

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Monday, May 21, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 Jeffrey P. Barone  
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Councilman Anthony J. Lupino  
Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration  
Aubrey L. Lombardo, Assistant City Solicitor  
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.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**11S-05-1 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places" (Snow and Ice Removal).**  
Cont. 12/7/2006, 1/11/2007, 2/15/2007, 3/15/2007 and 4/12/2007.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to remove this Ordinance from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Town of Johnston Request for installation of sanitary sewer lateral**  
1901 Plainfield Pike - Nicola Ricci of Victor Anthony Properties.  
Cont. 2/15/2007, 3/15/2007 and 4/12/2007.

Mr. Woerner stated that the Town of Johnston is not in favor of this request.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

**Petition from National Grid for pole location at Woodbine St.** (Cont. 4/12/2007)

Clerk stated that the street name should be Narragansett Blvd., this is a typo. No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

Councilman Santamaria questioned why a representative from National Grid is not present. Chair stated that if plan is approved by Engineering, utility company does not need to appear before this Committee.

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

**Petition from National Grid for pole location at Pippin Orchard Rd.** (Cont. 4/12/2007)

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to approve this request. 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)

Councilman Lanni stated that the utility companies are doing a terrible job in repairing the City streets and they should be asked to appear before this Committee to explain to the Committee the process they use when they excavate one of the City streets.

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

Mr. Migliorelli stated that he has a copy of the contract with the utilities. He was told that they do a quick patch and then come back in 90 days to do a final patch.

Public Speakers:

**Councilman Lupino** appeared to speak regarding Ordinance 4-07-2 and read a letter from Jarold Mirabeld of National Grid explaining why this easement is required. Councilman Lupino also stated that this is crucial to the Cranston High School East project and recommended passage of this Ordinance.

**James Vincent**, \_\_\_\_\_Eagle Lane, appeared to speak and asked the Committee when money will be allocated to repair Natick Rd. between Wilbur and Wakefield St. Councilman Lanni stated that the way it is supposed to work is Public Works Department rates every street in the City and take the worst streets in the City and fix them. The money is used as best you can to service as many streets as possible. Council Member Bucci stated that as Ward representative, she tried to get funding last year, but this project is noted and recognized as the worst street in the City and would cost a lot of money and we are hoping to get funding from the State. She put this street in as a request last year and was denied. Mr. Migliorelli stated that we are awaiting from FEMA to see as to what they are going to contribute. Another issue there is drainage problem.

Carol Cooney, 8 Eagle Lane, also appeared to speak regarding repair to Natick Rd. and stated that the street is unsafe. The residents are willing for the long-term project to go forward, but there needs to be a short-term solution. There is overgrown brush and potholes. Council Member Bucci stated that she will contact Public Works Department tomorrow and have them go out there and do what they can for now.

Councilman Lupino spoke regarding the repairs the utilities make to the City streets and stated that if prior to the 90 days, there is a rainstorm and the street collapses or causes damage, he asked who is liable for any damage. Mr. Migliorelli stated that he would have to look at the PUC regulations, because they govern all utilities. Councilman Santamaria stated that he was advised that Mr. Carlucci has an agreement signed a few years ago. We should get all the utility companies to come before this Committee to address this issue to them.

**State Recycling Program** (Cont. 4/12/2007)

No one appeared to speak.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**4-07-1 Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute a grant of easement relating to the operation of the bubble ice rink facility located at 900 Phenix Ave., Cranston, RI.**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

**4-07-2 Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute a grant of a utility easement relating to the Cranston High School East construction project.**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

**4-07-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places" (Sidewalk 50/50 Program).**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Lanni and Council President Garabedian -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

**4-07-4 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 9.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Public Peace, Morals and Welfare" (50/50 Tree Program).**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Lanni and Council President Garabedian -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

**Petition from National Grid for pole location on Julia St.**

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

**Petition from National Grid for pole location on East St.**

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

**Petition from Verizon for excavation to lay and maintain underground conduits, buried cables, manholes, handholes at corner of Phenix Ave. and Cranston St.**

Councilman Lanni stated that he would like to make sure the street the utility company is working on is in the same condition it was in before they started work on this area.

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

**Sewer Adjustment Requests (See List)**

**John Ricci**, 8 Roslyn Ave., appeared to represent his mother, who owns this property. He stated that since 1995, his mother has been double charged for the sewer. She had obtained a variance for an in-law apartment with the understanding that this in-law apartment would not be used for income purposes. This is a single-family home and is taxed as a single-family home. Councilman Lanni stated that he believes that we only go back one year when there is this type of error. Frank Smith, City Assessor, appeared to speak and stated that as far as his office, his office does not abate billing for sewer. That comes out of Public Works and they bill off the Assessor's records. He stressed to the Committee that the issue of in-law apartments needs to be clarified. In taxation, the City only goes back one year. Mr. Ricci stated that he started disputing this issue approximately three years ago. Chair suggested that all the sewer abatements listed be continued to next month and she asked that Tim Libby, from the Public Works Department, who compiled this list, be present at the next meeting to explain them to the Committee.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue all the sewer adjustment requests to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees