

(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, January 13, 2022 via ZOOM webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Also Present: Councilwoman Aniece Germain
Councilman John P. Donegan
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to continue approval of minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None.

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

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

Sara Tindall Woodman appeared to speak and thanked everyone for placing the issue of Shaw Ave. on the agenda.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Vargas:

- *Parking Ban Communication*

Councilwoman Vargas asked if there is any way that we, as a City, other than social media, be able to provide information on parking bans to the residents of the City. Not everyone has access to social media. We should try to expand that parking ban communication in the City. Some cities and towns use CopLogic for emergencies. Councilwoman Vargas asked at what point we can use CopLogic. Director Moretti stated that he can speak with the Colonel about this and solicit his input.

Director Moretti asked Director Mason if any of the news media are informed of parking bans. Director Mason stated that they do go to all the news stations through the Police.

- *Shaw Avenue as a potential school day one way during drop off in the morning and pickup times at dismissal*

Director Mason stated that it really is just an Ordinance change as to the hours of the one-way and which direction you want to go with and the Traffic Engineer has no problem with this.

Councilwoman Vargas stated that she will be putting something together to address this.

Council Vice-President Ferri:

- *Parking Ban Violations during a Snow Storm*

Council Vice-President Ferri stated that he, personally, was contacted a number of times during the storm with pictures and e-mails. A lot of people do not obey parking bans when in effect. He asked what efforts are being made to enforce the parking ban violations because it was a problem this past snowstorm and he received a lot of complaints this past storm. Director Moretti stated that the Mayor shares this frustration. The Police respond to all the calls. They try to ring doorbells or toot the horn and most of the time, people move the cars. There were two tickets and two tows this past storm.

Councilwoman Marino:

- *Potential for Cranston's participation in the RI Community Septic System Loan Program and the RI Sewer Tie In Loan Program*

Councilwoman Marino stated that a resident questioned why Cranston does not take advantage of this program when so many other cities and towns in Rhode Island do. She asked if this is something that we may want something to look into. Director Mason stated that we looked at this program approximately five or six years ago. It may have changed since then because back then, it was a requirement that the City have a loan program on the DEM project priority list, which we do, it is on it. We could go through with this and also we would have to have the approved onsite Wastewater Management Plan, which we currently do not have an approved plan. We really did not need one, but it is something we could do inhouse and get that done. He can reach out to the RI Infrastructure Bank and he thinks it would end up being more of a finance issue with Director Strom and his office versus a public works issue.

Councilwoman Marino stated that she did place this on the next Finance Agenda and we wait until that meeting and, in the meantime, Director Mason can reach out to Director Strom to see what his input is and maybe also research it a little.

Councilwoman Marino asked what the Administration's position is regarding this. Director Moretti stated that he concurs that it is a worthwhile program worth looking into and loos forward to seeing the result.

Request from National Grid for pole location at East View Ave.

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

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk