

(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, April 6, 2015, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 P.M. by the Chairman.

Present: Councilman Mario Aceto, Chair
Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Michael J Farina

Also Present: Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Donald Botts
Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Stycos, 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:

City Clerk stated that she had received a letter from Providence Water requesting an Easement for Malvern St.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Joseph Shekarchi, Esq., appeared to represent applicant and stated that his client is planning to use the property for the same use as he has been, which is for storage of vehicles. If the City Council wishes, his client is in favor of making this as a stipulation.

Ed Pimental, 26 Avon Rd., Cranston, appeared to speak and stated that there are many conditions that could be imposed. If the Council wants to impose time limits the applicant would be agreeable to it.

Anna Price, 21 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment and presented a packet. She stated that this business is a bad neighbor. There have been three police incidents in the last three years. There have been numerous accidents due to this business. She is concerned of long-term effects to the residents of Malvern St. She also stated that this business is operating a business out of residential property.

John Kissinger, 50 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment and stated that he is concerned that if this property is abandoned and a fence is put up, he won't have access to the walking area.

Sheila Kissinger, 50 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment.

John Scott, 39 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment and stated that he is concerned that employees from this business constantly speed down the street. There are constant disregard for the safety of the area residents, blocking sidewalks and endangering the children in the area.

Mr. Bastien, 28 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment and stated that he purchased his home because it was a dead end street. Now this business is planning to open it up. The business owner has no vested interest in the neighborhood. The owner and his employees have no regards for the residents on the street.

Matt Billings, 43 Malvern St., appeared to oppose to this Abandonment and stated that this is the first step in turning this property into a commercial property. This is a dead end street and children use it to ride their bikes on this street and he is concerned about safety.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution Instituting Proceedings for the Abandonment of a portion of Malvern St.

[\[click to view\]](#) Referred back from City Council 2/23/2015; Cont. 3/9/2015 for Administrative report
[\[click to view City Reviews\]](#) [\[click to view Utility Easements\]](#) [\[click to view Applicants Appraisal\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to deny this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni stated that it is not the City Council's job to fix mistakes. The owner purchased the property as residential and now he is operating a business out of that property with a variance.

Attorney Shekarchi stated that he wished he could have spoken to the neighbors and address their concerns. He indicated that opening the road will never happen. The concerns of a lot of their fears could have been alleviated.

Roll call was taken on motion to deny this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

3-15-03 Ordinance in amendment of Title 12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places" (Sidewalk Reconstruction Cost Share Program II). Councilman Stycos. [\[click to view\]](#)

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto asked Councilman Stycos if he spoke to anyone in the CDBG Department to see if this could be tied into that.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that there are other major streets throughout the City and questioned if we need to amend this Ordinance every time a request is made for sidewalks on the streets that are not listed in this Ordinance. Maybe we should not have any streets listed in the Ordinance at all.

Councilman Stycos stated that every Council member could add their major streets in their Ward. He just added the major streets in Ward 1. Councilman Aceto agreed with Council Vice-President Santamaria and stated that he would not want to limit any neighborhoods.

Council President Lanni indicated to language in line #29 "3/4 mile of an elementary school" and questioned why that couldn't be a guideline and not list any streets in the Ordinance. Councilman Aceto stated that we would not want to limit anyone from having sidewalks that is not on the main street. Council President Lanni indicated that the City does not have a whole lot of money for this.

Council Vice-President Santamaria motioned to amend line #29 by deleting "and sidewalks on the following streets: Broad St., Narragansett Blvd., Park Ave., Pontiac Ave., Warwick Ave." Councilman Paplauskas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Coupe indicated to line #25 and stated that if the Council wants to put funds aside, that would have to be included in the original bond and line 53 and suggested that same discretion be given to the Public Works Department to resolve any questions or conflicts that may come up.

Councilman Stycos stated that he was asked by the Administration to draft some simple language and the department would not have discretion and now Mr. Coupe is asking that the department be given discretion.

Councilman Aceto asked Administration to research when the Sidewalk Program was in effect in the 1990's to see how that operated because he thinks CDBG made the determination of who got the funds and who didn't.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend this Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Ashbrook Dr. [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to approve this Petition. Motion passed unanimously.

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Roberts Ave. [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to approve this Petition. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees