

(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, July 16, 2020 via Zoom.

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

Also Present: Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
Evan Kirshenbaum, City Council Legal Counsel
Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, 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:

Lauren Ruggieri, 47 Natick Ave., appeared to speak and stated that there have been accidents at the end of Route 37 for years with vehicles driving into the guardrail and onto her property. She is concerned of safety. She also stated that the road signs that are damaged from these accidents are not being replaced. She stated that since she has lived at this address, there have been over 32 accidents there and she has recorded them. She asked that the City Council and the City help to get D.O.T. to move to fix this issue. Her driveway is directly across from the exit of Route 37 and when people hit the guardrail, they go right into her driveway.

Director Mason stated that the City did meet with D.O.T. at the site approximately two or three years ago and the State did some minor work and additional signage and new speed limit signs were added. The only thing he could think that could address this issue is possibly installing a roundabout at the end of Route 37 or do a complete redesign, but he honestly does not think this is under D.O.T.'s radar for probably 10-12 years.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that this is a real safety issue and we need to get D.O.T. heavily involved in this before someone gets killed there.

Director Mason stated that he will contact D.O.T. to see what their plans are for this area.

Councilmember Hopkins suggested that he, Councilmember Brady and Director Mason meet at the site with a member of D.O.T. to see what can be done to address this problem and try to come up with a plan.

Councilmember Paplauskas suggested that this issue be placed on a future agenda and ask D.O.T. to attend the meeting to answer questions directly.

Chair asked that this item be continued to next month's meeting and invite D.O.T. to that meeting.

Theresa McFarlane, 3 Cottage Circle, appeared to speak and stated that residents of her neighborhood have noticed an uptick on traffic in the area with big box trucks, 18-wheelers and Amazon trucks. There is a lot of speeding from these trucks. This is a safety issue. There is a playground in the area and there are no sidewalks. Another safety issue is there is no "Yield" sign at the intersection of Carlson and Cottage. She would like someone to look into speed signage, change in traffic signal from Pleasant St. and playground crossing warning signs.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that he and former Councilmember McAuley met with truck drivers in that area and they told him that they were being directed to go in that direction through their GPS system.

Bill Arrigie, 111 Frankfort St., appeared to speak and stated that during the last 8-10 years there have been trucks on Frankfort St. coming from Niantic Ave. There are signs of "No Thru Trucking", but they are not working. Signs are needed on Niantic Ave. to keep them from coming over the bridge.

Director Mason stated that on the Cranston St. side, signs have been installed. The City of Cranston has requested the City of Providence to install signs on the Dupont Dr. side and they were never able to get it done and the City of Cranston made signs for them and delivered them a few weeks ago and they have to do is install them. We will see if we can get them to install those signs.

Louis Arruda, 41 Hawthorne Ave., appeared to speak and stated that he has been using the bike path quite a lot in the last few months and he asked that streets signs be placed along the bike path. He also asked if mile markers could be installed every half mile along the bike path. The reason for these requests is if there is a medical emergency on the bike path, he would not know where to describe his location.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Vargas:

- **Street sweeping schedule**
- **Tree cutting due to power line**
- **Pavement on Norwood Ave. and Broad St. and Wheeler Ave. and Broad St.**

Councilmember Vargas stated that the above items were discussed last month and she asked that they be removed from the agenda.

Councilmember Vargas asked for an update on Waite Ave. and Warwick Ave. She stated that this is being used as a cut-through not by cars but by motorcycles. They are speeding through this neighborhood. Director Mason stated that his Highway crew has added high curbs, which he thinks should fix this issue.

Councilmember Vargas asked if pothole down the hill of Shaw Ave. where Edgewood Yacht Club is could be addressed. Director Mason stated that he will send a crew there.

Councilmember Stycos:

- **Cross Cranston bus potential – Greg Nordin, RIPTA Planner**

Councilmember Stycos stated that the above item was discussed last month and he asked that it be removed from the agenda.

Councilmember Hopkins:

- **Bike path concerns/Cars**

Councilmember Hopkins asked if there is any update on placing yellow poles at the entrances to the bike path to prevent cars from going on the bike path. Director Mason stated that at the Park Ave. entrance signage was enhanced. As to the yellow poles, two will be installed soon at Park Ave. and Dyer Ave.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that this item can be removed from agenda.

- **Trucking issues at Frankfurt and Niantic**

Councilmember Hopkins stated that constituents are complaining of trucks idling across the little league field all night. This may be a public safety concern. He asked if the Police Department can address this. Director Parrillo stated that he believes there is signage there of “No Overnight Parking”, but he will have the Police keep an eye on this.

Councilmember Brady:

- **47 Natick**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Councilmember Brady asked that this item be continued.

- **Stop & Shop Sidewalk Curbing**

Director Mason stated that a letter was sent to the property owner last November and the City received no response. Two weeks ago, he sent another letter demanding that they comply or it would be turned over to the Solicitor's Office.

Councilmember Brady asked that this item be continued.

- **Meshanticut Lake Guardrails and Signs**

Councilmember Brady stated that he indicated to Director Parrillo that there are rusted guardrails there and they are falling into the park. Chair stated that Director Mason had stated that he had previously contacted the State regarding this and he will readdress this issue with the State.

Councilmember Brady asked that this item be continued.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees