

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Member Michelle Bergin-Andrews

Also Present: Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Richard Bernardo, Director of Public Works
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 Santamaria, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Councilman Lupino stated that during past Administrations, there has been a loose application on how the City handled calls from constituents during snowstorms. He would like a written policy from the new Public Works Director regarding calls from the Council of complaints and/or emergencies. He put this in the form of a request to the Public Works Director through the Administration.

Ms. Schutt stated that she would prefer any calls from the Council come to her and she will call Highway. This would prevent the Highway Superintendent from being inundated with phone calls. She will provide a written policy to the Council at its next meeting.

Councilman Lupino asked how the Council can be assured that the complaint will be taken care of by calling in to Ms. Schutt. Ms. Schutt stated that she tends to follow up, if not the same day, the following day.

Councilman Lupino asked that an email be sent to the Council members not present this evening advising them of this discussion and the process for handling constituent calls during snowstorms. Ms. Schutt stated that she will update and discuss this again at the Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report from Administration on use of Stimulus monies - Fletcher Avenue and other projects

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and indicated that this item is also listed on the Finance Committee agenda.

Chair stated that this item will be discussed during the Finance Committee meeting, since it is also listed on that agenda.

Dismissed Stop sign violations report from Administration on (Councilman Aceto)

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and stated that she spoke to Judge Joslyn and he stated that there were not many violations that were dismissed. The Judge does not feel that this is a big issue. She has also asked that the police officer to notify the Traffic Engineer directly rather than Highway on stop signs that are down.

Discussion took place on time period between when a traffic Ordinance is passed and when the sign is installed. Councilman Santamaria stated that he spoke to Mr. Cordy today and there will be a procedure in place to address this. Councilman Lupino stated that the traffic calming issue is still not being addressed.

9-09-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Administration and Personnel" (Cranston Tree Ordinance). Continued for report

Marie Sweet, 174 Gladstone St., appeared to represent Tree Commission and stated that this Ordinance was referred to Rick DeGrandpre, the Tree Warden and Connie Daniels in the Planning Department to address some issues brought up by this Committee at last month's meeting.

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

Snow Barn update from Administration (Councilman Santamaria)

Ms. Schutt stated that the City has applied for \$150,000 towards snow removal. This is a match fund grant. We are looking for a number of resources.

Glen View Street Lights (Councilwoman Bergin-Andrews)

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and stated that the Administration has asked third shift Police Officers to take note of what street lights that they think could be moved. We would be happy to have National Grid move lights.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kent County Water Re: replacement of water pipes in Oaklawn area (Warren Ave)
(Councilmen Pelletier & Aceto)

Tim Brown, General Manager of Kent County Water, appeared to speak and stated that the plan is to pave the road in the Spring of 2010.

Chair stated that the Council was never shown what the scope of the project is. The Council is never given an update. The Council was made to believe that this project would be done by the end of November, now the Council is being told, Spring. Mr. Brown stated that they can pave the road this year, if the Council wishes. The only reason they would like to wait until the Spring is for sediment taken out. The contract went to June, 2010.

Councilman Lupino asked if Kent County Water is willing to take some of the liabilities of any damage to vehicles, including City vehicles, associated with the work they are doing. Mr. Brown stated that the contractor has the responsibility to maintain insurance.

Councilman Lupino asked if this has been relayed to the Claims Committee and the City's Insurance Administrator. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this is the first time he has heard this.

Chair asked Solicitor Kirshenbaum if the City can be held harmless of any damage or claims associated with repairing this road. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he would have to check into this.

Councilman Pelletier asked that Kent Water or their contractor plow that area if they want to wait until the Spring to pave it. He does not want our City plows to plow that street. Mr. Brown stated that he can meet with the Public Works Department and go over the project and if Public Works agrees, then the road can be paved by the end of the year.

Chair asked that the Council be updated, through the Administration, on any status update on this.

Councilman Pelletier asked that once the street is ready to be paved, if the Administration can send a letter to the residents making them aware that the street will be paved. Ms. Schutt stated that once Public Works gives the go ahead, a letter will be sent to the residents.

Request from National Grid for Pole Location at Wheeler Ave.

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

Request from National Grid for Pole Location at Pontiac Ave.

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

Request from National Grid for pole Locatoin at Doric Ave.

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

Request from National Grid for Pole Location at McCabe St.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees