

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

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

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Mario Aceto, Chair  
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino, Vice-Chair (appeared at 6:08 P.M.)  
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier  
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.  
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.  
Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews (appeared ay 6:08 P.M.)

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro (appeared at 6:10 P.M.)  
Councilman Paul Archetto (appeared at 6:30 P.M.)  
Council Vice-President Terence Livingston (appeared at 7:12 P.M.)  
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration (appeared at 6:22 .M)  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Anthony Sylvia, Director of Public Works  
Dave Ferguson, Traffic Engineer  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Kimberly O'Brien, Clerk  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**Chairman Aceto** referred to Solicitor Kirshenbaum for the report which was requested at last months meeting regarding a list of city tie-ins to the city sewer system. **Solicitor Kirshenbaum** stated that there may be a couple of different ways to come up with this list but he is still researching it further. **Chairman Aceto** asked if they could arrange a meeting with the Council President, himself, Solicitor Kirshenbaum and the administration to review this and all parties agreed that would be no problem.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Petition from National Grid for pole location at Wine St.**

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, 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 the light has been installed.

On motion by Councilman Santamaria, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve this status update. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Natick Avenue Engineering Study RFP (Referred from 2/23/2009 City Council)**

**Mr. Sylvia** stated that he is very familiar with the various problems on this road and has been working with the City Engineer Mr. Capezza and they are lining up various projects along with the RFP to utilize the City Engineer in the best way as far as repairing this road.

**Chairman Aceto** wanted an update from Mr. Sylvia regarding how they are using the stimulus funding as far as this Natick Road projects and what they plan to do and in what kind of time frame.

**Mr. Sylvia** stated that he does not have anything quite ready yet, but he is working on it.

**Council President Lanni** asked if they had planned on putting any of the stimulus money towards repairs for the bridge and **Mr. Sylvia** stated that was not going to make any difference the road needs infrastructure repairs all together regardless of just the bridge. **Council President Lanni** stated that he has been working on this project for over a year and asked why are these studies taking so long and not ready to go yet, why are they still shelf ready?

**Councilman Pelletier** had some questions regarding if Mr. Sylvia could give them an outline of the phases for the various projects through the summer and was wondering if they were doing anything regarding the drainage issues. **Mr. Sylvia** when that is determined no problem. **Chairman Aceto** was questioning how many phases 3 -4 -5.... What is the estimated time frame and number of projects?

**Mr. Sylvia** stated that depends on how much environmental funding they get. After a lengthy discussion between all parties including the Administration, the Chairman requested an alternative agreement by next month's meeting of what they are outlining on doing regarding this mess and the sense of urgency is terrible. They should be addressing these issues in a more timely fashion. Mr. Sylvia stated that he has been waiting for the funding that was needed to be in the capital funding and it finally is now.

**Chairman Aceto** asked if there was any emergency state money that could be expedited in 90 days and Mr. Sylvia is unaware of any such funding. Then the discussion went into what they were planning on doing with the stimulus money that was coming down from the State from President Obama and a lengthy discussion between the Council, Mr. Sylvia and the Administration went on to how they were dispersing these funds.

**Councilman Santamaria** asked the Chair to please put Fletcher Avenue on next month's agenda because that needs to be discussed with some of this funding as well and also he wants the recycling fines put back on the agenda for discussion next month as well.

**Councilman Lupino** strong fully disagrees with just repaving Natick Avenue and that some of the stimulus money must be used for this as well.

**Chairman Aceto** agreed with Mr. Lupino and stated that the Administration is in complete cooperation and agreement that this road is a serious issue that needs to be addressed and hopefully they will have some projects started in the spring.

#### **Presentation of Traffic Study for Sockanosset Crossroad and New London Avenue.**

**Mr. Ferguson** understands that the traffic study has changed a couple of times and Mr. Coates from Carpionato were present with some other various engineering companies to explain the changes.

**Kelley Coates**, Senior Vice President 100 Sock. Cross Roads LLC @1414 Atwood Avenue, Johnston started his presentation to the Committee with the statement that a projects, best money spent is when spent to improving the City. Mr. Coates turned the presentation over to **Steve Garafalo**, from Garafalo Engineering, who has prepared a detailed presentation on all the updates that are needed after a study done by Garafalo Engineering of the area during peak and off peak traffic hours. The areas that they found that are most affected during this study are Sockanosset at Rt. 2 and Sockanosset at Pontiac if they could widen the roads in these areas and add an additional lane that may help with the traffic flow. There is also a definite need for better signage in all aspects of that area.

**Attorney Pariseault**, representing 100 Sockanossett Crossroads LLC, spoke about improving the slope in that area as has been working with Mr. Ferguson & Mr. Garafalo regarding the corridor study and any other proposed changes. He also submitted the study to be put on record.

**Councilman Lupino**, asked which phase with the RI DOT this is at – whether 10%, 30%...etc..this particular time. Mr. Ferguson is still meeting with DOT and will have all these questions that were discussed during the presentation brought to there attention. Councilman Lupino also wanted to know if the owners of the properties affected by this widening of the road have been contacted and do they have their approvals?

**Mr. Coates** responded by stating that he has met with all the business owners being affected and has told them the benefits they will receive at their businesses. Mr. Coates is here this evening looking for approval from the Council for the giving of the City property as well as the property being given by Ruggieri he does not want them told down the road they are in a non complying way. He is looking for

1. Accepting the Land
2. Accepting the value
3. Holding them harmless

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to accept the report. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly O'Brien  
Clerk