

(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, November 16, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilman Richard G. Campopiano
Councilman Robert J. Ferri
Councilman Daniel R. Wall
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Absent: Councilwoman Aniece Germain

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Justin Mateus, Acting Public Works Director
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Raymond Tessaglia, Parks and Recreation Director
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Approval of minutes of the October 12 2023 Regular meeting**

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 12, 2023 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Council Vice-President Vargas: (Cont. from 9/14/2023 & 10/12/2023).

- *Bike Lane Delineators flexible post in Narragansett Blvd.*
- *Cost of Delineators flex pole for Narragansett Blvd. Would like Administration to research the cost on what it takes to add and how many would be needed.*

Mr. Mateus stated that he researched this more and was able to find a delineator that is not bolted into the ground and those came to \$46 each and based on some quick math, we are going to need approximately 250 of them, which would come to \$11,500.

Chair asked Mr. Mateus if in his research, he found any possible grant opportunities out there. Mr. Mateus stated that he is not aware of any grants available for bike lanes out there, not to say that there is not any. He is just not aware of any right now. Chair stated that she stumbled on one which is one that she wanted to forward to the Council Grant Writer and she will forward it to Mr. Mateus in the meantime for him to look at. She asked Mr. Mateus what the lifeline is on the ones he found. Mr. Mateus stated that he looked at them to space them at least 10 feet off the curb line so a plow could get in between them, so lifespan of these, he is predicting approximately 1-2 years. Chair stated that her only concern on these is we are spending that amount of money for just a net cost savings for the City as opposed to the bolted down ones. Mr. Mateus stated that you can use the same delineators to bolt them in the ground. You just don't buy the adhesive pad at the bottom of them. The delineator by itself, he does not know if you have to buy specific footing or specific bolts or anything with it, but just the delineator itself is \$38 and another \$8 for the adhesive pad. You could use the same delineator and just have a different installation method.

Chair stated that she would like to know if we have the power to place those up on our own. Mr. Mateus stated that he can check on that.

Chair asked that "cost of delineators flex pole" be continued.

- *RIDOT's Municipal Road & Bridge Program Opportunities*

Chair stated that no discussion is needed on this item.

- *City playground assessment and cost analysis*

Director Moretti stated that Director Tessaglia is present to answer any questions. He provided a copy of topline summary of the assessments that the Parks and Recreation Department has done for all the school playgrounds.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to accept the handout provided by Director Moretti into the record for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Moretti stated that a correction should be made to the handout where "Oaklawn" should be "Ward 4".

Chair asked that Director Moretti update the document and provide it to the Clerk to be disseminated to the Council.

Director Tessaglia appeared to speak and stated that Smith St. playground is already out to bid. This playground has been cleaned up and wood mulch has been installed. As far as Edgewood, he had a few workers there today to take off the swing seats, handles and any other brackets or materials that they feel they can use in other playgrounds in the City. He also stated that Highway Director Corso has agreed to go there and clean it up and plan on doing that next week. It is probably going to be a two day project. Those are the two major ones that they will be addressing first. The next one would be Garden City. He is trying to formulate a system for the assessments that will be universal throughout the City in due time.

Councilman Ferri asked if there was a checklist already available that was used in years past by Parks and Recreation. Director Tessaglia stated that he did not come across one.

Director Moretti provided the Committee with a corrected document of the assessment.

Chair asked that this item be continued.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilman Donegan:

- *Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon on Dyer Ave.*

Councilman Donegan stated that his understanding is this was approved by BOCAP and asked how long it would take for installation.

Mr. Mateus stated that it would be approximately 6-8 weeks to be delivered and weather dependent on when it is installed because there is concrete work involved.

Councilman Donegan thanked the Administration for the update and he looks forward to those being installed on Dyer Ave.

Council Vice-President Vargas:

- **Replacing Deceased Trees Across the City**

Chair stated that there are a lot of trees along Broad St. that are completely diseased and same thing with corner of Warwick Ave. and Park Ave. There are approximately two to three of them. She questioned what the City is going to do with all these trees to replace or remove them. We have an Ordinance which was passed last year.

Mr. Mateus stated that we treat and remove dead, dying and diseased trees. That is the City's policy. As far as replacing trees, it is a bit unique because there is no residence that live behind that tree, but whether there is a tree removed, the City recommends that the property owner take advantage of our back of sidewalk tree planting program. As for the lot Council Vice-President Vargas is referring to, there is an ownership issue with that lot and he has the lot listed as State property right now.

Chair stated that she thought that we had an Ordinance that Councilman Donegan had drafted and then there was another one everyone worked on that had notices of trees going down with a process and her understanding was that for every tree that is taken down, the City would put one up. She wants to make sure that if we are taking down a tree, the City would put one up. Mr. Mateus stated that there is no budget that pays for trees to be installed in the public right of way. Our budget for tree planting is specific to the back of sidewalk tree planting program. Chair stated that she does not think so. She asked that this be continued so Mr. Mateus can do more research on this and also check to see if that lot is owned by the State or the City.

10-23-02 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 13 – Public Services, Chapter 13.08 of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled ‘Sewer Service System’; Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins.*

Mr. Mateus stated that this Ordinance is just for clerical housekeeping. This is feedback we received from the State to specifically include federal requirements within our Code. There is no change to anything, there is no changes in fees, in policies or practices, it is just stating specifically the requirements the EPA requires.

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

Petition of Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England Inc. for installation of conduit in city right-of-way along Palmer Ave.

On motion by Councilman Ferr, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to approve this request.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Mateus stated that this request is to install underground conduit. His understanding of the petition from RI Energy is pole installations. He could be mistaken. If it is, he does not know if it is warranted here. Typically, that would be just handled with a right of way permit in Public Works.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve the above request and motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees