

(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, September 21, 2016 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: Councilman Paul H. Archetto, Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto (appeared at 6:45 p.m.)
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Marty Madden
Sarah Kales Lee (appeared at 6:50 p.m.)

Absent: Representative Robert Jacquard
Nicholas Capobianco
Matthew Papino

Also Present: Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, 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. Motion passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Status of Fletcher Ave. Flood Wall – Buyout status and the funding* (Chair)

Mr. Mason stated that the Fletcher Ave. flood wall is a dead issue. What FEMA has entertained is the City purchasing the properties similar to what we did on Perkins Ave. There are ten properties that would have qualified and three of the ten chose to be tried to be bought out. FEMA has redone the floodplain maps of this property and one of the properties is not in the floodplain anymore and one of the other properties is not interested in being bought out.

Chair asked where the funds would come from for the buyout. Mr. Mason stated that he is not 100% sure. He believes bond money could be used. The City's portion would be 25% of the cost. Chair asked that Mr. Mason have this information for the next meeting.

- **Mr. Lapolla, Planning Director, to address status of buyouts of properties on Amanda Ct. area** (Mr. Papino – 3/16/2016).

Mr. Mason gave update. He stated that the City has purchased and demolished three homes, one on Amanda Court and two on Amanda St. The City has purchased property at two Clay St. We are in the process of purchasing three additional houses, one on Amanda Ct. and two on Warren Ct.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio asked if foundation is also removed when homes are demolished. Mr. Mason stated, yes. Council Minority Leader Favicchio asked if there would be a possibility of making the Fletcher Ave. area a park or a dog park. Mr. Mason stated that that would be up to the Planning Director. You could also make it a walking trail or boat ramp since Pawtuxet River is nearby.

- **Status of Sand Bags – how many are on hand** (Chair)

Mr. Mason stated that there is no change in update on this item from the last meeting. The City has approximately 1,000 bags ready to hand out. We have another 3,000 empty bags ready to be filled if needed.

- **Report from Mr. Mason of status of Cleaning of Catch Basins** (Chair)

Mr. Mason stated that there are approximately 7,800 catch basins and drain manholes in the City. We inspect approximately half of them every year. We clean approximately 600 to 700 per year.

Council President Lanni stated that a few months ago, he received documents from the owners of the apartments on Oaklawn Ave. that was flooded and owner filed a claim with the City. He asked if there is any update on that. Mr. Mason stated, no, that is with the Solicitor's Office.

Councilman Aceto stated that he would like added to the next meeting's agenda "Oaklawn Ave. bridge flooding". He stated that at some point, we need to come up with a plan for that. He would like to see a copy of the mapping of what the drainage system is like and what the City's responsibility is.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that as to the claim from the Oaklawn Ave. apartments, the City has no authority to service those drains since this is State road. Councilman Aceto stated that his understanding is the State had not cleaned these drains for eight years. Mr. Mason stated that we could look at raising the road, but we would have to take the railroad bridge down and this may be a cheaper fix.

Mr. Mason indicated that the City has ordered a new catch basin cleaning truck, which is due to be delivered in February and will be retiring the current truck we have.

Chair stated that for the next meeting he would like to know how much is in the Capital Budget Bond Money for flooding that is available, if it is still there.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

- *Update of NRCS revision for Fordson Ave. neighborhood* (Mr. Papino)

Chair asked that since Mr. Papino is not present this evening, this item be continued to the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. Madden stated that he would like to discuss this since Mr. Mason is present this evening.

Mr. Mason stated that he believes that NRCS has said that this is not feasible.

- *Request from Mr. Papino to change meetings dates to Mondays or Thursdays.*

Chair suggested alternating the meetings. He does not care what days, as long as it is after 6:30 p.m. He suggested meeting on a Monday in October and on a Wednesday in November.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio suggested meeting quarterly rather than monthly.

Chair suggested meeting on the second Monday in October and the third Wednesday in November at 7:00 p.m. and cancel December, January and February.

Mr. Mason indicated that he cannot attend on Monday evenings.

Chair stated that since October is only a week or two away, the Committee will meet in November. The November meeting will be November 3rd at 7 p.m. Members present were in agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees