

(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, May 11, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by the Council President.

Present: Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly (appeared at 6:30 p.m.)
Councilman Robert J. Ferri
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Absent: Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Justin Mateus, Chief Engineer
David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Ron Ronzio, Stenographer

Council President Marino stated that Council Vice-President Vargas had a previous scheduled commitment and Councilwoman Germain had a family emergency to attend to and they will not be present this evening.

Council President Marino asked for a motion and a second for her to Chair this meeting.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to allow Council President Marino to Chair this meeting in the absence of Chairwoman Vargas. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

2-23-03 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 15 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Buildings and Construction" (Poles Relocation). Sponsored by Councilman Donegan. (Cont. as amended 3/16 & 4/13/2023).*

Councilman Donegan stated that when this was initially heard, there were conversations with Legal Counsel that there were some amendments that were required and he has not had the chance to get everyone together to work through some of those amendments and he asked that this Ordinance be continued.

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Germain:

- *Request for a detailed plan of Budlong Pool Project and what is the timeline for this project? (Cont. from 1/23/2023 City Council and 2/16/2023, 3/16/2023 & 4/13/2023 Committees)*

Council President Marino stated that Councilwoman Germain has asked that this item be continued. No one objected.

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

Susan Blake, 173 Grand Ave., appeared to speak regarding the Budlong Pool, specifically attendance. She stated that according to numbers provided to her by Director Tessaglia, approximate average daily attendance at the pool during the last summer it was open was 220 people a day. 220 times \$5 each to enter, not including people with passes, equals \$1,100 a day. The six weeks the pool is open, times seven days a week, equals 42. \$1,100 times 42 days equals \$46,000, a cash Revenue. With the Mayor's plan, the City would be turning away an average of 120 people every single day. This would represent a loss of \$25,200 for the season with a wading pool. She read an e-mail from Christy Martell of 51 Cliffdale Ave. also in support of the Budlong Pool opening in its original form.

Karen Rosenberg, 46 Post St., appeared to speak regarding the Budlong Pool and stated that one of the major problems is lack of transparency of what plans are what. There are a lot of people in the City who are very concerned about the pool remaining having the character that it has had and also concerned about spending millions and millions of dollars on things that might be appealing but are not necessarily the top priorities for the City with its present financial problems. She questioned if there is a detailed plan of what is proposed and if not, will the public be given that information in enough time so that there can be sunlight on the situation and people will understand what is coming and will have an opportunity to make themselves heard?

Cheryl DelPadre, 100 Betsey Williams Dr., appeared to speak regarding the Budlong Pool. It is not only a resource to the residents, but a resource to our community.

Tom Wojick, 11 Hall Place, appeared to speak regarding the Budlong Pool after reading all the articles in the Cranston Herald about the pool, he is totally confused about where the Mayor is and where we are with the plans for a pool. He feels no one is listening to the residents of what they want. If the Mayor does not come forward and reveal what is going on and the money being spent, there is going to be a lot of very disgruntled and unhappy people.

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Request from Narragansett Electric and Verizon for pole location at Melton St.

On motion by Councilman Ferri, 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”: Councilmen Donegan, Ferri, Councilwoman Renzulli and Council President Marino -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Reilly -1.

Request from Narragansett Electric and Verizon for pole location at Budlong Dr.

Mr. Mateus indicated that there is a scrivener’s error on the agenda. The street should be Budlong Rd. and not Dr.

On motion by Councilman Ferri, 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”: Councilmen Donegan, Ferri, Councilwoman Renzulli and Council President Marino -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Reilly -1.

Councilwoman Germain:

- ***Rats infestation and property management***

Council President Marino stated that Councilwoman Germain has asked that this item be continued. No one objected.

Council President Marino:

- ***Status update on Cranston's participation in RI Infrastructure Bank's Community Septic System Loan Program***

Council President Marino stated that in her discussions with the Administration, this is further along in the process and asked Administration to give an update

Mr. Mateus stated that we have made some progress in the last month. Public Works has completed our draft of the on site Wastewater Management Plan and has submitted that to RI DEM for their comments and heard back that it will take approximately two or three weeks to hear back from them. That will be a QAQC period where we get to fine tweak all the verbiage. The outstanding items would be that as prior to final approval from DEM, the City needs to include a Resolution as part of that submission package. The City has prepared a Resolution and submitted to be sponsored by Council President Marino which should be heard over the next Council meeting for approval. The Legal Department is working on finalizing the loan agreement between the City and property owner just to protect the City in the event that a property owner does not fulfill a loan payment.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees