

(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, September 17, 2020 via Zoom webinar.

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

Also Present: Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Councilmember Aniece Germain
Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

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

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Brady:

- **47 Natick Ave. – D.O.T. requested to attend** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)
- **Stop & Shop Sidewalk Curbing Update** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)
- **Meshanticut Lake Guardrails and Signs Update** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)
- **Wilbur Ave. speeding** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)

The above items were discussed later on in the meeting.

Councilmember Vargas:

- **Speeding on Waite Ave. and Warwick Ave.** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)
- **Park Avenue corner business (boarded up businesses)** (*Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting*)

Councilmember Vargas stated that the above items have been take care of and can be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Vargas:

- **Norwood and Broad St. – across from CVS and Santander Bank – de-weeding of island**

Councilmember Vargas stated that the above item can be removed from the agenda.

- **Alhambra Circle drainage problem**

Councilmember Vargas stated that the City is working on the drainage problem. The reason this item is on the agenda this evening is there are residents who would like to speak regarding this.

James & Gail Kelleher, 55 Alhambra Circle, appeared to speak and stated that there are several drainage issues that have been ongoing for years. The problem he is having is a single storm drain issue.

Director Mason stated that there is concrete in the bottom of the basin, but is not inhibiting water flow. The City is schedule to go out to the area tomorrow to address this issue.

- **Painting of crosswalk on Broad St. and Wheeler**

Councilmember Vargas stated that the above item can be removed from the agenda.

- **Alhambra Circle**

Discussed with the Alhambra Circle drainage problem.

Councilmember Donegan:

- **Rodent Issues**

Lori Grover, 3 Pavillion Ct., appeared to speak and stated that residents of the Arlington, Stadium, Forest Hills area have been complaining regarding rat issues and of overflow trash bins and trash left on the sidewalk by Waste Management. She stated that we need stricter Minimum Housing enforcement. She asked what the City's plan action is and what measures the City is currently taking on this issue.

Director Parrillo stated that we currently have a very robust program for rats. We could use more manpower. This has to be a collaborative effort between the City and the residents.

Director Mason stated that this summer has been a particularly warm dry summer, which is an issue. The trash is also an issue. Since April, and due to COVID and more people being home, the trash collection rate has gone up 20%. The City has one full-time Rodent Control person and one additional full-time person from the Building Maintenance Division, who is fully licensed. The City would have liked to get another employee licensed, but because of COVID, the State has suspended the classes for certification. He will speak to the Administration to see if we can allocate some resources for that.

Chair asked that a letter be sent to Waste Management indicating that the City has received complaints about trash being spilled out into the streets and sidewalks when picking up the trash.

Councilmember Brady stated that Director Mason has addressed most of the issues he had asked to be placed on the agenda this evening.

Director Mason stated that the issue of the 47 Natick Ave., RI DOT has promised to be available at the October meeting; the Stop & Shop sidewalk issue has been completed; the Meshanticut Lake Guardrails issue – he reached out to DEM several times and has not been able to connect with them.

Councilmember Paplauskas stated that Meshanticut Lake is the worst taken care of park in the State. He asked if there are any suggestions to try to get things addressed. Director Mason stated that the City tried, maybe the City Council can contact the State and hopefully they will have better luck. Chair questioned if there has been any discussion on the City taking the park back from the State. Councilmember Paplauskas stated that he and Councilmember Donegan will draft a Resolution along with Councilmember Stycos to the State regarding this. Councilmember Hopkins stated that he will also be willing to sponsor this.

Councilmember Brady stated that the following be continued to the next meeting: 47 Natick Ave. issue; Meshanticut Lake Guardrail. As to the Wilbur Ave. speeding issue, that can be removed from the agenda.

Request from National Grid and Verizon for pole location at Walnut Grove Ave.

Ratify the Action.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from National Grid and Verizon for pole location at Carlsbad St.

Ratify the Action.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Rolfe Square, North of Laurens St.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Pettaconsett Ave.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Pontiac Ave.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from National Grid for Elena St.

City Clerk indicated that the City has not received the original request for this pole location and asked that it be continued.

On motion by Councilmember Vargas, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, it was voted to continue this request. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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