

(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 13, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Council President Paplauskas.

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano, Vice-Chair
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair

Also Present: Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilwoman Aniece Germain
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Donegan, 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

Pauline DeRosa, 97 Cypress Dr., founder of The Garden City Alliance, appeared to speak and stated that she understands that a lease has been signed between the Carpionato Group and Costco to build a warehouse club in the Chapel View complex. This is a potential major land development. Two locations have been mentioned, behind the Shaws Market or in the former Citizens Bank building at 100 Sockanosset Crossroad. As she stated at the August 22nd City Council meeting, with TopGolf scheduled to be completed sometime in 2023, the construction of a Costco would be overdevelopment at its worst and why is it necessary to jam another major land development into Chapel View? She questioned if there are no other locations in the City where Costco can do business and what about the potential for a development at Mulligan's Island site? This would create another level of traffic congestion. She noted that in 2017, Mr. Kelly Coates, then former VP of The Carpionato Group and now its President, stated in essence to the Cranston Herald that a big box store would not be the direction they were considering. The inclusion of a potential Costco in the Chapel View complex will have a negative impact on the flow of traffic on Sockanosset Crossroad, New London Ave. and Pontiac Ave. In spite of the upgrades to Route 37, the planned offramp into TopGolf site and potential Costco will increase access into the complex with the only exits being either Sockanosset, New London Ave. or Powe Rd. With the advent of both TopGolf and a potential Costco, there will be a steady stream of traffic in and around the Garden City neighborhood and adjoining communities. Let's not leave out the added truck traffic which causes significant deterioration of our infrastructure. Traffic studies will be done, but these are just forecasts by wide margins. The Garden City Alliance asks the City of Cranston to encourage Mr. Coates and his team along with the developer of Costco to organize and hold a community meeting prior to the start of any construction for this major land development. It is absolutely critical for the residents of our communities to be apprised of large scale developments in our neighborhoods when they will directly dominate our quality of life. This potential development needs thoughtful and serious consideration from all communities, the City Council members, the Traffic Engineers and the Traffic Safety Commission.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Council Vice-President Ferri:

- *Update on Costco being developed in Chapel View and Traffic Concerns.*

Council President Paplauskas stated that since Council Vice-President Ferri is not present this evening, he asked that this item be continued.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Germain:

- *Status and update on the Budlong Pool Project (Referred from 9/26/2022 City Council).*

Director Moretti stated that there is not much more of an update since the last meeting, but the Mayor everyone on the City Council and understands and the Mayor would like to see the Budlong Pool reopened in some fashion next year. Director Bernardo has contracted Architect Mark Saccoccia to come up with conceptual designs of the pool facility with the hopes of fast tracking things as best as

possible. When those designs are completed, a design will be selected to go to the engineering architects to actually do all the engineered drawings for the construction of a pool. Given the short timeline and construction supply access, it is going to be tight. They will come back with a more longer term approach and then something of intermediary approach to do the best we can to get a pool up and running by next Summer. We will have much better information once Mr. Saccoccia gets back to all of us.

Councilwoman Germain asked that this item be continued to next month's meeting.

Resolution naming the Oak Lawn Gazebo in memory of Meri R. Kennedy. Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas and Councilman Campopiano.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Reilly asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Councilwoman Renzulli stated that she is glad that this Resolution was proposed and asked to be added as co-sponsor. She stated that Meri was a very special person and she brought positivity everywhere she went with every message that she sent. She wanted to do so much good in this world and hopes that this memory of her will inspire us to all do the same. She was very special and will be missed.

Councilman Campopiano stated that he enjoyed reading all the stuff every month so if there is any assistance needed in the finance of anything with the plaque, he would be happy to assist.

Councilwoman Germain asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Councilman Donegan stated that he always enjoyed opening the Herald every week and seeing the Cranston Chatter column from Meri and it being a celebration of our community and what people were doing, how people were coming together and he will miss seeing Meri's name there and he is appreciative of everything she gave to our City.

Councilwoman Marino asked to be added as co-sponsor. She stated that this is a very nice token of remembrance and kindness.

Councilman Donegan asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Council President Paplauskas stated that Councilman Donegan said it right. The papers certainly are missing something without Meri's column. She spread positive news about this community and Meri was Cranston and he sees Steve in the audience and stated that everyone is with him and everyone will miss her and really happy to be able to do this nice gesture in her honor and will remember her for a long time.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

Request from Rhode Island Energy and Verizon for pole location at Lincoln Ave.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Reilly -1.

Request from Rhode Island Energy and Verizon for pole location at Vaughn Lane.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve this request.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan asked if there is a fiscal impact to the City for these poles to be moved. Director Moretti stated, no, there is no fiscal impact. It is all on the utility company.

Council President Paplauskas asked if someone from Public Works goes out and look at these and sign off before they get to the Committee. Director Moretti stated, yes, Public Works does review them, including the Director.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this request and motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Reilly -1.

• **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk