that it was too expensive. Bus stops not being cleared are also a big problem. This needs to be addressed to the bus company. This is a danger to the people.

Carrie Petrella, 236 Lawnacre Dr., appeared to speak and stated that her street gets plowed because she lives on a busy street. There are problems around Garden City School. No salt or sand.

Chair stated that a joint meeting will be scheduled and posted to address this issue.

Council President Lanni stated to the public present that the Council understands the problem. He thanked everyone for coming this evening. There is a serious problem and this is what has to be worked on together to address.

Councilman Farina thanked everyone for coming. He also stated that there is a joint meeting needed to address this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees