

(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, May 17, 2018, 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: Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
Councilman Paul H. Archetto (appeared at 6:38 p.m.)
Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Chair
Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council Vice-President Favicchio, 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:

- **National Grid to address how power will get from the solar farms to the bigger grid and will this require new pole (Councilman Stycos). (Cont. from 3/15/2018).**

George Watson, Esq., of Robinson & Cole, appeared to represent National Grid and asked that this conversation will be part of the four pole locations at the end of the agenda and if the Committee has no problem with it, he can address all this at the end of the meeting.

Douglas Doe, 178 Lippitt Ave., appeared to speak and stated that Hope Rd. project has been in the works for three years and Lippitt Ave. project for almost two years and have been trying to get information from National Grid for months. He realizes it is a long process for doing this, but he really thinks these inter-connection routes should be part of the permitting process in Cranston because this is going to be a huge impact on people two or three miles away from the project. Conservation land will be impact on Hope Rd., on Lippitt Ave., on Laten Knight Rd., both State and private and public land. Brand new poles 50' high, new power lines and none of this was ever discussed in 2015. We are going to lose more trees on top of what we have already lost in that neighborhood and it is going to transform the whole landscape out there and this was never considered back then. These issues need to be addressed upfront and our Planning Department needs to step up and start doing this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Marion Avenue Street Name Change Petition filed by Nicholas J. Lima, Cranston City Registrar.**

On motion by Council Vice-President Favicchio, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos asked what has been done to talk to the people on Marion Ave. Nicholas Lima, City Registrar, appeared to speak and stated that the City Clerk's Office has sent a letter to the residents on Marion Ave. of this meeting and this meeting was advertised in the newspaper. He has been spoken directly to a few of the residents who live there. He also noted that the Post Master for the 029 zip codes, who handles the entire Providence region, strongly supports this proposal. The Providence Canvassing Office has also been working with his office since last year on this project.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

- **National Grid/Verizon - joint pole location Phenix Ave.**
- **National Grid Pole Location request pole location at Hope Road**

- **National Grid Pole Location request for pole location at Lippitt Ave.**
- **National Grid Pole Location request for pole location at Laten Knight Rd. west of Laten Knight Road and Beechwood Dr. intersection**
- **National Grid Pole Location request for pole locations at Laten Knight Rd. north of Laten Knight Rd and Hope Rd. intersection**

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to approve all 5 pole locations as a block. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Archetto, Paplauskas, Hopkins, Council Vice-President Favicchio and Council President Farina -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman McAuley -1.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to approve all the above-listed pole locations as a block.

Under Discussion:

Councilman McAuley stated that he recently visited the Western Cranston site only so he could understand the passion Mr. Doe has displayed month after month. Once he got there he realized that this is really transforming that whole neighborhood not for the better. He knows this is a done deal, but he asked that in the future, we can better protect the citizens of Cranston by notifying them early on projects of this nature.

Council President Farina asked that the Representative from National Grid give make some comments regarding this. Attorney Watson presented handouts of the existing locations. He stated that he is present this evening for petitions for 28 new pole locations, 8 new pole locations on Laten Knight Rd.. The 7 new pole locations that are closer to Hope Rd., that he believes is they are sub-standard spans.

Mike Connolly, Consultant for National Grid, appeared to speak.

Council Vice-President Favicchio asked if we would need more pole locations if we were to put 50 houses in this location instead of a solar farm. Mr. Connolly stated that it would depend on what the new houses would need and how much land there would be.

Councilman Stycos asked why not run the lines south on Lippitt to West Warwick instead of North on Lippitt. Mr. Connolly stated that he does not know the answer to this. He would have to look into it.

Council President Farina asked the Public Works Director how Public Works feels about this plan. Director Mason stated that his Engineering Department, himself and the City Tree Arborist did look at all the proposed pole locations and their traditional review consists only determining and making sure that the proposed pole are located properly in the public right of way and also reviewing any potential interference, usually storm drains and sewer lines, curb cuts and found nothing that would prohibit this installation. The City Arborist is working with National Grid's Tree Arborist on this project.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve all the above-listed pole locations and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Medeiros Wall JD
City Clerk
(Transcribed by Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee)

(transcribed from CD - 2)