

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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.

Absent: Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
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 Lupino, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, 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:

*Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation: **Sewers**

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2). Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 6:25 P.M.

Present in Executive Session: Council President Lanni, Council Vice-President Livingston, Councilmen Pelletier, Santamaria, Aceto, Lupino, Archetto; Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor; Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration; Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration; L. Robert Smith, Engineer; Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk; Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 6:45 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that the City Council has been dealing with an issue along with him and L. Robert Smith, Forensic Engineer in the State of Rhode Island with regards to the Sewer Treatment Plant. The Council became aware that the last three tenants at Lakeside Industrial Park, in the Town of Johnston, were tied into the city of Cranston Sewer System. There was no approval by the City Council giving permission for this tie-in, which violates City Code. The penalty for this violation is \$25,000 per day. The City Council has directed him and his team of Engineers to attempt to negotiate issues with RI Resource Recovery. The Mayor has received a phone call from the Governor stating that RI Resource Recovery will be tying into the Narragansett Bay Commission. There have been numerous attempts to have RI Resource Recovery meet without Engineers, without any success. The City Council has directed him and Mr. Smith to issue a Show Cause Hearing to RI Resource Recovery Corporation to cover the tenants of Lakeside Tenants Park as to any tie-ins, increase of nitrogen or other pollutants. Solicitor Kirshenbaum suggested that a meeting be scheduled and at that meeting, swear-in any speakers.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to approve to hold a Show Cause Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to unseal all Executive Session minutes of all past meetings regarding this matter. Motion passed unanimously.

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

No discussion was held.

Natick Ave. Bridge – Tennessee Gas Pipeline – Status update from Administration and report from Solicitor on Mr. Lawrence’s request (Cont. 4/15/2010; 5/13/2010)

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he spoke to Mr. Smith, Engineer, and Public Works Director, Richard Bernardo, and they found gas line and water line at the bridge and this is common practice and there is nothing in regards to the gas line that should cause the City Council any concern.

L. Robert Smith, Engineer, appeared to speak and explained how the gas line was installed. He stated that as to the concern about the gas line chafing, that is not the gas company, but he does not believe there is a public safety hazard or any danger.

Councilman Lupino asked whose responsibility it is to monitor the sensors. Mr. Smith stated that it is National Grid’s responsibility, which they check regularly. Councilman Lupino asked if the City’s Building Inspector keeps a log of checks done by National Grid. Mr. Smith stated that this request would have to be made of National Grid. Councilman Lupino asked through the Administration, that the Building Inspector maintain a log of National Grid’s checks on this line and the sensors.

NEW BUSINESS:

5-10-1 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic” (Authorization for Existing Stop Signs).

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Lupino asked if there is a list available of all the stop signs. Ms. Schutt stated that we know the ones that legally exist and have been put into the GIS system.

Councilman Santamaria asked Solicitor if this Ordinance will pass muster. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he spoke to the City Solicitor who handles traffic prosecution and they would approve of this type of Ordinance.

Councilman Pelletier asked if a permit is required to dig up the street. City Clerk stated that she will check into this.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance and motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Aceto, Pelletier, Santamaria and Council President Lanni -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Lupino -1.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Melody Lane

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from Verizon for proposed excavation to dig splice pit on Auburn St.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees