

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 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.
Council Member Michelle Bergin-Andrews (appeared at 6:35 P.M.)
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
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:

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and stated that there is nothing to report on this item this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administration status on traffic report regarding all stop signs, yield sign & no parking.

Ms. Schutt stated that the Solicitor has recommended that we have a general Ordinance ratifying all traffic signs already in place. This may resolve the problem of tickets being thrown out in Court.

Chair asked if the Council can be provided with a list of all the tickets that have been thrown out. **Ms. Schutt** stated, yes, this can be done.

Council President Lanni stated that recently the City has been sued because of a traffic sign being down and was not re-installed right away. He asked if there is a better way of informing the Public Works and Traffic Engineering Departments when signs are to be re-installed within a day or so. Ms. Schutt stated that she will work with both departments to get those signs up faster.

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).

Marie Sweet, Chair of Conservation Commission, appeared to speak in favor.

Diana Gordon, 363 Pontiac Ave., appeared to speak and stated that this is a good Ordinance because it allows the environment to have a better air for our breathing.

No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Santamaria asked if there are any legal problems with the wording in lines 203-205 of the Ordinance. He asked if the people would realize that they would be responsible as owner. People may think the tree is on public property. Ms. Schutt stated that the wording is ambiguous and maybe the Solicitor could work on the wording with the Tree Warden. She also addressed lines 67 and 68 of the Ordinance in regards to the mention of "business" and stated that the Tree Warden also feels this should be eliminated.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he does not see a problem with that. This would be the same as the sidewalk snow removal Ordinance, which states property owner is responsible for removing snow from sidewalk.

Ms. Sweet stated that the Conservation Commission is not looking to address trees that are on property owners' property. What the Commission is trying to address in this Ordinance trees on City property, such as sidewalks. She agrees that the sections discussed should be clarified to only address trees on City property.

Chair asked if this Ordinance has been reviewed by the Solicitor. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that the Law Department has looked at it. The Tree Warden does have some concerns about this Ordinance.

Councilman Lupino questioned the need for a Tree Board. He is concerned that there would be another layer of government that someone would have to go through.

Ms. Sweet stated that this Board consists of the Tree Warden and members of the Conservation Commission and this Board would be responsible for establishing a tree management program for the City, among other items.

Councilman Archetto agreed with Councilman Lupino's statement regarding the Tree Board.

Councilman Pelletier withdrew his motion to approve, for more review, and Councilman Santamaria withdrew his second.

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

Chair stated that if any of the Council members have any other questions or concerns, they be addressed to Ms. Sweet or the Solicitor between now and the next Committee meeting. He asked that Ms. Sweet meet with Mr. Delgrandpre and present again next month.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Warren Ave. and Kent Water

Councilman Pelletier stated that he has heard that Warren Ave. is scheduled to be repaved by Kent Water sometime in October, but this may not be completed by the end of the year. He has a huge concern when snow plowing on this road if this road is not completed. He would like to see Kent Water pay for contractors to plow this road. Ms. Schutt stated that she will follow up with Kent Water on this.

Snow Barn

Councilman Santamaria asked for an update next month on status of the snow barn and the funding.

Glen View Street Lights

Council Member Bergin-Andrews spoke regarding street lights on Glen View and stated that she has heard there was a report done a long time ago on this and asked that she be provided with a copy of this report. Chair indicated that this item will be placed on next month's agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees