

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 2006, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr., Chair
Council Member Maria A. Bucci, Vice-Chair
Councilman Terence Livingston
Councilman Michael S. Pisaturo
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

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
Nick Capezza, City Chief Engineer
Robert Clarkin, Director of Parks and Recreation
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Plainfield Pike Plaza Sewer Connection – Issue of Fine (GMP Associates LLC requested to appear by Council President Garabedian)
(Will be heard February 16, 2006)

Chair stated that Mr. Schiappa telephoned him and asked that this be continued to next month, since he is on vacation.

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

ORDINANCE 11S-05-1 IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON, 2005 Entitled "Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places" (Snow & Ice Removal) (Continued from 12/8/2005)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Member Bucci, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Report on the Cranston Ice Rink and the Administration's Remediation Plan

Mr. Grimes appeared to speak and stated that the City is presently awaiting information on the severity of the situation and should have a report in twenty days. A structural analysis is being done, and this will be a driving factor on how to proceed. The analysis will be up on the City's website within a couple of days and distributed to the Council.

Mr. Capezza appeared to speak and stated that he met with two construction companies today at the site (Turgeon and Ohlberg & Sons) and provided them with the preliminary scope of the renovations. They have been asked to put some proposals together for the City by Monday. The proposals will be evaluated based on their fees. They will be reviewed and hopefully presented to the Board of Contract and Purchase on Tuesday and a recommendation will be made at that time..

Mr. Grimes asked to clarify some factual errors that have been misreported.

- Today's newspaper reported that it was insulation that caused the fire, it was not insulation, but reflective materials, used to reflect light and very common in Rhode Island. It is clearly not foam. The City has been trying to locate the manufacturer and believe they have now been located. The material is believed to be Class A, testing E-84. Tests for the rate of fire spread. The City is being assisted by Tielsch Engineering and we should have the test results by tomorrow. Fire code violations stated in the newspaper – the City was not warned or told to take this material down. The City was told the material needed to be rated. The State Fire Marshall deemed that it would be reasonable to do the testing by June 1, 2006. The Administration will provide additional facts as they are received and will keep the Council apprised.

Council President Garabedian stated that the first priority is to help the City's ice rink get back in operation and the leagues online. Second priority is to research and investigate the background of this matter. There seems to be some conflicting viewpoints on the material. He accepted what Mr. Grimes stated and indicated his intent was to have an investigation but not to impede getting the rink back on line.

Councilman Fung asked if there is enough insurance to cover the total replacement if this building needs to be rebuilt. Mr. Grimes stated that that is part of the information the City is still working with the insurance company to determine. There are some items that were built into the Capital Budget that was going to be done at a later time, but if the rink is going to be repaired, we might as well do it now. In terms of fire damage and replacement costs, the City is still trying to determine that with the insurance company.

Councilman Livingston asked, as a result of the fire code violations, has the insurance company indicated that they will not cover the damages? Mr. Grimes stated, no. He also stated that not only is the insurance company doing an investigation, but also the State Fire Marshall. He stressed that the City is not in violation of fire code. The City was told that we are non-compliant, but were given a certain period of time to address those issues.

Council Vice-President McFarland asked if there are any reports available or any other buildings throughout the City that have been violated or have deficiencies. Mr. Grimes stated that there are a number of buildings that were affected throughout the City on the City side that have deficiencies. Many have been corrected and many have been placed in the Capital Budget. The Council will be receiving copies of all the deficiencies and what buildings were affected and the status of those and what needs to be done to place them in compliance.

Council Vice-President McFarland asked where in the Operating Budget the Ice Rink Company that operates the ice rink, listed. She also asked what routine maintenance the company has performed to date. She indicated that the office area at the ice rink was converted and no building permits were taken out and a game room was installed with no license granted by the City. She stated that she is trying to make sure that this company has lived up to their end of the bargain for the last seven months, since the Council did not enter into this contract. The contract does not mention any pro shop or game room. Mr. Grimes stated that this contract went through the Board of Contract and Purchase and bids were solicited and the Council has representation on that Board. It did not require Council approval. This is not a lease.

Chair asked what the deductible on the insurance is. Mr. Grimes stated that the deductible is \$10,000. Chair stated that the newspaper states that there were 53 violations. He asked how many of the 53 violations have been fixed. Mr. Grimes stated that there were seven deficiencies cited and three to four have been fixed today.

Council President Garabedian spoke regarding leasing of the facility based on the City Ordinance. He asked what the requirements are and if Council approval is needed. Mr. Kirshenbaum stated that he does not believe the facility was leased. The City hired a management firm to run the ice rink. He does not have an answer to the question, as to whether the Council needs to approve this. This is more of a management issue.

Mr. Clarkin appeared to speak and stated that primarily, there are three leagues in the City and the two high schools. The Parks and Recreation Association in the State, which was formed approximately three years ago, met in Warwick yesterday to discuss what the other leagues throughout the State could do to help the situation. Our leagues are getting ice time from other facilities in the State.

Councilman Fung thanked Mr. Capezza, Mr. Clarkin and all the City workers from the City in working on this matter, since the fire and the other leagues throughout the State in helping us meet our needs.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to request that the Administration submit to the Council a remediation plan and a weekly progress report on their proceeding on the remediation. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion took place on whether it is prudent to have a weekly report. Councilman Fung suggested a bi-weekly report.

On motion by Councilman Fung, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to amend this motion to state that the report be bi-weekly. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Barone stated that besides the members thanked earlier by Councilman Fung, he also would like to thank the Fire Department for all their work.

Sewer Adjustment for 122 Glen Ridge Rd. – Robert Michelette

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Adjustment for 1401 Park Ave. – Steven Vota

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Pisaturo, it was voted to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees