

*(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, February 15, 2018, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chairman.

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

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos  
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.  
John Verdecchia, 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  
Meredith Fortune, Stenographer

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

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Colford, 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:**

None.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Pauline DeRosa**, 97 Cypress Dr., appeared to speak regarding the snow pile on Midway Dr. and stated that the snow pile covers the curb cut on Cypress Dr. and that becomes a safety issue at that point. She also stated that when she drove by that area yesterday, that pile was frozen. She would like this pile disappear.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- *Update on BASF/Ciba-Geigy property. Councilman Stycos*

**Councilman Stycos** stated that he will be introducing a Resolution that he spoke to the Administration about regarding this issue. He also stated that he thinks this is a good time to meet with BASF and discuss whether that area could be open space and how that would work. This Resolution would initiate discussion with BASF.

- *Midway Drive – snow pile. Adm. report on preventive measures to prevent drainage to abutters. Council Vice President Favicchio*

**Council Vice-President Favicchio** stated that he spoke to Public Works Director Mason and Ms. Muksian, Director of Administration, regarding this issue. He indicated that he drove by the area the other day and can't believe how tall this pile still is. The City has had conversations with onsite people of Garden City and they have committed to salting and sanding to mitigate freezing of the roads. The City's Highway Department is also helping out. He also indicated that he has not received any complaints from the residents of Cypress Dr.

**Director Mason** stated that the sidewalk and handicap ramp is accessible now.

**Councilman Lanni** asked if there is any way Garden City could truck the pile of snow somewhere else. Director Mason stated, yes, they could, similar to the way the City trucks snow from City Hall parking lot to the Stadium. Councilman Lanni suggested that the Administration make this suggestion to Garden City or the City Council could draft a Resolution. This could be a cure to the problem. He suggested that they could use the Cullion property to dump the snow.

**Councilman Paplauskas** suggested if someone from the City could speak to Garden City tomorrow since another snow storm is expected Saturday.

- *Sidewalk Cost Share Program – report from Director Mason. Councilman Stycos*

**Director Mason** stated that to date, the City has assisted ten property owners with the program at a cost of \$11,700 to the City. He also stated that the City has stopped taking applications in November and asked that they file application again in July if we get the funding.

**Councilman Hopkins** asked if there is a possibility of continuing a waiting list. Director Mason stated, no, because the waiting list changes drastically.

- ***Sidewalk Snow Clearance – formation of sub-committee and report from Dir. Mason***

**Council President Farina** stated that this sub-committee would come up with ideas and ways of handling sidewalk snow clearance. He asked for volunteers from the Council members to serve on this sub-committee. Councilmen Lanni, McAuley, Paplauskas and Hopkins volunteered. Council President Farina indicated that since Councilman Hopkins is Chair of Public Works Committee, he Chair this sub-committee.

**Councilman Stycos** asked for a report on the uses of the new bobcat plow, which was recently purchased and where it is used and, if needed, we can purchase additional ones.

***Johnston Sewer Connection request: 180 Shun Pike. Cardillo Apple Processing.***

**Director Mason** stated that the City has reviewed the entire application and finds it acceptable at this time and recommended approval.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Colford, it was voted to approve this request.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Archetto** asked if the business will pay the costs. Director Mason stated that the developer pays the entire cost plus the \$5,625 charge of Impact Fee. He also stated that this is a one-time charge and then they pay the normal sewer fee plus a 25% surcharge.

**Councilman Lanni** asked if the Town of Johnston ever signed the Inter-Municipal Agreement from a few years ago. Director Mason stated, no, they did not, but State Law now supersedes that.

**Council President Farina** questioned Director Mason whether in fact the Council cannot deny this. Director Mason stated, no, unless we are over capacity. Council President Farina stated that if this is the case, then the Sewer Use Ordinance should be amended taking out the need for requiring City Council approval for this.

**Councilman Lanni** asked how we would put a stop on this when we reach capacity. Director Mason stated that someone in his position could deny future applications.

**Council President Farina** stated that once the Sewer Use Ordinance is amended, future applications could come before the Public Works Committee as a review capacity for information only.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve the above request and motion passed unanimously.

***Johnston Sewer Connection request: Intersection of Simonsville Ave & Plainfield Street. Cataldo Associates.***

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to approve this request. Councilman Colford recused. Motion passed on a vote of 6-0 with one recusal. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Council Vice-President Favicchio, Councilmen McAuley, Archetto, Paplauskas, Hopkins and Council President Farina -6. Councilman Colford recused.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**Councilman Stycos** asked that the following item be added to next month's agenda:

- How power will get from the solar farms to the bigger grid and will this require new pole. He also asked that the City Clerk ask National Grid to have a representative attend the next meeting to explain their opinion.

**City Clerk** stated that she has no contact with National Grid and suggested that the Public Works Director make this request of National Grid. Director Mason stated that the City has not received any formal application yet. The formal application gets filed with the Clerk's Office and reviewed by the Public Works Department and then it is heard by the Public Works Committee. City Clerk stated that she and Director Mason can draft a letter to National Grid asking them to attend the next meeting to discuss and address tentative plans that they may have regarding this.

**Chair** asked that the members of the sub-committee for sidewalk snow clearance contact him on a time they are available so a meeting can be scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee