

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, June 14, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Member Maria A. Bucci, Chair
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Vice-Chair
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Also Present: Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration
Aubrey L. Lombardo, Assistant City Solicitor
Tim Libby, Public Works Aide
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lanni, 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:

OLD BUSINESS:

Replacement of Steel Gas Main lines: 4 Exchange St. and 5 Vinton Ave.

Petition from National Grid - PUBLIC HEARING (Cont. 4/12/2007 and 5/21/2007)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to continue this petition. Motion passed unanimously.

Petition from Verizon New England for proposed excavation to dig splice pit to locate cable on Phenix Ave. (Cont. 4/12/2007, 5/21/2007)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to continue this petition.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Barone asked if this work being done is going to affect the St. Mary's Feast. Councilman Santamaria stated that he spoke to a representative from Verizon and he was told that they are finishing the work and should be done by July 1st.

Council President Garabedian stated that since we do not have a Public Works Director, the Administration should be prepared to answer any questions on the agenda.

Councilman Navarro spoke regarding excavating of streets and asked if the City is notified by the utility company of the repaving of the roads. Chair stated that the Solicitor has an agreement and she will speak regarding this. Solicitor Lombardo stated that the City has a contract from PUC dated 1998. By RIGL 24-1.1, it requires roads to be restored prior to the alteration. The amount of time is 45 days. Councilman Lanni asked if the utility companies are aware of this law and the fact of the matter is that they are not doing it. Maybe we need an Ordinance citing a certain amount of days and if the road is not repaired, the City will do the work and then charge the utility company. Councilman Santamaria questioned if there is any type of policing this. Mr. Migliorelli stated that as to catch basins, Walter Skorupski of the Engineering Division, does that. As to the repairs, Engineering Division checks into this. The problem is the City does not get notified when it is an emergency.

Councilman Barone stated that if the utility company is not following State Law, they would probably not follow the Ordinance. He suggested that the Solicitor send a letter to the utility companies stating the issues stated by Councilman Lanni.

Chair requested that the Solicitor draft an Ordinance requiring the utility to post a bond prior to any work being done, and then to have a representative from the City inspect the work when completed. .

Councilman Navarro stated that we should look to fine these companies when they do not provide us with quality work, by putting an Ordinance in place.

Council President Garabedian asked that the Administration send the utility companies a copy and notify them of the agreement the City has on file. Mr. Migliorelli stated that the Law Department will handle this.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to reconsider the first two items on the agenda since there is no one present representing the utility companies. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to continue the first two items on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

State Recycling Program (Cont. 4/12/2007, 5/21/2007)

No one appeared.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Lanni, Navarro and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Barone -1.

Petition from Verizon for excavation to lay and maintain underground conduits, buried cables, manholes, handholes at corner of Phenix Ave. and Cranston St. (Cont. 5/21/2007)

No one appeared.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to continue this petition. Motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Adjustment Requests (See List) (Cont. 5/21/2007)

Tim Libby, Public Works Aide, appeared to speak and stated that he is recommending denial of sewer adjustment request for 1500 Pontiac Ave. and 8 Roslyn Ave., reason is owner would need to submit some documentation.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to deny these two sewer adjustment requests.

Under Discussion:

Council President Garabedian asked if there is statute of limitation of how long a taxpayer can apply for sewer abatement. Solicitor Lombardo stated that there is none per Section 26.80 of the Sewer Use Ordinance.

Councilman Lanni stated that in the past, when former Public Works Director, Marco Schiappa was employed by the City, the Committee went back one year, per his recommendation.

Motion to deny these two sewer adjustment requests passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Chair stated that Cranston Western Little League has stated to her that they would like to have lights installed at Briggs Field and they have the money to purchase the lights and they would pay for the contract for 10 years to service the lights. She asked Mr. Migliorelli how this can be handled and how we go about to give them permission to do that.

Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that he suggested that the league meet with their Council member and forewarn the neighbors of this. Council President Garabedian stated that a public hearing on this issue should be held and advertised and neighbors be notified. Councilmen Navarro and Barone agreed that a public hearing should be held regarding this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees