

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, August 16, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Member Maria A. Bucci, Chair
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Absent: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Vice-Chair
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Councilman Terence Livingston
Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration
Aubrey Lombardo, Assistant City Solicitor
Ernie DePari, Superintendent of Highway
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of draft of ordinance requiring a bond from Utilities. Chair Bucci (Cont. 7/12/2007)

Solicitor stated that she spoke to the Public Utilities Commission legal counsel and there does not appear to be any regulations that would prevent this. She also spoke to the Finance Director, who broke down different types of bonding that would be available, however, she would suggest waiting until a Public Works Director is appointed. She will give an update next month.

Petition from National Grid - 4 Exchange St. and 5 Vinton Ave.

Feb 15, 2007 Replacement of Steel Gas Main lines:

(Cont. 4/12/2007, 5/21/2007 and Cont. 6/14/2007 at request of utility company)

Petition from Verizon New England - Excavation Phenix and Park

March 7, 2007 to dig splice pit to repair damaged cable

(Cont'd. 4/12/2007, 5/21/2007, 6/14/2007 and 7/12/2007)

March 19, 2007 - to repair crushed ducts in MH

(Cont. 5/21/2007, 6/14/2007 and 7/12/2007)

Kerrie Maher, Construction Foreman for Verizon, appeared to speak. Chair asked what procedure Verizon has when repairing streets after work is done on them by Verizon.

John Hosey, 16 Mayfair Dr., East Providence, Contractor and Inspector for Verizon, addressed the procedure. He stated that what is normally used in every city and town normally, is when they do a dig, they obtain a permit from the City and they go light to light on the repair and repair the amount of concrete or asphalt that they removed.

Council President Garabedian asked if there are any existing agreements between Verizon and the City relating to repairing of streets. Mr. Hosey stated, not to his knowledge.

Chair stated that the reason the Committee had the utility companies appear this evening is when the utility does work on the City's streets, we expect the street to be put back the way they were.

Ernie DePari, Highway Superintendent, appeared to speak and stated that it is more of a problem with National Grid and Providence Water, not so much with Verizon. When repairing the road, it should be from curb to curb and not patches.

Councilman Lanni indicated that no one is present from National Grid or Providence Water, and they are the problems.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to remove from the table Petition from Verizon New England - Excavation Phenix and Park and Petition from Verizon New England to repair crushed ducts in MH. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lanni, it was voted to approve the above two petitions. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Ordinance draft from Parks and Recreation regarding Briggs Farm Complex Rules and Regulations

Chair stated that this is before the Parks and Recreation Department. Solicitor stated that this cannot be passed by Ordinance because in Sect. 11.04(b) of the Charter, it states that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall have the power..... This would include Briggs Field. Due to this, she feels the Council does not have the power to implement this by Ordinance.

Council President Garabedian stated that he does not think the Parks and Recreation Director has the power to engage into a contract with the league. The Council has authority to engage into contracts.

Chair stated that the contract has already been signed between the Parks and Recreation Director and the league and the lights have already been ordered for the field.

Councilman Barone stated that there are rules and regulations he asked how these rules and regulations would be enforced and what is the remedy if these rules are not followed. Chair stated that there are penalties stated in the contract that address the issue of the rules and regulations and if they are not adhered to. Councilman Barone asked who would monitor that. Chair stated, Police Department and Director of Park and Recreation, as stated in the agreement.

Council President Garabedian stated that after speaking with the Director of Parks and Recreation and the President of the league, and he would like to come up with something that is much more valid. He feels this agreement that was agreed upon was incomplete.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Petition from National Grid for pole location at Echo Lane.

City Engineering Department's request for street light design for Helen Estates (to be submitted to NationalGrid)

Charles Coletta, 107 Canochet Trail, developer of the project, appeared to speak. Chair stated that the City is in the process of hiring a new Director of Public Works and she would think he should be given the opportunity to review these plans.

Angelo Nardolillo, 114 Crest Dr., Principal in the subdivision of Helen Estates, appeared to speak.

Councilman Lupino stated that we have an Acting Director of Public Works and a City Engineer and neither are present this evening. It is not fair to these people to have them wait another month.

Councilman Lanni stated that because we do not have a Director of Public Works, does not mean we have to stop City business.

Councilman Lanni motioned to approve the above request for pole location and request for street light design. Chairwoman Bucci seconded the motion. Councilman Barone opposed and Council President Garabedian was not present for vote. Motion failed.

Councilman Lanni motioned to reconsider his original motion. Chairwoman Bucci seconded the motion. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Council Member Bucci, Councilman Lanni and Council President Garabedian -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Barone -1.

On motion by Councilman Lanni, seconded by Chairwoman Bucci, it was voted to approve the above two items. Motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Council Member Bucci, Councilman Lanni and Council President Garabedian -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Barone -1.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees