(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, 2019, 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 Chairman.

Present: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas
                    Councilmember John P. Donegan
                    Councilmember Edward J. Brady
                    Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas, Vice-Chair
                    Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Chair
                    Council President Michael J Farina, Ex-Officio

Also Present: Council Member Paul J. McAuley
                    Council Member Steven A. Stycos
                    Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
                    John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
                    Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
                    John Verdecchia, 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 Councilmember Paplauskas, stated that Councilmember Brady, 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:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jay Bombedier, Jr., 41 Oak St., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 10-19-06 and stated that this is a good step in controlling rodent problems.

Nancy Vitulli, 196 Norwood Ave., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 10-19-06 and stated that rodent problems in the City has been a problem for years and it is getting worse. It is a collaborative effort to do something on many levels.

Christopher Ramos, 107 Calaman Rd., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 10-19-06 and stated that the rat problem in his neighborhood has gotten worse. This Ordinance is a good start. This is not just a Ward 3 issue, it is a City-Wide issue.

Matt Westgate, 128 Shirley Blvd., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 10-19-06 and asked if this Ordinance would be the first of its kind in Rhode Island. He stated that the residents of Shirley Blvd. are in favor of this Ordinance.

Robert Voccia, 124 Shirley Blvd., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 10-19-06 and stated that this Ordinance is a good start. He suggested educational programs, flyers placed on the City's website or mailed to the residents educating them about how to dispose of trash properly.

Nick Lima, City Registrar, appeared to speak regarding "Petition to change street name from Ashmont Street to Brady Avenue" and stated that his office has identified two more streets that duplicate in Cranston and Providence – Molter St. and Ashmont St. This causes problems with voter registrations. As to Molter St., Cranston does not have to do anything because the City of Providence has agreed to change the name of Molter St. in Providence. City Clerk stated that the Traffic Engineer forwarded a memo in October and he has some concerns with the name. Chair stated that he had made a request in the past of the possibility of installing three-dimensional sidewalk crossings. Director Mason stated that they do not meet Municipal Traffic Control Devices. Chair stated that there was a proposal of placing speed bumps at the first left-hand turn into Alpine Estates near Orchard Farms School. He asked what the status is on that. Director Mason stated that he is not aware of that request. Chair questioned if this would be a request for the School Department. Director Mason stated that if it is on School property, that request would have to be made to the School Department.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Meshanticut Valley Parkway and BrentonWood Drive – road stripping. Councilmember Paplauskas (Cont. 10/17/2019).*

Councilmember Paplauskas stated that this issue was addressed a few weeks ago and he asked that it be removed from the agenda.

10-19-06   Ordinance in amendment of Title 8.36 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Rodent Control" (Rodent Control). Sponsored by Councilmember Donegan; Co-sponsored by Councilmembers McAuley and Brady.

Director Mason presented proposed amendments to this Ordinance.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to approve the amendments as presented.
Under Discussion:
Director Mason stated that what this is doing is re-inserting the initial letter that comes out of the Public Works Department.

Director Mason indicated that the Ordinance states "occupant". It really needs to be the property owner.

Councilmember Donegan stated that he would be in favor of amending this, changing "occupant" to "homeowner".

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to amend this Ordinance by deleting "occupant" throughout the Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Donegan stated that this is an issue that affects all of the City and really impacts Ward 3. This Ordinance will not eliminate the rodent problem, but it will help.

Councilmember Paplauskas asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Councilmember Vargas questioned what "rat proof condition" means in line #56. Director Mason stated that he is not quite sure, but he would think it to be as to not allow rats to proliferate on your property.

Council President Farina stated that he would like to know what exactly "rat proof condition" is. He asked that someone from Inspections attend the next Council meeting to explain this for the City Council.

Councilmember Vargas stated that she also would like to know what "rat proof condition" is and know how much of a hardship that would be for the homeowner as well.

Councilmember Vargas asked if we have enough Inspectors to follow-up in the seven days, as stated in the Ordinance. Director Mason stated that notice that is initially given is written and is sent to the property owner and if we do not hear from them in seven days, it is referred to the Inspections Office.

Council President Farina asked to be added as co-sponsor along with the remainder of the Council Members.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Ashmont Street to Brady Avenue - Name Change Petition filed by Registrar/Director of Elections.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, it was voted to approve this Petition.
Under Discussion:
Councilmember Stycos asked if any feedback has been received regarding this. Mr. Lima stated that he received one feedback from a resident of a neighboring street and they supported the name change.

Councilmember Vargas stated that her concern is if there would be any cost involved to the residents, such as changing their address on their documents, such as their driver's license and registration and questioned what, we as a City, could do for those residents.

Charlotte Stutz, 12 Ashmont St., appeared to speak and stated that she is not opposed to the name change. She questioned what the process of the name change would be and how long it would take. Mr. Lima stated that once this is passed, he would meet with Public Works Director Mason and the Traffic Engineer to establish implementation date. His estimation would be mid-January. As to the Postal Service, the residents do not need to file a change of address. Mail delivered to those addresses will still be delivered to them and the utilities are still notified of the street name change by the Clerk's Office.

Councilmember Vargas stated that she is concerned about 911 being intact and onboard when this is changed. Mr. Lima stated that 911 are all part of the street name change notification by the Clerk's Office, along with all the utilities.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Street Name Change Petition and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees