

*(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, February 17, 2022 via ZOOM webinar.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino  
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly  
Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair  
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli

Also Present: Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
Councilman John P. Donegan  
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff  
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works  
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilman Reilly, 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. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER**

None.

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

##### **A. \*PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

- ***Guardrail at Western Hills Middle School Tennis Court. (Council President Paplauskas).***

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that this was placed on the agenda after there was an accident there and a car went through the tennis court and took out a big sign. He did speak to the Administration about this and they are looking into putting a guardrail there to try to keep the tennis courts a little safer.

- ***Discussion on bike path crossing signals. (Council President Paplauskas).***

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that this has been an ongoing issue. He met with Director Tanzi and Director McAuley regarding this issue and there is some tie-over between DOT. DOT provided the ones in Bristol.

**Council President Paplauskas** also stated that he understands Council Vice-President Ferri looked into the price on these and they are not very expensive and would like to move forward with these during the next budget or with ARPA funds. He is sure that everyone agrees that flash crossing signals at all intersections of the bike path are certainly needed. Council Vice-President Ferri stated that he did get quotes about eight months ago and he will revisit this issue to see if prices have gone u

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that she is glad to hear this being discussed and is hopeful that it does happen. She thinks it is a very wise investment for the safety of the community.

- ***Sidewalk Snow Shoveling Requirement/ Enforcement. (Councilwoman Vargas).***

**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that she would like to know how the enforcement works during a Snow storm and how does the actual enforcement and at what point do we start enforcing because there are repeat offenders who do not clear their sidewalks and students walk particularly in the Park Ave. area. Director Moretti stated that there are a few pervasive Ordinances on the books that require all residents to clear their sidewalks. Obviously, it is an impossible task to enforce the entire City, but what we have done is we have had meetings before and after the recent storms in particular to try to tackle this issue in a reasonable manner. What came out of it, the Police Department would be doing the enforcement. We thought the most practical approach to this would be to work with the School Department and obtain the sidewalks from which the Principals or the School Administration is concerned about and the enforcement efforts would be concentrated in those areas along with some of the main roads the Police feel have high pedestrian traffic. In terms of the approach, the Police Department has developed a warning letter which points to the Ordinance and asks them to clear their property and if they do not, then they would go back and fine those individuals. That is the practical approach on how to handle this situation.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked how many letters have gone out. Director Moretti stated that he believes there were approximately 30-40 letters.

**Director Mason** stated that Parks and Recreation does have a fairly comprehensive list of exactly what sidewalks have to be plowed and cleared off during every storm event. Their manpower usually does that the day after a storm because the other Parks and Recreation people are clearing the City Hall parking lot, Police Station, Fire Stations and Libraries.

**Councilwoman Germain** stated that she has been receiving a lot of complaints of how the plowing is being done. People who have lived in her Ward for many years have stated to her that it was not done like that before. She witnessed herself truck going down the street and doing one pass and not making enough room for more than one car to pass.

**Council Vice-President Ferri** asked Councilwoman Germain to speak on this topic under the next item on the agenda regarding snow remove complaints.

- ***Clarification of how City Council Members are to report complaints during and after a storm and how these complaints get answered and taken care of. (Council Vice-President Ferri).***

**Council Vice-President Ferri** stated that the procedure in place regarding complaints is that all constituent complaints are through one way, through the Public Works Chair, who is him, and he is to forward all complaints to Director Smith and copies to Director McAuley and they are to take those complaints and forward them to Public Works for constituent problem to be resolved. He does not think that that policy is being followed by all Council people and that some Council people are going directly to the source, directly to the Mayor or whoever and not forward the complaints in and so complaints are being handled differently from different Council people. He would like someone from the Administration to speak on this. Director Moretti stated that the Administration concurs and they find it the most efficient to follow that policy.

- ***City's snow removal and sanding/salting of icy roads. (Councilwoman Marino).***

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that the Saturday issue, it was a lack of response perceived from a lot of people who have lived in the City for along time. From her own experience, it was rather bad on that Saturday. It was really bad, but perhaps there is a reason why it was not sanded as much as it should have been on Saturday. She asked how many plow trucks the City uses and how many independent contractors are used and if there has been a change in the number over the years. Director Mason stated that the City has approximately 40-45 plow trucks. Out of those, only 20 have sanding capabilities. As far as vendors, on the big storm, he thinks we have 85 vendors, a little lower than previous years. Usually, we have 100-105, but it has been difficult to get vendors this year. The vendors do not have sanding or salting capabilities. They are hired for plowing only and not sanding. Regarding the Saturday after the ice storm, those were some extreme temperatures we had that day and one of the problems we have when we salt roads with temperatures less than 10-15 degrees is the salt does not activate at that temperature. The things that make the salt activate is sunshine and activity on the road. He also stated that the crews were out both Saturday and Sunday sanding and salting the roads, but everyone has to remember that Public Works does not have a second and third shift. In the big storm that we had, our plow drivers were on straight for 36 hours out plowing the roads and the vendors were out for approximately 20-24 hours. You have to give these guys a break sometime.

**Councilwoman Marino** questioned if there is a reason why we do not utilize the private vendors for sanding. Director Mason stated that, typically, the needs is not really there. On most snow events, the twenty trucks we have concentrate on the hills, the mains and around schools.

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that in certain States such as New Hampshire, there are products that you can use on the roads with low temperatures, but she understands that we have to work with what we have.

**Councilwoman Germain** stated that her issue is how one truck goes down the street once and does not clear the street for at least one car to get through and not come back to do another pass. Council Vice-President Ferri stated that what happened in his neighborhood was the residents were told the trucks would be out the next day and they never went back the next day. That is when more complaints were received from constituents.

- ***Potential for Cranston's participation in the RI Community Septic System Loan Program and RI Sewer Tie-In Loan Program (Councilwoman Marino)***

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that this item is a continuation from prior discussions at Finance meeting. She has had very good discussions with the Administration, Director Strom and Director Mason and it appears that, as a City, we will take the initial steps that are required in order to consider implementing this program, which is the requirement of an onsite Waste Water Management Program for the City as the initial step and Director Mason's department will look into that and get the ball rolling on that, which could take up to six months. She is encouraged to hear that.

**Director Moretti** stated that everyone is in cooperation with this and it looks like it is feasible and there are some pluses and minuses to it, but the benefits seem to outweigh a few minor negatives.

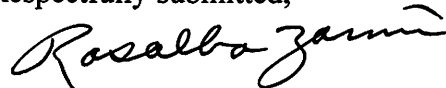
***Request from National Grid for pole location at Phenix Ave.***

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Acting City Clerk



RECEIVED  
21 JAN 10 PM 12:25  
CRANSTON  
CITY CLERK

**PETITION OF THE NATIONAL GRID FOR POLE LOCATIONS TO THE  
HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND**

THE NATIONAL GRID

Respectfully asks permission to locate and maintain poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustain and protecting fixtures to be owned by your petitioner along and across the following public ways:

**Phenix Ave**

**Installing new P232-84 across from existing P232**

Wherefore your petitioner request that they be granted locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, poles to be in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked:

**WR#30480444**

**DATED 12/1/2021**

Your petitioner agrees to reserve or provide space for one cross arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, and telephone wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

THE NATIONAL GRID

BY Christopher Mantalito

ORDER

The foregoing petition having been read it was voted that the consent of the

\_\_\_\_\_ for the use of public ways named for the purposes stated in said petition be and it hereby is granted----work to be done subject to the supervision at

A true copy of the vote at the Public Works Committee

Adopted 2/17/2022 and recorded in Records Book# \_\_\_\_\_ Page# \_\_\_\_\_

Rosalba Zamora  
Acting City Clerk

Pole & UG Petition/Permit Request Form

City Cranston WR # 30480444
Town of (circle one)

Install 1 SO JO Poles on Phenix Ave
(quantity) (circle one) (street name)

Remove SO JO Poles on
(quantity) (circle one) (street name)

Relocate SO JO Poles on
(quantity) (circle one) (street name)

Beginning at a point approximately 660 feet NE of the centerline
(distance) (compass heading)

of the intersection of Walden Way
(street name)

and continuing approximately feet in a direction.
(distance) (compass heading)

Install underground facilities:

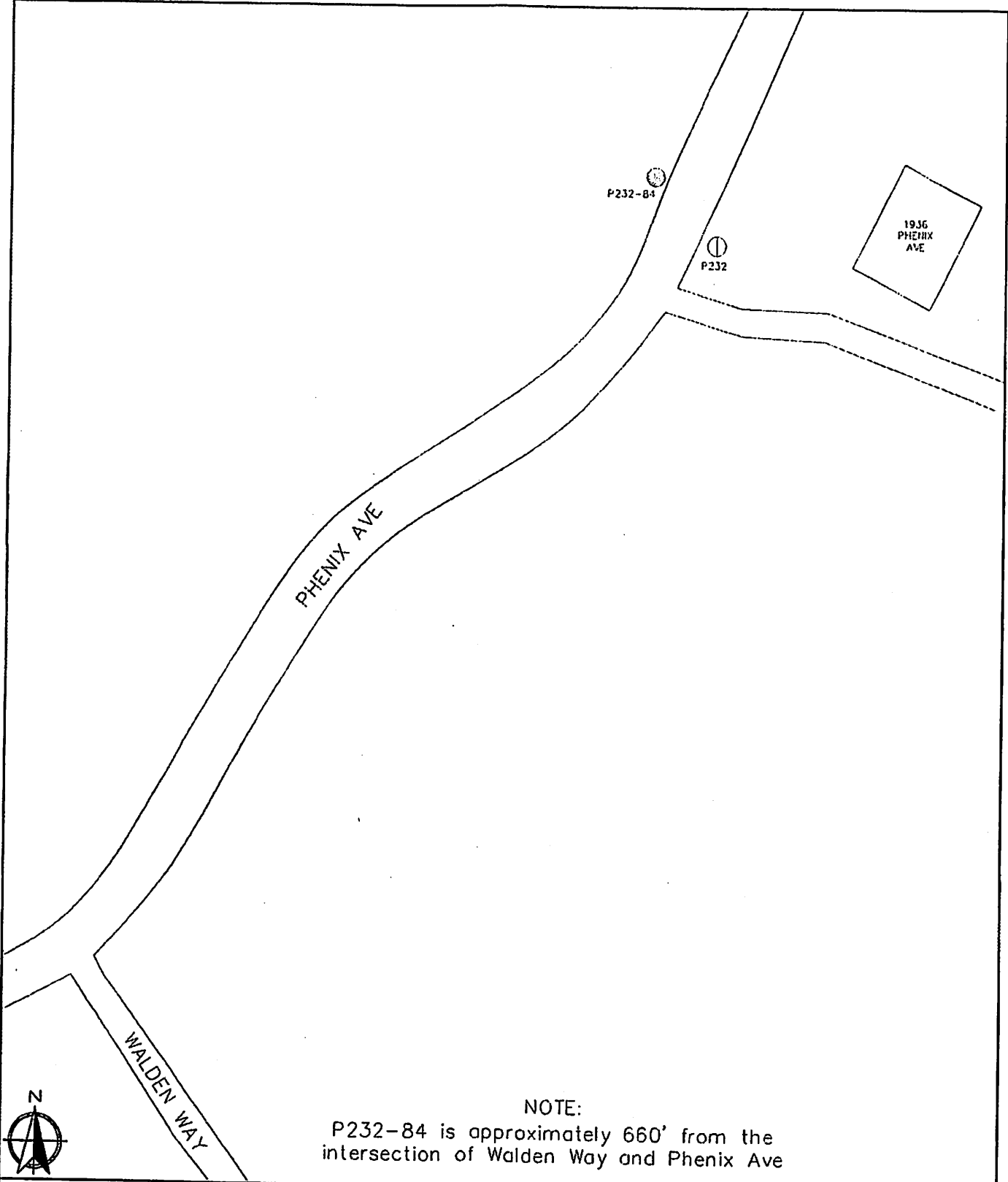
Street(s)

Description of Work:

Installing new P232-84 across from existing P232.

ENGINEER Chantry Seth

DATE 12/1/2021



NOTE:  
 P232-84 is approximately 660' from the  
 intersection of Walden Way and Phenix Ave

LEGEND	
⊙ Existing JO Pole	⊙ Proposed SO Pole
⊕ Proposed JO Pole	⊙ Existing SO Pole
--- Private Property Line	⊕ Anchor & Guy

**PETITION**

PHENIX AVE                      Cranston, RI

Petition to the City of Cranston

Date 12/1/2021
Designer: C.SETH
W/R 30480444

**nationalgrid**

*Approved Nuhle W Cross 1/31/22*