

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, April 13, 2006 in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, RI.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by the Vice-Chair.

Present: Council Member Maria A. Bucci, Vice-Chair  
Councilman Terence Livingston  
Councilman Michael S. Pisaturo  
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone

Absent: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr., Chair

Also Present: Council Vice-President Paula McFarland  
Councilman Allan W. Fung  
Paul Grimes, Director of Administration  
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Deputy Director of Administration  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Marco Schiappa, Director of Public Works  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Pisaturo, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

**Abandonment of a portion of Carlsbad St.** (Public Hearing) Continued from 3/16/2006.

Mr. Schiappa appeared to speak and explained this petition.

Jeffrey Gladstone, Esq., of Partridge, Snow & Hahn, appeared to represent the applicant, Taco, Inc. Chris Integlia of Taco also appeared to speak and stated that the reason for this abandonment is to add a manufacturing facility and to expand the current facility.

Councilman Fung asked if notices were sent to the area residents or property owners. Attorney Gladstone stated that several notices have been sent out by mail and also through the schools. City Clerk stated that the City also has sent out additional notices beyond the requirements and two notices were sent out through Stadium School and a block ad was also run for two consecutive weeks in the Cranston Herald. Councilman Fung asked Mr. Integlia if he has received any feedback from the property owners. Mr. Integlia stated that he has received concerns in regards to not having the short cut to Route 10.

Attorney Gladstone stated that approximately \$75,000 will be generated in additional revenues with this abandonment. The projections are, in year one there will be \$405,858 in tax generated based on the current tax rate. After ten years, tax generated would be \$5,989,177.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Pisaturo, it was voted to refer this Abandonment to the full City Council without recommendation, until traffic report is received. Motion passed unanimously.

**Harborside Blvd.** – Joint Pole location (Continued from 3/16/2006).

Mr. Schiappa appeared to speak and stated that this pole would service Johnson and Wales's new dormitory.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to approve this Joint Pole Location. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Thomas D'Orsey**, 22 Valley View Dr., appeared to speak regarding Ordinance 3-06-1 and stated that he was General Foreman in the Parks and Recreation Department for ten years and has been involved with CLCF for twenty five years.

Councilman Livingston stated that he spoke with the President of CLCF and others who have been affected by this issue and he also spoke with Council President Garabedian and there will be a meeting next Saturday with different leagues and try to work out a compromised Ordinance. He also stated that after speaking with Council President Garabedian, he will make a motion to continue this Ordinance.

Mr. D'Orsey stated that he feels that all Cranston fields should be for Cranston residents. All our league sports have not decreased, but they have increased. All the sports are going to multi-season putting more demand on our fields.

**David Taft**, 61 Hope Rd., Treasurer of CLCF for thirty three years, appeared to speak and stated that this league has never had a problem with the City fields or the City. He questioned why this Ordinance is needed now.

**Michael Trafficante**, 173 Sweet Briar Dr., Director of Athletics in Cranston Schools, appeared to speak and stated that he has been involved in youth sports for many years as a volunteer and this Ordinance is offensive to these leagues. The leagues and their volunteers help maintain these fields, not Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation cannot maintain all the fields because there are too many sites for this department to handle.

**Anthony Coro**, President of CLCF, appeared to speak and stated that CLCF is using their own money to upgrade the facilities.

**Joe DiTreglia**, Sports Chairman for CLCF Soccer, appeared to speak and stated that the Council will be opening up a Pandora's box by passing this Ordinance. The reason for this Ordinance that came is because there was an under 15 soccer team who wanted to be a one age team and this did not fit under the league's guidelines so they decided to go to Warwick.

**Emilio Lavarro**, President of Cranston National Little League, appeared to speak and stated that the volunteers are the ones who keep the fields looking the way they do. They put a lot of work and effort into this.

**Chris Tracy**, President of CLCF Baseball, appeared to speak and stated that this league has many sponsors who are City businesses. He is opposed to having a league come into the City to use the City fields who are not residents of Cranston.

**David Calise**, Coordinator of CLCF Soccer, appeared to speak and stated that he is out on the fields every week picking up trash. If you open this up to outside leagues, this will not be done.

**Vincent Macari** appeared to speak and asked why this Ordinance was introduced.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Request from Resource Recovery to tie into the City's sewer system**

Mr. Schiappa appeared to speak and explain this item.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that she does not see anything in the request stating whether we can charge the company a higher rate for the water usage. Mr. Schiappa stated that the Council could make this contingent. Council Vice-President McFarland stated to Mr. Schiappa that he needs to come up with some kind of structure for the outside entities that come in with this type of request.

**William Anderson**, General Manager of RI Resource Recovery and **Bruce Hagerman** of Crossman Engineering, appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Pisaturo, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting for more information. Motion passed unanimously.

### **\*Discussion regarding Tree Removal Policy**

Councilman Livingston stated that he has received calls from constituents from Edgewood regarding the policy of removing trees. He stated that the trees on sidewalks are overgrown and are cracking the sidewalks. Mr. Schiappa stated that there is a proposed Tree Ordinance, which will be introduced at the end of this month. Richard DeGrandpre, Tree Warden for the City, appeared to speak and addressed the current policy. He stated that all tree removals are done through the 50/50 program. He stated that a constituent would call him and he will go out and look at the tree and determine if it needs to be removed or not. It is then placed on a list. If the tree is healthy, but is growing over wires, it would fall under the tree trimming program at no cost to the resident. Mr. Schiappa stated that if the tree limbs are growing onto utility wire, the resident can call either the utility company and they will trim the tree or they can call the Mr. DeGrandpre and will contact the utility company for the resident.

Council Vice-President McFarland questioned who decides the order of the list for sidewalk repairs, tree removal or tree trimming programs. Mr. DeGrandpre stated that the requests are date stamped and the programs run chronologically.

### **Proposed Ordinance no. 3-06-1 In Amendment of Chapter 1w of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Parks and Recreational Facilities" (Use of City owned recreational facilities)**

Councilman Livingston stated that he contacted Council President Garabedian over the weekend and he was told that he has spoken to some of the members from some leagues regarding this Ordinance. He contacted Robert Clarkin, Director of Parks and Recreation on two occasions, notifying him that no action would be taken on this Ordinance tonight. Interested parties were told that he and Council President Garabedian would meet with them to come up with a compromise.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Pisaturo, it was voted to table this Ordinance. Motion failed on a tie vote. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Livingston and Pisaturo -2. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Council Member Bucci and Councilman Barone -2.

Councilman Barone motioned to continue this Ordinance. Council Member Bucci seconded.  
Under Discussion:

Councilman Barone thanked all the members from the CLCF who came out to speak regarding this issue. He does not feel this should be an Ordinance. This issue was before the Cranston Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and it was discussed and voted not to allow the particular team that Mr. DiTraglia also earlier, to use the City fields. This is why we have an Advisory Board. The team that bought this about was given every opportunity to play in the Cranston league. It was their choice not to play in Cranston and went to Warwick. There are some Cranston children that play on that team, there are children of non-taxpayers that are on that team.

Councilman Fung urged opposition as well. He stated that this Ordinance would open up a Pandora's box and would place a lot of burden on the City.

Councilman Pisaturo stated that he has received calls from numerous Cranston parents, whose kids have been removed from Cranston fields, who are not part of any organized sport, by Police and they are Cranston residents. He would like to see the best decision possible for all kids and not just for organized sports.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that she would like to see this Ordinance not acted on, but denied and then come back with a structure after having some meetings and discussions with the organized groups that would benefit everyone in the City.

Councilman Livingston stated that he wished to withdraw this Ordinance at this time until a meeting is held with everyone interested and an agreement can be reached.

Councilman Barone withdrew his motion to continue this Ordinance and Council Member Bucci withdrew her second.

Sewer Adjustments:

**10 Garfield Avenue** –Richard Luke and Robyn Robidoux

Discussion took place on whether this item was on last month's agenda and acted on at that time. City Clerk stated that she would have to check the minutes of that meeting.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to continue this item until next month to make sure that this was not acted on last month. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees