

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records.)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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. (appeared at 6:20 p.m.)
Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews (appeared at 6:20 p.m.)
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, 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:

- Charges for Street Lighting on State Roads – Adm. report.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he spoke to Mr. Cordy and the State D.O.T. and was advised that D.O.T. has their own lighting system. Their lights are for the particular areas of intersection that they think pose a concern. The State also advised him that their responsibility ends at the curb and the municipality initiated the installation of the lights when the roads were put in and their responsibility ends after they installed the lights.

Chair asked if there are any State roads in the City that the State feels should stay lit. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated, no.

Chair asked that the Committee be provided with the study the City conducted with the Police Department in regards to shutting every third light on State roads. Chair clarified that the Mayor is going forward with the original plan of shutting every third light off on State roads. He asked that the Administration provide documentation by the Council meeting so the Council members know which Wards will be affected.

Councilman Navarro asked if the City has looked at not paying the bill to the State for the lights. Ms. Schutt stated that, as Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated earlier, the history is, the State's position is the City requested these lights on these roads and the State is not taking responsibility for these lights.

Chair asked who owns the poles. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that National Grid owns them. Chair questioned why National Grid is not paying property taxes for these poles. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he will check into this.

Chair indicated that some states have a type of solar lighting. He questioned if we could look into something similar to this. Mr. Cordy stated that the City is looking at a transition to LED lighting.

Councilman Santamaria asked what the savings are of the State versus savings in residential. He asked that this can be provided at the Council meeting. Ms. Schutt stated that Mr. Cordy and Solicitor Kirshenbaum are prepared this evening to address the responsibility of State roads.

- **Natick Avenue Bridge** – Adm. report on maintenance of guardrail. Councilman Lupino

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and stated that this guardrail costs \$36 per ft. versus \$84 per ft.

- **Wildflower and Scituate Ave.** Adm. report on pole repair. Councilman Pelletier

Ms. Schutt stated that the City has looked into this and one of the problems is, per National Grid, when there is a double pole, they can only remove the pole when all other utility wires have been removed.

Councilman Pelletier stated that the pole in question was second pole, which has since been removed, was splintered.

Public Speakers:

Diana Gordon, 363 Pontiac Ave., appeared to speak and stated that she is concerned about businesses that would be impacted by the lights being shut off.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees