

*(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 Wednesday, September 15, 2021 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino  
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli  
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly  
Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Chair  
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilman John P. Donegan  
Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration  
Paul McAuley, Deputy Chief of Staff  
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

### **I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER**

- *Follow-up from Waste Management on status of yard waste pickup.*

**Director** McAuley stated that we are up to speed as far as Waste Management and Joe DiCarlo, the City's Recycling Coordinator, has done a great job in working with Waste Management to correct the problems that were initially happening.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked if the City is still charging fees to them and what fines we were charging. **Director** McAuley stated that he believes we are no longer fining them. **Councilwoman Renzulli** asked what the total amount is that they were charged. **Director** McAuley stated that he can obtain that information for her.

- *Speeding on Vinton Ave. (Continued from 6/17/2021).*

**Chair** asked that this item be removed from agenda.

## **II. PUBLIC HEARINGS\* and/ or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. \*PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Debbie DePetro**, 2316 Cranston St., appeared to speak and stated that she would like the Council to be aware of the flooding issue that happens near her home whenever there is a large amount of rain in a short period of time.

**Chair** stated that Ms. DePetro has had communications with Public Works Director Mason, who is not present this evening.

**Director McAuley** stated that there were some obstructions in the pipeline and it has been cleaned out. Future pipe rehabilitation is scheduled for that pipe and Public Works is working diligently to solve that problem.

### **B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**7-21-08**      *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places" (Street Paving). Sponsored by Councilman Donegan and Councilwoman Marino.*

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

#### Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** stated that what this Ordinance would do is it would ask that the Director of Public Works, as budget starts, provide the City Council with a list of proposed streets that would be paved during the corresponding budget and then when budget process is complete, later that year, they would provide the Council with an informational list of what streets were paved under the previous year's budget as well as the final list of streets that will be paved under that budget. This is just for information and it is not to be politicized or not to be voted on.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked Administration's opinion regarding this Ordinance. Director McAuley stated that the only problem the Administration sees is having to go from FY to the calendar year. it is hard to determine in March when we start the budget of where we are going to be paving. He asked if the Ordinance could be reworded to state 'calendar year' as opposed to FY.

**Councilman Reilly** asked if a monthly list be move appropriate. Councilwoman Marino stated that perhaps we can reserve this conversation for Director Mason.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**7-21-15** *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 8.12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Garbage Collection and Disposal”. Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas.*

**Council President Paplauskas** asked that this Ordinance be withdrawn.

**7-21-16** *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 8.12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Health and Safety – Garbage Collection and Disposal”. Sponsored by Councilwoman Vargas.*

On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that she will be providing some amendments to this Ordinance, which are mostly to remove the language mixed use.

Motion and second to recommend approval were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

***Request from National Grid and Verizon for pole location at Industrial Rd.***

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Update from Administration regarding rodent issues in the City.** Councilman Donegan.

**Councilman Donegan** asked for status of the ongoing issue on Caporal St., how many addresses were contracted with Griggs and Brown and how many are currently being serviced under that contract.

**Director McAuley** stated that as far as Caporal St., we have seen significant progress since Griggs and Brown took the lead there. He believes there were 8-12 residences that were serviced. As of this morning, there has been dramatic decrease in that area. There has been an increase of issues throughout the City. We are taking bookings into November in placing traps and rebait. We have added a part-time person to help the Rodent Control Officer to get up to speed. A lot of the issues is education. Lids are left open. We are being as responsive as possible to everyone.

- **Paving list.** Councilman Donegan.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

- **Status of leak/repairs to Kinder Morgan/National Grid main gas line on easement off of Natick Ave. (west area of 699-741 Natick Ave.).** Councilwoman Marino.

**Director McAuley** stated that repairs have been complete. He does not have any further information.

**Councilwoman Marino** asked that this be continued so we can discuss with Director Mason and get a more in-depth status and discuss residents' questions as to the leak itself.

- **Status of Wilbur Ave. Flooding.** Councilman Ferri.

**Director McAuley** gave an update on this and stated that it is still flooding. The City is pursuing a Grant for that area and hopefully he will have news to report on that in the near future.

- **2316 Cranston St. Flooding Update.** Councilman Ferri.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

- **Update on Park Ave. Bridge.** Councilwoman Vargas.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked that this be left on the agenda for next month. She received a message from R.I.D.O.T. and there seems to be some sort of a hold up from Amtrak. She is hoping that at some point, a letter from the Mayor's Office and the City Council can go out to D.O.T. and copy Amtrak. She is being told by D.O.T. that they are not able to work on the bridge because it is still an active railroad and they are not being given enough hours to work on it. Last time she spoke to Director Mason, she was told the bridge probably won't be open by end of this year. This is causing problems with students waling to Cranston East and with RIPTA being re-routed.

- **Presentation by Pawtuxet Village Association Pawtuxet Village Reface.** Councilwoman Vargas.

**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that a few months ago, at a ribbon cutting she, Councilwoman Marino and Councilman Ferri were present at, Mr. Evans of the Pawtuxet Village Association, presented them with a binder of a list of requests that are needed in the Village, such as fixtures, paving not only because of the 250<sup>th</sup> Gaspee Day Parade that is taking place next year, but also for the safety of the businessowners and everyone else that lives in the Village. She asked that Mr. Evans give his presentation.

**Roy Evans**, 2172 Broad St., appeared to speak and stated that there is an important 250<sup>th</sup> celebration coming up and they want it to be spruced up and fixed up well. The Association thinks Pawtuxet Village is going to be the center of a lot of attention next year in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burning of the Gaspee and to some extent, nationally. They think it is important to get our Village looking its best.

**Adrian Bovieau**, 36 Narragansett Parkway, Warwick, Co-Chair of the Pawtuxet Village Association, appeared to speak and stated that they appreciate the work the City has done already. Items that are part of this project that would hopefully enhance the appearance and the character of the Village that they are not sure is being addressed are:

- The pole lamps in the Village are in need of a lot of work or repair. Lamps are a major attraction to the Village.

- The poles are only painted half the way up. He stated that there needs to be coordination between Cranston and Warwick in the repairing of the lamps.
- Traffic and parking lines – they would like to encourage that the parking lines go all the way up Norwood Ave. They would hope that the city of Cranston and the City of Warwick would engage with the RI 250<sup>th</sup> to do State and regional and civic and local planning to make this celebration the best it can be.

**Director McAuley** stated that as to the poles being painted, just for that reason, the City stopped at the lanterns because they want to coordinate with the City of Warwick and do the right thing. Striping to Norwood Ave. and lining of parkin spaces beyond the Village, they are looking into that.

- ***Meshanticut State Park and Pond (invasive lotus).*** (Council President Paplauskas)

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that there is an evasive lotus that has taken over the lake. We need help from D.E.M. and from the State. This has been an ongoing issue for 5-6 years and getting worse.

**Director McAuley** stated that Chief Moretti is taking the lead on this and D.E.M. included a site walk. Right now, we are in negotiations in taking it over in the long-term. We are not taking it in the condition it is in. it is not just the lotus problem. It is problems with the path. We are working diligently on this. He suggested that this be continued and have Director Moretti give future updates as they become available.

**Councilman Reilly** stated that he attended a site walk that included the Mayor and State Senator Brandon Potter, Representatives from D.E.M. as well as someone from the Senate President's Office. The path around the lake is atrocious and dangerous. The D.E.M. Representative has a plan and explained the plan, which is a slow process. This is not going to be a quick fix. As to the condition of the park, that park is not owned by the City, it is owned by the State. He was told that the upkeep has not occurred because of the short staffing and many small parks in the State have the same problem.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that he has been reaching out to D.E.M. and the State and nothing gets done there and it just gets worse. He would like to keep this on the agenda and asked that someone from D.E.M. be present at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni  
Acting City Clerk