

(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, January 12, 2023 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 Chair.

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

Absent: Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Ferri, 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

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

Dave Taglianetti of Carpionato Group, appeared to speak regarding “Request from Carpionato Group, LLC – Permit for Alteration near Historic Cemetery CR030 King-Randall Lot”.

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Council Vice-President Germain:

- *Status and update on the Budlong Pool Project. (Cont. from 12/19/2022 City Council).*

Director Moretti stated that there has been an earmarking Grant that has been awarded to the City designated to the pool for \$750,000. The project is still in the phase reported last time. Conceptual plans have been completed and we have contracted out to receive cost of the project and cost estimate is expected to be received later this month.

Council President Marino stated that in terms of the status, she asked if it is the intention of the Administration to coordinate with Planning and have it in the Capital Budget for this upcoming Budget. Director Moretti stated, yes. That is one of the projects and that is why we are waiting for the cost estimate, but without that estimate, we are still going to put something in the Capital Budget.

Councilman Donegan asked at what point can the Council expect to see some sort of conceptual designs for the Architect or Engineer because he knows it was referenced in this week's Herald. Director Moretti stated that he was surprised those drawings were released. He knows the Mayor has shared them with Councilwoman Germain, but he is not sure the rest of the Council have seen them. He can make copies and send them out, but he cautioned that if plans do change, that is not what happens. Councilman Donegan asked if Director Moretti send that electronically to the Council. Director Moretti stated, sure.

This item was continued to next month's meeting.

- *Discussion about Sidewalk Safety in Ward 2 and who is liable in a case of a fall. (Cont. from 12/19/2022 City Council).*

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

Councilman Ferri:

- *Explanation of sidewalk and curb repairs. Is there a program to assist homeowners? Asphalt vs. Cement. How does it work? How does it get funded? Who is responsible for the repairs?*

Councilman Ferri stated that during campaigning season, he noticed there are a lot of bad sidewalks throughout the City. He seems to get conflicting answers every time he calls with an issue of sidewalks. He asked what the City does when someone calls in about a sidewalk because the Council needs to be concise and clear on what to tell the constituents when they call. Director Moretti stated that most of the issues have to be taken on an individual basis, but the general rule is by Ordinance, homeowner or property owner abutting the sidewalks are responsible for the curbing and repairs of sidewalks. There is a sidewalk cost-sharing program that the City does have. \$30,000 is appropriated for it in this year's Budget and he believes approximately half of that has been used at this point.

Request from Carpionato Group, LLC – Permit for Alteration near Historic Cemetery CR030 King-Randall Lot.

Dave Taglianetti from Carpionato Group appeared to speak and stated that the property is currently a vacant lot. There is a historic cemetery adjacent to this property. Any work within 25 feet of this property requires approval of the City Council. Public Archeological Laboratory has already submitted a permit to the RI Historical Preservation Commission. They have received a permit to do this work and that permit was submitted this evening as part of this application. They are present this evening to get the City’s permission to go ahead and do this archeological investigation within the 25 feet buffer that falls onto their property.

Councilman Paplauskas asked Mr. Taglianetti if the Archeological Laboratory sees any issues with this. Mr. Taglianetti stated that Peter Mayer is present to answer that question.

Peter Mayer, Senior Archeologist with the Archeological Laboratory, 26 Main St., Pawtucket, appeared to speak and stated that based on the research that the did and field investigation, the cemetery is bounded by a stone wall. Based on the topography between the stone wall and the 25 foot buffer that they are looking at, it is very unlikely that we will find any unmarked graves.

Council President Marino asked Mr. Taglianetti if he would be agreeable if this approval be conditioned upon a copy of the final report of the study be submitted to the Clerk’s Office to attach to the permit and application. Mr. Taglianetti stated, absolutely.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to approve this request with condition that final report of the archeological survey is provided to the Clerk to be attached to the permit application. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Paplauskas asked that the following be added to the next month’s agenda:

- Update on construction of park in Knightsville.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk