

(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, June 17, 2021 via Zoom webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady, Vice-Chair
Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Chair
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Request from National Grid for pole location at Natick Ave. *Continued from 3/11/2021.*
Withdrawn by National Grid

Withdrawn by National Grid. No action needed.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Natick Avenue and Valley View Drive. *Withdrawn by National Grid*

Withdrawn by National Grid. No action needed.

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

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

Jean Lamb, 71 Vinton Ave., appeared to speak and stated that she has concerns about speeding on Vinton Ave. She also stated that she has a letter from a neighbor at 65 Vinton, who has also voiced concerns. They have addressed this a number of times whether to have some speed deterrent, whether it be stop signs or speed humps. She asked that the City Council consider doing some type of resolution to this problem in taking action in protecting the residents on Vinton Ave. by adding a speed hump or a stop sign.

Chair stated that seeing that there is no one from law enforcement present this evening, he asked that this be placed on the agenda for the August meeting and he will put in a request to see what the traffic study said in the past to help the residents with this problem.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

5-21-04 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 13.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled Public Services -Sewer Service System". Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas.*

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Director Mason stated that he is speaking this evening to conduct a public hearing, which is required by RI Department of Environmental Management and is held for revisions to the Sewer Use Ordinance Local Discharge Limits. With him this evening, to answer any questions or for technical assistance, is Ryan Bodnaruk from the Engineering Firm of Wright Pierce, Earl Salisbury from Veolia Water, Alfred Tutela from Tutela Engineering and Ed Tally, Environmental Program Manager for the City of Cranston. Director Mason clarified that the local limits revisions is not about the discharge of our sewage treatment plant to the Pawtuxet River. The discharge limits being discussed this evening is what the City allows its significant and industrial users to discharge to our treatment plant, which gets further treatment at our plant. The City currently has eighteen significant industrial users in which every one of them has an individual permit with the City allowing them to discharge to our collection system. These local discharge limits proposed tonight has no effect on the discharge that we allow from residential customers nor from any restaurants. Provided to the Committee this evening is an eleven-page presentation which describes why and what is being proposed to change to our revised local limits. The entire 491-page technical document is available for viewing on the City's website under the Public Works Sewer Division. This document was also posted for public comment for a 30-day period, advertised in local papers and also advised to all of our current industrial users. There were no comments from the public or from the industrial users during this timeframe. As you can see from the handout, there are a total of 20 parameters that the City is concerned with from its industrial users and we have established technically based limits, which they must abide by in order to discharge to our City sewer system. These limits are detailed in the proposed Ordinance change under Section 8.18.08.340. The limits are shown on line #121 of the Ordinance change. An additional change to the Sewer Ordinance is the establishment of the surcharge fees under the pre-treatment charges Section 13.08.670. These surcharges are only administered when the company exceeds the prescribed limits and are sued to defray the cost of additional treatment by the City at our sewer treatment plant. The proposed changes

are not expected to bring any significant revenue to the Sewer Enterprise Fund, but will not place as a pickup to pay for additional costs of the treatment.

Councilwoman Marino asked what the new standards being set are based on. **Mr. Bodnaruk** stated that the basis for the technical base local limits is an EPA document and the approved facilities plan for the treatment plant. The allowable industry load or allowable loads to the treatment plant are based on what the treatment plant can take out.

Director Mason stated that there is a glitch in the DEM posting of this process and what they require is a 30-day posting by DEM for their final approval and what he would like to do is wait until the July City Council meeting for final approval of this Ordinance and he asked if this Ordinance can be deferred to the July Council meeting.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to refer this Ordinance to the July City Council meeting with recommendation of approval. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Speeding on Vinton from Cranston St. to Gazebo (Wilbur) (Council Vice-President Brady)**

Director Mason stated that there was an Ordinance that was passed, 2020-27, on July 27th of last year, and it required a stop sign to be placed at the intersection of Harrison Ave. at the intersection of Vinton Ave., but that was incorrect. He believes that the intent, a year ago, was for it to be on Vinton Ave. at the intersection of Harrison. He thinks the City Council did not approve the correct intersection.

Chair stated that he will look into it and see if this needs to be amended.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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