

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, April 15, 2010 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Mario Aceto, Chair
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino, Vice-Chair
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Member Michelle Bergin-Andrews

Also Present: Councilman Mario Aceto
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Richard Bernardo, 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 Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

9-09-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Administration and Personnel" (Cranston Tree Ordinance). Cont. 11/12/2009, 1/14/2010, 2/11/2010 and 3/11/2010 for Law Department's and City Council Legal Counsel's legal opinion and whether fiscal note is needed).

Chair indicated that there is no opinion.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from Administration on status of Traffic Engineer's review of stop sign locations in the City.

Ms. Schutt stated that she is continuing to work with Mr. Ferguson, Traffic Engineer, and he is working with Maria Giarrusso, GIS Manager. Every stop sign that is in the City Code has been input in the GIS system. We are trying to work with the Police to identify stop signs and match them up to the map.

Council President Lanni stated that in order to do this, every location would have to be checked. We are spending all those man hours, why not pass a blanket stop sign Ordinance covering all the stop signs that are up. This will save taxpayer dollars. Ms. Schutt stated that she was under the belief the Council wanted this researched.

Councilman Aceto suggested getting a list from the Municipal Court Judge.

Councilman Lupino asked if we have all the existing stop signs logged in as of right now. **Councilman Pelletier** suggested that since this is an election year, the Council should count them on their walks.

Councilman Aceto asked how litigants are aware in municipal court that certain stop signs are not codified? **Asst. Solicitor Kirshenbaum** stated that it's his understanding that the Court is doing the research unprompted by the litigants.

Public Speakers:

Marie Sweet, 174 Gladstone St., appeared to speak regarding Ordinance 9-09-3 and stated that she appreciates the diligence of the Committee and the legal counsel regarding this Ordinance.

Natick Ave. Bridge – Tennessee Gas Pipeline

Walter Lawrence, 745 Natick Ave., appeared to speak. Documents regarding this issue were provided to the Committee members. Mr. Lawrence stated that Tennessee Gas never obtained a legal permit to install this line. DEM tried to stop them, but they could not stop them until the City of Cranston vetoed this. After the pipeline was installed, DEM issued a stop work order. He and his wife appealed it in Supreme Court and for intervention rights. Tennessee Gas went through 3 ½ acres of wetlands and DEM allowed them. Mr. Lawrence stated that all the documents this Committee was provided with this evening were provided to the City Council back in 1995 to veto this and restore the wetlands. He has two reports from two different companies, which state that this pipe was placed on the bridge and the bridge would not support this pipe. This is a dangerous situation. He would like the City of Cranston, along with West Warwick, to work with National Grid to move the lines somewhere else. He asked that the Council write to our Senators and Representatives and have a conference with National Grid.

Councilman Lupino asked who is currently maintaining the line. Mr. Lawrence stated, National Grid. Councilman Lupino asked Mr. Lawrence if he has seen National Grid out inspecting the line regularly. Mr. Lawrence stated, no.

Chair asked Nick Capezza, City's Chief Engineer, to address this issue.

Mr. Capezza stated that he is not familiar with what happened when this line was installed. He stated that the two pipes going over the bridge are National Grid. It is not Tennessee Gas Pipelines. They are re-routed because studies showed they could not go over the bridge.

Chair asked that for the next meeting, the Solicitor report back on all Court decisions to see if the City has any rights or if we can help Mr. Lawrence in any way. He indicated to Mr. Lawrence that this may be a process that may take some time, but it will be looked into.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gas Pipelines on Natick Ave.

Discussed earlier.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees