

(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 Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
Councilman Daniel Wall
Councilwoman Kristen E. Haroian, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair
Council President Jessia M. Marino, Ex-Officio

Absent: Councilman Robert J. Ferri
Councilman John P. Donegan

Also Present: John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Justin Mateus, Acting Public Works Director
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Approval of minutes of the October 17, 2024 Regular meeting**

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 17, 2024 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Council President Marino:

- ***Flooding events from September to current throughout the City; status of FEMA, State and other assistance; remediation and mitigation efforts* (Cont. from 6/13/2024, 8/15/2024, 9/12/2024 & 10/17/2024).**

Council President Marino stated that this is on the agenda as a placeholder for the public or Administration to provide any updates, if any.

Director Mateus stated that there is no update this month from the last month on this item.

Councilman Wall: *(Cont. 8/15/2024, 9/12/2024 & 10/17/2024)*

- *Flood Mediation – Poplar Dr. and Poplar Circle area*

Director Mateus stated that there is no update regarding this item. This is contingent on the OSCAR Grant and we have not heard back from.

PETITION for the ABANDONMENT of portion of Elmhurst Avenue; Petitioner: Bryan D. White. (Cont. from 10/17/2024)

Chair stated that applicant requested a continuance.

Robert Murray, Esq., appeared to represent the applicant and stated that he expected to have a letter from Carpionato Group, but has not received it, stating that they do not oppose this and he expects to have it by the next meeting. He asked that this petition be continued to December.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to continue this Petition. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Vice-President Vargas:

- *What work is being done on the corner of Wellington Ave and Paine Avenue? How long will it last? The lot next to the playground is being used as storage but it's becoming a nuisance property). What's the clean-up plan?*
- *Status of the Rodent control bait boxes request on Wales Street.*
- *In what timeframe do rodent control inspectors place bait boxes once a constituent contacts them? How many Rodent Control Officers does that city currently have to place and monitor the bait boxes?*
- *Is their conversation of rodent control within the city inspections office to use other alternative in addition to bait boxes?*
- *Where are we fiscal year to date on rodent control expenses?*

Director Mateus stated that there are no updates on any of the above items.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

10-24-01 **ORDINANCE In Amendment of Chapter 12.08.080 of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled 'Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Construction' (Sidewalk Cost Share Program).**
Sponsored by Councilman Donegan and Councilman Campopiano.

Councilman Campopiano stated that this is the same Ordinance talked about earlier about the sharing of the costs, but add to that is if someone is handicapped the same rules would apply to as if it was low income.

Council President Marino asked Councilman Campopiano if the Solicitors have any opinion relative to the change for the characterization of disability within the Ordinance. Councilman Campopiano stated that they were onboard with this.

Chair asked Solicitor for any comments. Solicitor stated that he personally was not involved, but looking at the language, it does reference and does state “pursuant to the Act”, therefore, it incorporates the Act in full so whatever the requirements are pursuant to federal regulations, they are going to be incorporated into this Ordinance. That is his understanding.

Council President Marino stated that as long as Legal is good with it, that is fine.

Chair asked if there is some sort of document that someone would present when requesting to be reimbursed and they have a disability. Solicitor stated that he thinks it would depend on the type of disability. There are a host of disabilities and there may be different requirements. He is sure that is laid out under federal law.

Council President Marino stated that with ADA impairments, definitions of being disabled are both mental or physical impairments. When it comes to sidewalks, she asked if we would want to have the ADA disability definition be limited to physical impairment. She believes the ADA defines it as physical or mental impairments so we could still have this Ordinance where property owners who are considered physically disabled pursuant to the ADA as opposed to a mental disability or impairment. Solicitor stated that if that is the intent or the desire of the Committee, certainly the Ordinance can be amended to reflect that.

Chair asked if ADA also applies to the 99% disabled veterans. Solicitor stated that he does not think so. He thinks that they are mutually exclusive. There are probably situations where someone is caring for an elderly parent, or a caretaker so you may want to consider some type of language that expands on owner and or immediate family, household member. The Committee may want to continue this Ordinance and expand on those categories.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to amend line 44 to read: “property owner occupied or immediate household members who are physically disabled”. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to continue this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITION of Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England Inc. to install new pole on Lambert St.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITION of Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England Inc. to install new pole on Scituate Ave.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITION of Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England Inc. to install new pole on Myrtle Ave.

On motion by Councilwoman Haroian, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:25P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees