

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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: Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Council Vice-President Terence Livingston
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Anthony Sylvia, 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:

Chair referred to a memo dated January 20, 2009 from Anthony Sylvia, Director of Public Works requesting that the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting be amended as follows: regarding the Edgewood Traffic Study, the minutes should reflect that the City received eight (8) proposals that remain to be reviewed; in regards to the Sewer Rate item, "Inter-Municipal Agreement" should be deleted and replaced with "Pre-treatment Program".

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to amend the minutes of the last meeting as stated in Mr. Sylvia's memo. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

Traffic Engineer's Report on Proposed Traffic Study for Edgewood. Cont. 12/4/2008 and 1/15/2009.

Mr. Sylvia stated that eight proposals to study this area have been received and since the last meeting, these proposals have been reviewed and have been placed before Board of Contract and Purchase. Board has awarded this project to Garofalo Associates and the City has met with the company. This company was the second lowest bidder, a number of factors went into this evaluation and not just the lowest bid.

Councilman Lupino asked for a schedule of the project when it is available.

Councilman Pelletier asked which area this project encompasses. Mr. Sylvia stated that the area is between Broad St. and Narragansett Blvd. and from Ocean Ave. to the South and Northward to Norwood Ave.

Councilman Santamaria asked if this is going to be a pilot project and will it spill over to other Wards. Mr. Sylvia stated that this is one of two traffic calming studies. The other is on Cranston St.

List of out of City tie-ins to the City's sewer system, amounts being billed.
(Requested by Councilman Lupino and Council President Lanni)

Mr. Sylvia stated that the City has found that there are outside municipalities that connect to the Cranston Sewer System:

- Twenty-nine Providence connections, at a cost of \$12,421.64
- One Warwick connection at a cost of \$3,382.61
- Four from Johnston, at a cost of \$489,228.26

He stated that of these lists of connections, they amount to approximately 3½ % of the sewer revenue.

Council President Lanni asked if there is a different rate structure for outside City tie-in. Mr. Sylvia stated that looking at the sewer rate schedule, there is only one special rate for the Johnston Housing Authority and all others are charged the same as the Cranston businesses or homes. There are some contract agreements with some of these tie-ins for outside entities. Council President Lanni asked if there are any expiration dates in the contracts. Mr. Sylvia stated that the rates are not mentioned in the contracts, they are perpetual contracts. Council President Lanni stated that in these financial times, these outside tie-ins should be charged more and not the same as the City's taxpayers.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that when talking about capacity, you have to look at the peak capacity during high rainstorms. The issue approximately four years ago, when there was heavy rainstorms, the capacity issue came up and possible impact. Of these tie-ins'.

Councilman Pelletier asked what the four Johnston connections are. Mr. Sylvia stated the Landfill, Dunkin Donuts, Johnston Housing Authority and a 52-unit apartment complex. The Power Plant and the Industrial Park are part of the Landfill.

Councilman Lupino stated that a major concern he has future capacity. He stated that since this acts as an Enterprise Fund, this could also help to bring sewers to Western Cranston.

Council President Lanni stressed that we should be looking to charge a different rate to capture more money. He asked if these entities conform to the same standards as the businesses and residents in Cranston. Mr. Sylvia stated that we do make them conform to our standards.

Chair indicated that his concern is how much capacity is there for Florida Power. Mr. Sylvia stated that this is strictly a wastewater system. There is capacity there and is reserved capacity in place for expansion of the Power Plant. Chair questioned if we charge some sort of Impact Fee, would this be considered a sewer fee and could it go into the General Fund. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he would have to check into that.

Councilman Pelletier asked for a copy of the contract with Dunkin Donuts to have the Solicitor review it to see if we could make a ratification to it. He would like to see what is in it that says we can't charge a certain rate.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting so the Solicitor can report back on any issues that have come up this evening. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Calder St.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve this pole location request. Motion passed unanimously.

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Chiswick Rd.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve this pole location request. Motion passed unanimously.

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Greening Lane

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve this pole location request. Motion passed unanimously.

***Status update on request initiated by Councilman Navarro on 10/31/2008 for light fixture request at 186 Orchard St.**

Mr. Sylvia appeared to speak and stated that in November, he requested National Grid to install new light and modify an existing light at this location. Since then, there have been numerous snow storms which have delayed action on this request. He is sure this installation will occur soon.

Councilman Navarro stated that his concern is when and if this is going to be done and also the process. He stated that on October 31, 2008, he made this request of Mr. Sylvia. On December 4, 2008, Mr. Sylvia e-mailed him and stated that he had submitted the request to National Grid and he would check with them on the status. He never heard back from Mr. Sylvia. On January 14, 2009, Mr. Sylvia e-mailed him stating that he is very displeased with National Grid and would be calling for a meeting with National Grid. He never heard back from Mr. Sylvia and questioned if this meeting has been held with National Grid, since there have been complaints from neighbors of safety and this is why he requested that this issue be placed on the agenda this evening. Mr. Sylvia stated that he has been working on this issue personally himself. The problem lies with National Grid. They are going through a long list of management changes. As far as a reported safety hazard, he disagrees. There is sufficient lighting there. He also indicated that there will be no additional costs. Councilman Navarro stated that he would have appreciated a response back from Mr. Sylvia to avoid having this issue placed before the Public Works Committee.

Kim Gilbert, 186 Orchard St., appeared to speak and stated that she purchased this property in July, 2008. She is very concerned because it is very dark in this area and she contacted Councilman Navarro, her Councilman, back in October, 2008.

Chair asked for a continuance of this issue for an update.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees