

(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, October 15, 2020 via Zoom webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chairman.

Present: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas (appeared at 6:36 p.m.)
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
David Dimeo, City Council Budget Analyst
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 Donegan, 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:

Pauline Derosa, 97 Cypress Dr., appeared to speak and stated that on August 17, 2017, Council Vice-President Favicchio urged the Administration to conduct a study of the traffic issues at the Sockanosset corridor to include traffic patterns, traffic congestion and traffic flow on Sockanosset Crossroad. She asked if this has been addressed since then. She is bringing this up now because she is noticing an increase in traffic at Sockanosset Crossroad and Hillside Rd. She has addressed this topic many times in the last three or four years and nothing has been done about this very dangerous intersection.

Lou Petrucci, 121 East View Ave., appeared to speak in favor of proposed Ordinance 9-20-04. He worked on legislation and each City or Town has to approve an Ordinance for this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Request from National Grid for Elena St. (Cont. from 9/17/2020).

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

Councilmember Brady:

- **47 Natick Ave. – D.O.T. requested to attend (Cont. from 9/17/2020)**

Councilmember Brady thanked Mr. Mason and he is happy with the progress on this.

- **Meshanticut Lake Guardrails and Signs Update (Cont. from 8/13/2020 cancelled meeting)**

Councilmember Brady asked that this be kept on the agenda until it is addressed. He would also like DEM to attend the next meeting to discuss this.

Director Mason stated that he spoke to the Director with the Maintenance for the Region 1 for DEM. He asked if the State had any long-term or short-term plans to fix the guardrails and was told they had absolutely no plans at the time. He will take a look at the guardrails and give DEM locations we would like to have fixed.

Councilmember Paplauskas stated that there were some guardrails by Cranston West and Western Hills that need to be repaired and asked that Director Mason follow up on that for Councilmember Brady. Director Mason stated that they will be addressed by the end of the month.

NEW BUSINESS:

9-20-04 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 12.12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations” (Steel Plate Use) Sponsored by Councilmember Paplauskas.

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Paplauskas stated that this Ordinance matches State Law that was passed recently, which Mr. Petrucci spoke about earlier, and mirrors that.

Director Parrillo recommended changing the language in #7 to match State Law. He also stated that there is a typo in the Ordinance – “Department of Transportation” should be “Department of Public Works”.

Chair asked Director Mason to state what the State Law states in Line 41, Section #7. Director Mason stated the following: “Exposed surface area of the steel plate shall be slip resistant when required by the DPW Director or other appropriate municipal approval authority”.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as stated by Director Mason.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Stycos asked Director Mason when he would think this is necessary. Director Mason stated that as soon as this Ordinance is passed he will be sending out a letter to all the utilities that do work in the City and he will require it to be slip resistant.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend this Ordinance and motion passed on a vote of 4-0 with one not present. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmembers Vargas, Donegan, Paplauskas and Hopkins -4. Councilmember Brady was not present for roll call vote.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to amend line 45 in Section 7 change “Department of Transportation” to “Department of Public Works”. Motion passed on a vote of 4-0 with one not present. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmembers Vargas, Donegan, Paplauskas and Hopkins -4. Councilmember Brady was not present for roll call vote.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended and motion passed on a vote of 4-0 with one not present. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmembers Vargas, Donegan, Paplauskas and Hopkins -4. Councilmember Brady was not present for roll call vote.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Pippin Orchard Rd. *Ratify the Action.*

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

Councilmember Vargas:

- **Cranston Trees/National Grid**

Councilmember Vargas asked that this be continued for next month's meeting for lack of time.

- **Update regarding speed bumps**

Councilmember Vargas stated that the Administration sent her some policies that she is looking at and hoping that we can put a policy together.

Councilmember Vargas stated that there are decorative lights in the Village that are broken or some are out. She asked what the process is for fixing something like that and if there are funds that could be used for that. Director Mason asked Councilmember Vargas to forward him the locations or addresses in front of the lights that are out and he will have them addressed. He also stated that, as far as the ones that are broken, we know we need to order new ones.

Councilmember Vargas stated that she will reach out to the Pawtuxet Village Association to see who replaces the light bulbs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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