

*(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 14, 2021 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  
Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly  
Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady, Vice-Chair  
Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Chair  
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration  
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works  
John Verdecchia, Assistant 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 Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Council President 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:**

None.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Request from National Grid and Verizon for pole location at Pontiac Ave.**

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Council Vice-President Brady, it was voted to approve this pole location request. Motion passed unanimously.

### ***Council President Paplauskas:***

- **Trash Dumping on Ambrose Street**

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that he believes this was addressed by the Administration, but not sure if there is anything we can do to keep this from happening, whether we have portable cameras that we can move around the City to try to catch the people dumping.

**Director Mason** stated that there have been issues there in the past and we do pick up the trash, but it is costing the City money to do that, but he will reach out to the Police and see if they would be willing to mount cameras on one of the poles. Council President Paplauskas suggested installing signs indicating that there are cameras and this may deter people from dumping.

- **Meshanticut Park**

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that there was discussion at prior meetings about setting up a meeting with DEM'S area supervisor about setting up some goals that we might have to keep that park cleaned. He asked if this meeting was ever set up. Director Mason stated that he can keep it on the radar to get it done. He has tried to reach out to DEM Division 1 Maintenance people and will try again to see if he can set something up. Council President Paplauskas asked that he and Council Vice-President Brady be updated with any progress.

**Chair** addressed the flooding at Wilbur Ave. and Oaklawn Ave. and stated that this happens all the time. He asked if anything is being done about getting this problem solved and if there has been any communication with the State. Director Mason stated that that is not really a State issue, that would end up being a City issue. He also stated that we tried, in the past, to come up with some monies, which was actually some FEMA monies back approximately eight or nine years ago, but it ended up being a \$2 ½ to \$3 million job to rectify that situation and FEMA did not allow us to do that so we have not done much to address this other than the flood warning detection system that we installed.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked that pothole on Montgomery and Broad be looked into. Director Mason stated that he will look into it.

**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that she got word that Providence is taking advantage of a grant to do some traffic calming on the Park side of Wentworth and asked if there is anything like that that we are doing in Cranston or the streets that are off Roger Williams Park be part of that traffic calming measure and part of the grant that they are getting and if the City of Providence has reached out to Cranston at all. Solicitor stated that we have to be a little careful about Open Meetings because we are discussing items that were not advertised for this meeting. To be on the safe side, we should not be getting too deeply into this. Councilwoman Vargas stated that that is fine, she will put this in an e-mail to the Director.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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