

(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 12, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair

Absent: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly

Also Present: Steven Paiva, Mayor's Office
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Campopiano, 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

- *Trash and littering in the City and any Ordinances on the books and how is it enforced (Councilwoman Germain). (Cont. 3/17/2022 & 4/14/2022).*

Councilwoman Germain asked that this item be continued so it can be discussed when the new Public Works Director comes on board.

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

- *Status of Debris Cleanup at Yardworks (Councilwoman Marino). (Cont. 3/17/2022 & 4/14/2022).*

Councilwoman Marino stated that this is a work in progress. She has spoken to the Administration and Mr. McAuley has gone out to the site with her and she has spoken to Attorney Verdecchia and we are working on this issue. She thinks it is best to continue this to next month so we will see what the status is.

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

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

None.

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

- *Tree warden's duty and operations (Councilwoman Germain).*

Councilwoman Germain requested a continuance until the new Public Works Director comes on board.

Mr. Paiva stated that the Tree Warden inspects trees that are diseased and gives recommendation whether the City should remove or replace them. The Tree Warden is an Engineer, but his responsibility as a Tree Warden is to inspect diseased trees and give recommendation based on his expertise. Councilwoman Germain stated that her question is the policy of how when someone makes a request and procedure to get a tree removed and all policies in place. Mr. Paiva stated that he does not believe it is a lengthy process. We do have a policy that we do not remove healthy trees. A lot of times if the tree is overgrown, the Tree Warden will have tree pruned or trimmed down, but not uprooted, but it is under his judgment to make that call.

Councilwoman Germain stated that she would like this item continued because she would like to speak to the Tree Warden. Mr. Paiva stated that he is sure the Public Works Director, who is scheduled to start in the next few weeks, will be available for that as well.

Chair stated that he will try to have a conversation with the Public Works Director when he comes in to go over the items that the Committee is not covering tonight to see if he would be prepared to answer them at his first meeting.

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

- *Sidewalk program opportunity (Councilwoman Germain).*

Councilwoman Germain asked for a continuance without a vote.

- *Replacement of permanent safety signs on the Bike Path. Signs that have been missing and not replaced in years. For Example: Walk on Left Facing Bicyclists. Intersection Ahead. (Council Vice-President Ferri).*

Chair asked for a continuance without a vote.

- *Budlong Pool Status of Opening (Councilwoman Marino).*

Councilwoman Marino stated that this should be taken off the agenda and since it is a Capital Budget item, needs to be approved by the Planning Commission

- *Speeding, Traffic and Safety Concerns Prospect and Fenner Streets. (Councilwoman Marino).*

Councilwoman Marino asked that this be continue since this is a work in progress. No vote taken.

- *Garbage and Recycling Bins: repair, replace, extra bags and extra bin policies. (Council Vice-President Ferri).*

Chair asked for a continuance without a vote.

Request from National Grid for pole location at Scituate Ave.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by councilman Campopiano, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk