

(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, January 12, 2017, 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 Chairman.

Present: Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Chair
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Council President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
J. Patrick O'Neill, Assistant City Solicitor
Evan Kirshenbaum, City Council Legal Counsel
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
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 Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, 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:

PUBLIC HEARING:

OLD BUSINESS:

Status report/briefing:

Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 45- 46-5(a)(2) Pending litigation

- **Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Appeal dated November 21, 2012 from ruling dated November 5, 2012 on Aug. 15, 2012 Fine Notice.** (Cont. 6/3/2013, 1/6/2014, 2/3/2014 & 7/7/2014 & 2/4/2015). [\[click here to view\]](#)
- **Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Dec. 7, 2012 Appeal of Fine Notice dated Aug. 15, 2012.** (Cont. 6/3/2013, 1/6/2014, 2/3/2014 & 7/7/2014 & 2/4/2015). [\[click here to view\]](#)
- **RIRRC Appeal of DPW Director's Decision on RIRRC's Petition for Review of Modification to Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit #1808.** (Cont. 11/4/2013, 1/6/2014, 2/3/2014 & 7/7/2014 & 2/4/2015). [\[click to view\]](#)

Solicitor Rawson asked that the above items be continued to the February meeting at which time the two attorneys will be present to discuss these issues.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to continue the above items to the February meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Snow Plowing: Procedural overview**

Mr. Mason presented a packet for the Committee. He stated that this year's Budget for snow removal is \$740,000, which includes sand and salt, vendors, Overtime for Public Works employees and equipment repairs for plows.

Council Vice-President Favicchio asked how many large trucks the City has at this time. Mr. Mason stated that they have 16 six wheel and 3 ten wheel dump trucks and small fleet of dump trucks and 4x4 pickup trucks.

Councilman Colford asked where we are at this time with the Budget. Mr. Mason stated that he is not sure, possibly approximately a third to half is expended.

Councilman Hopkins stated that during last week's snowstorm, he visited the Highway Department and Mr. Corso, Highway Superintendent, gave him an overview of what goes on during a storm. He also visited Wards 1 and 2 and spoke to people in those Wards and the majority of the people he spoke to were impressed at the wonderful job that the Highway Department did and they went curb to curb and he commended the Public Works staff.

Councilman Stycos inquired as to whether we had a Bob Cat for clearing sidewalks. Mr. Mason stated that Parks & Recreation has purchased one which is being used.

- **LED Street Lighting – Overview and status report from Administration**

Mr. Mason stated that the City purchased 9,700 LED lights from National Grid in August and on October 1st they started replacing the lights and we are approximately 56% complete of the project. This should be finished by the end of March or mid to end of April.

Chair questioned replacement of light on telephone poles. He stated that there was a pole with a light which was removed and a new pole added without a light and constituent has questioned why no light had been added. Mr. Mason asked that the Chair forward him the information and he will check into it.

- **50/50 sidewalk program –Procedural overview and status report from Administration**

Mr. Mason asked that this be changed to cost share and not 50/50 program. He stated that \$50,000 was budgeted for this year for Fiscal Year 2017. As of today, \$9,000 has been used. We may want to revisit how much we reimburse the taxpayer.

- **Street paving – Procedural overview and status report from Administration**

Mr. Mason stated that the City just completed a study rating every single road in the City from 0-100. The City averages 69. We would like to get that number to 75. He also stated that we can pave three miles of road for \$1 million.

Councilman Archetto indicated that he never received a paving list for 2016. He hopes to receive one for 2017.

Chair stated that what concerns him is the condition the utility companies are leaving the roads after doing work on the roads, particularly in Ward 2, which has been awful. We need to keep an eye on those utility work.

Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that an Ordinance was passed requiring utility companies when doing work on roads to pave entire road curb to curb. Councilman Stycos stated that he does not think an Ordinance was passed. What was passed was increasing the street opening fines. Council Vice-President Favicchio suggested reintroducing an Ordinance to address the Chair's concerns.

Councilman Lanni stated that we have looked into this. Providence Water has in their Charter that they do not have to repave streets, so we can't mandate Providence Water. He is not sure about the other utility companies.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee

Ex. # 1 Sub: 1/12/17
Public Works Comm.
 By: Kenneth Mason
 Re: Overview of PW Dept

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 4, 2017

To: Members of City Council

From: Ken Mason, Director of Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for multiple City divisions and also includes oversight of the Sewer Enterprise fund. The total operating budget of the Public Works department is \$15,079,000, and the Sewer Enterprise fund is \$22,233,000. Responsibilities, number of personnel and approximate budget for each division is as follows:

Public Works office - \$6,741,000**Personnel: 5**

Responsibilities:

- Receive and respond to phone calls and correspondence from the public
- Provide oversight of waste disposal and recycling as contracted with Waste Management. The current contract extends through June, 2021 and is budgeted at \$4,255,000 per year.
- Provide coordination and oversight of the state mandated stormwater MS-4 program
- Traffic safety
- Permits – road opening and sewer
- Maintain sewer roles
- Rodent control
- Street lighting is managed through this office (Budget \$1,000,000)

Highway Division - \$3,990,000**Personnel: 38**

Responsibilities:

- Road and Sidewalk maintenance including pothole repairs
- Receive and respond to phone calls and correspondence from the public for road, sidewalk, and drainage issues
- Snow and Ice removal including all materials and vendors
- Repair and maintain storm drain collection system including City owned detention ponds.
- Street signage and road/crosswalk striping
- Street sweeping, mowing of grass sidewalk areas and city lots, minor tree cutting
- Maintain used oil drop-off and computer recycling locations
- Trash pickup and disposal from City owned trash receptacles, and cleanup of trash on city roads

Building Maintenance Division - \$2,445,000**Personnel: 24**

Responsibilities:

- Custodial services to City owned buildings
- Plumbing and electrical maintenance and repairs
- Carpentry and painting maintenance and repairs
- The heating, electrical, water and sewer bills for all City buildings are charged from this division (Budget \$471,000)

Fleet Maintenance Division - \$1,290,000

Personnel: 10

Responsibilities:

- Repairs and maintenance to approximately 300 City owned vehicles, including vehicles from Highway, Building Maintenance, Recreation, Police, Transvan, Inspections, Public Works, City Hall Vehicles
- Repairs and maintenance to all power apparatus including street sweepers, wood chippers, and construction equipment
- Perform vehicle safety inspections in accordance with RIDMV mandates
- Acquisition and disposal of vehicles

Engineering Division - \$613,000

Personnel: 4

Responsibilities:

- Engineering functions for streets, sidewalks, drainage, and bridges
- Subdivision review
- Engineering of capital projects and significant maintenance projects including all school and fire department capital projects
- Surveying
- Inspections
- Care of trees
- Keeper of records of surveys, plans, maps, per Section 10.03 of the City charter

Sewer Department Enterprise fund - \$22,233,000

Personnel: 1

The City Wastewater Treatment plant and collection system is contracted out to Veolia Water under long term contract which extends to 2027. City staff provides oversight of the following functions:

- Wastewater treatment plant operations
- Collection system and pump station operation and maintenance
- Municipal Industrial Pretreatment Program
- Sludge Incinerator
- Grease program
- Review and approve sewer main extensions and sewer connections
- Maintain and update sewer roles and prepare annual sewer bills
- Capital Improvements to the sewer system

Capital Projects

The following capital projects are managed by members of the Public Works Department.

- Water Pollution Control Facility Nutrient Removal Upgrades
- Amanda Street pump station renovations
- Stormwater Drainage System rehabilitations
- Annual Road Resurfacing contract - \$4,000,000
- School capital projects
- Library capital projects



CITY OF CRANSTON
Ex. # 2 Sub: 1/2/17
Public Works Comm.
By: Kenneth Mason
Re: Winter Storm Policy

**CITY OF CRANSTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

935 PHENIX AVENUE

CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02921

401-942-9200

**WINTER STORM POLICY
2006/2007**

REVISED: 2013

**Published By
Cranston Department of Public Works/Highway Division**

WINTER STORM POLICY

The City of Cranston Public Works Department provides snow and ice control services on City Streets. This work is performed following a priority pattern designed to provide service to the greatest number of motorists where the need is the most crucial.

Upon threat of a snowstorm the Department of Public Works shall initiate preparedness plans which shall include the following:

- Prepare all snow plow trucks by installing plows, topping off with fuel, preparing mixtures of sand and salt.
- Make sure vendor list is updated and has current contact information, registration and insurance information.
- Contact City staff dispatchers for availability
- Re-position City dispatch vehicles, to the Highway Garage.
- Contact police department for parking ban

Public Works monitors the weather closely leading up to and during the storm so that it is prepared to act early in storm situations. Knowing existing and potential weather conditions is very important for a successful snow and ice operation. Six pieces of information are especially valuable:

1. Start of precipitation
2. Type of precipitation
3. Total precipitation expected
4. Expected event length
5. Wind conditions (speed, gusts, directions)
6. Temperature trends

Priorities for Snow Plowing and Ice Control Service on City Streets:

1. Major arteries
2. Hills with steep grades and sharp curves
3. Secondary main arteries
4. Local residential streets and courts
5. City owned properties

It is not the City's policy to provide "Bare Pavement". The plan in the City's snow removal and ice control efforts varies considerably depending on the storm event. A sleet storm would be primarily an ice control operation involving sand/salt spreaders. A less than 3" snowfall would find City sand/salt spreaders and plow trucks concentrating on priority streets. Other streets may not be plowed or salted on these small events. Larger Snows (3" and over) would show an initial concentration on priority streets with an ongoing effort to keep them open during the snow event. Plowing and ice control would begin on flatter local streets once the accumulations reach approximately 3" and priority streets are completed. City owned parking lots generally are plowed over night or early in the morning.

During Larger snow events Public Works calls in all City staff dispatchers. The City is divided into sixteen separate and distinct plow districts with each district assigned a dispatcher, and typically one City truck. Vendors are contacted and assigned to a district and report directly to the dispatcher who is out in the field overseeing plowing activities for that assigned district. The dispatcher clocks in each vendor with the Highway Department support staff, then assigns the vendor the streets that are his responsibility.

The City dispatcher remains in the field during the entire duration that the vendors are in plowing operation, and clocks them out upon completion.

The City has three "Main" crews, East, Central, and West, which typically consist of two City trucks each. The objective of these crews is to keep the major arteries of the City open and clear for vehicular traffic. There is an additional crew assigned to City owned parking lots such as City Hall, Police station, Fire stations, libraries, Senior Center, and some schools.

The entire width of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, or compacted snow and ice. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right of way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The lines of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The City of Cranston shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.

Once snow removal operations have begun, the City will continue to sand/salt, and plow snow pushing it back to the shoulders until removal is completed and in preparation for additional storms. We must be certain that there is adequate space on the road shoulder for the new snow. During snow plow operations a windrow of snow is left in front of all driveways therefore becoming the responsibility of the resident to clear. Unfortunately the necessity to continue to push the snow back to the shoulders of the roads after the storm is over does create additional windrows that must be removed by the resident. We will attempt to complete this activity as soon as possible so the creation of additional windrows is kept to a minimum.

Residents and businesses are required to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow or ice event. They are not allowed to push snow or ice across onto city streets. This is an illegal activity, and creates a hazard for drivers and a liability if it causes an accident or injury. This action may result in a fine to the property owner or contractor.

During a storm, main roads and school bus routes have priority over other roads. Each piece of snow removal equipment has an assigned route. The operators will start at the beginning of their assigned area and plow until they reach the end of that area. Complete clearing of cul-de-sacs is a last priority.

To effectively provide snow and ice control, the Department uses snow plowing in conjunction with the application of road salt and sand. Rock salt is still the principal element used for ice control purposes. Occasionally, sand is mixed with salt or calcium chloride to increase traction during ice storms or periods of extreme cold.

There is no single standard plan of attack for snow and ice control which can be followed as a firm recipe, inasmuch as each storm event is different. Years of experience in snow and ice fighting operations are extremely important in the implementation of this critical work. The experience in a variety of demanding situations is an essential ingredient to an effective winter maintenance effort.

Private Driveways: City plows are not responsible for clearing private driveways or snow from private property.

ALLAN W. FUNG
MAYOR



Kenneth R. Mason P.E.
Director of Public Works

CITY OF CRANSTON
Ex. #3 Sub: 1/12/17
Public Works Comm.
By: *Kenneth Mason*
Re: *Streetlight Conversion*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY HALL, ROOM 109
869 PARK AVENUE
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02910

City of Cranston Streetlight Conversion Project Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What kind of streetlights does the City of Cranston currently have?*

The City currently uses High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights. While the most common streetlight technology in most cities across the country, HPS streetlights are not very energy efficient, cast a yellow/orange light which it is difficult to see color, and tend to produce light that is not of optimal quality.
- 2. What are LED streetlights?*

LEDs (light emitting diode) is a technology that has been used in solid state lighting for decades. More recently, LED technology has advanced to streetlight applications. LED streetlights are extremely energy efficient, have long lifespans, and produce better color and light quality than typical HPS streetlights.
- 3. What color of light are LED streetlight fixtures?*

Contrary to the yellow/orange light that HPS fixtures produce, LED streetlight fixtures are a cooler, white light under which it is easier to see true colors. The City chose a 3,000 Kelvin color fixture, which is a warmer color than the 4,000 Kelvin colors that many cities are currently using.
- 4. Why do the new LED fixtures appear to be dimmer?*

Although the new LED fixtures may appear to be dimmer, they are actually not dimmer than the fixtures they replace. Whereas the HPS fixtures would typically pool the light underneath the fixture, the new LED fixtures are more efficient at delivery and produce an even disbursement of light.
- 5. Why is the City of Cranston doing an LED streetlight conversion project?*

The City is interested in reducing its energy consumption and maintenance costs associated with streetlighting. Installing LED streetlight fixtures will save energy, require less maintenance, and will provide citizens with better light quality on streets and roadways.
- 6. How many streetlights is the City of Cranston replacing with the streetlight conversion project?*

The project will replace approximately 9,700 streetlights throughout the City of Cranston.
- 7. How much will the City of Cranston likely save when it upgrades to LED streetlight fixtures?*

The project is expected to save approximately \$500,000 per year in costs, through a combination of lower maintenance and energy consumption costs.
- 8. How long will the project last?*

The project began in the summer of 2016 with an audit that provided precise locations and characteristics of existing streetlights. The project is now commencing the installation

phase, and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2017.

9. *What are the benefits of the LED streetlight fixture project?*

The benefits of this project to the City of Cranston include:

- Reduced energy consumption resulting in energy savings and Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- Reduced maintenance costs.
- Better visible light for Cranston citizens.
- Standardized LED fixtures throughout the city.

10. *What is the City doing with all of the streetlights it is removing?*

The existing High Pressure Sodium lights will be removed and recycled.

11. *The new LED is too bright. Can the LEDs be adjusted?*

Please note the new LED streetlight fixtures function differently than the previous HPS fixtures, in that they provide a whiter, more efficient light. As such, they can initially appear brighter than the previous HPS fixtures because the whiter light allows the human eye to see more, yet they actually use far less energy than the HPS fixtures. Historically, individuals who initially view LEDs as too bright, eventually adjust to the more natural light within 90 days. The City requests that residents who view LEDs as too bright to wait 90 days in order to adjust to the light.

12. *My house is too dark at night now. Can the LEDs be adjusted?*

LEDs are more focused than HPS lights, which mean that more light is focused on the sidewalks and road. HPS lighting was more spread out in all directions. The main objective of streetlights is to illuminate streets and sidewalks to provide a safe environment at night for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians to share the road. The new LED fixtures cannot be further adjusted.

13. *What City department is the contact group for further questions and to report outages of streetlights?*

The Department of Public Works can be contacted at 780-3175 to answer any further questions or to report a streetlight outage. If possible when reporting an outage, please provide us with the pole number of the streetlight of concern. The number is a tag installed by National Grid and is located at about eye level on the pole. This will assist the City in assigning work to repair crews.

ALLAN W. FUNG
MAYOR



Kenneth R. Mason P.E.
Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY HALL, ROOM 109
869 PARK AVENUE
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02910

CITY OF CRANSTON
Ex. # 4 Sub: Public Works
Comm. 1/12/17
By: Kenneth Mason
Re: Cost share sidewalk

MEMO

Date: May 23, 2016

From: Ken Mason, Director of Public Works

RE: Cost Share program for sidewalk reconstruction starting July 1, 2016

- The program shall be limited to residential units only of 4 units or less. No commercial properties shall be eligible.
- This program shall be only for the replacement of existing sidewalks in the City. No new sidewalks shall be considered for this program. Existing sidewalks eligible for this program shall be for walks running parallel to the roadway, in the public right of way. No sidewalks running to the front door of properties will be considered. Existing concrete sidewalks must be replaced with concrete.
- The property owner will be responsible for the entire cost of the sidewalk work with the City reimbursing the owner on a set unit based fee per square foot. As an example, if the owner is requesting to replace a 60 foot long by 5 foot wide sidewalk, the City would reimburse the owner for the replacement of 300 square feet at the rate established by the City. The current reimbursement rates are \$3.00 per square foot for concrete sidewalks and \$2.00 per square foot for asphalt sidewalks.
- The owner shall be responsible to hire a contractor who is licensed by the State of Rhode Island Contractors Registration and Licensing Board. The contractor shall also be required to show proof of liability insurance as well as Workers Compensation insurance.
- The contractor shall be required to obtain a Right of Way permit from the Department of Public Works Engineering office at 1090 Cranston Street. Contractor registration and insurances will be required to be presented during the application process. The permit will be issued with the requirement that the contractor install the replacement sidewalk in accordance with the City of Cranston Specifications. Sidewalks shall be replaced to match the materials of the existing sidewalk. All fees will be waived for this permit.
- Upon completion of the work, the owner shall submit to the City, a completion statement and request for reimbursement. A City staff member will visit the site to inspect the work for conformance to City specifications, and verify the total square feet of sidewalk replaced. Upon approval, staff will submit a payment application to the Director of Finance for direct payment to the property owner.

ALLAN W. FUNG
MAYOR



CITY OF CRANSTON

Ex. # 3 Sub: 1/12/17 Public Works Comm

By: Kenneth Mason on P.E.
Re: Pavement procedure Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY HALL, ROOM 109
869 PARK AVENUE
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02910

MEMO

Date: January 9, 2017

To: Public Works Committee

From: Ken Mason, Director of Public Works

RE: Pavement Management procedure

The planning for rehabilitation of city streets starts early in the year and is based on many factors. Perhaps the most important is the available funding allowed by administration for the coming construction season.

A Pavement Management Study was completed by a third party consultant in November, 2015 which provided a pavement condition index rating between zero and 100 for every street in the city. The city has 315 miles of paved roads that we are responsible for. The study also provided initial recommendations for the type of rehabilitation needed such as total reconstruction, mill and overlay, straight overlay, or crack sealing. Also, the study indicated the functional classification of the street, such as, main street, secondary main, residential through street, or dead end street.

The following factors are considered when scheduling paving for the program year:

- Pavement condition index – recently, only roads rated at less than 50 have been considered for paving
- Functional classification – main roads or secondary mains with the same pavement condition index as a dead end residential street will be given a higher priority.
- Location – to avoid multiple mobilizations it is advantageous to try and complete multiple streets in neighborhoods instead of jumping around all over the city on single one off streets.
- Collaboration with utility companies – DPW attempts to coordinate with water, and gas companies for cost share on paving restoration work on streets that we are planning on paving.
- Constituent and Council requests – considered if they meet the above criteria.