

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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

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
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Meredith Mahoney, 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 stated that the City has received \$50,000 from the Department of Energy Block Grant to begin Phase I on retrofit of City buildings.

5-09-13S Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 13.08 of Title 13 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Public Services-Sewer Service System". (Tabled 5/14/2009 and 6/11/2009, 8/13/2009)

Councilman Pelletier motioned to remove this Ordinance from the table. Councilman Santamaria seconded this motion for discussion purposes.

Under Discussion:

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this Ordinance is in conjunction with the Resolution listed on this agenda.

Councilman Lupino stated that he does not see out of town tie-ins addressed in this Ordinance. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that out of town tie-ins will still require Council approval.

Councilman Lupino asked if there is a positive endorsement from the Solicitor's Office. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated, yes. Councilman Lupino stated that he has stated numerous times that he would like to see the Solicitor sign negative or positive endorsement when an Ordinance comes before the Committee for public hearing.

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

Sewer Connection request: Pro-Tec (Chris Bodyne), Johnston, RI. (Tabled 5/14/2009, 6/11/2009, 7/16/2009, 8/13/2009).

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda with notification to be sent to the applicant. Motion passed unanimously.

Use of Stimulus Money for Installation of Check Valves.

Ms. Schutt stated that Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration, has indicated that he has done nothing as to this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

8-09-10 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 12.30 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Parks and Recreational Facilities" (Dog Park).

Robin Coia, 4 Franconia Dr., appeared to speak and stated that as owner of two dogs, she is in favor of this Ordinance. She thanked Councilman Lupino for sponsoring this Ordinance. She indicated that she is aware of the financial situation of the City, but she is willing to work with the Council and Administration in working to bring this to fruition.

Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that he is totally in favor of this Ordinance. A dog park is needed in the City. He does not think it would be that expensive for the City.

Ms. Schutt stated that the Administration supports this effort. The City will continue to search for an area and will communicate with residents that would be affected.

Council Member Bergin-Andrews asked if there is an area already designated for a dog park. Ms. Schutt stated that either Parks or Open Space would be an option. Parking availability would have to be taken into consideration.

No one appeared to oppose.

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Lupino stated that this Ordinance was introduced for two reasons: we need a dog park and also by having a dog park, we would be getting dogs off parks that they would not be allowed on. The intent of this Ordinance was not to take away from playground or parks used by children.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval and motion passed unanimously.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a consent agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that DEM has set new restrictions to cities and towns. This consent agreement authorizes us to take more time to study to get the plan into compliance with RI DEM mandates and this would keep our permits in good standing with DEM. He introduced Dan Gorka, Manager of Veolia Water.

Dan Gorka appeared to answer questions.

Councilman Lupino questioned if DEM checks the discharge at the individual pumping stations. Mr. Gorka stated that DEM is checking discharges at the Sewer Treatment Plan. If there is a problem, Veolia goes back to the pumping stations and do the sampling themselves.

Council Member Bergin-Andrews asked if the City knows what the cost is for the upgrade of the pumping station and if stimulus money can be used. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that the cost has not yet been determined. As to the use of stimulus money, he does not think it can be used for that.

Chair asked that Mr. Cordy look into this and look at other monies, not just stimulus money.

Mr. Strom stated that he has submitted application to RI Clean Water Agency for funds not targeting any specific projects just letting them know we are interested.

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Council Member Bergin-Andrews, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees