

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

JANUARY 9, 2012

The Committee on Public Works meets this day at 5:30 o'clock P.M., in Committee Room "A", Department of City Clerk, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Terrance M. Hassett, Vice-Chairman Wilbur W. Jennings, Councilman Michael J. Correia and Council President Michael A. Solomon – 4.

ABSENT: Councilman John J. Igliazzi – 1.

Also present are Lincoln Lennon, Senior Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department; Councilwoman Sabina Matos; Paul Thomas, Director, Department of Public Works; Bill Bombard, Traffic Engineer, Public Works; Nate D. Urso, PE, PTOE, Deputy City Engineer, Department of Public Works; Matthew Jerzyk, Director of Government Relations & Senior Counsel to the Mayor, Mayor's Office; Raymond Dettore, Jr.; Jamie Zoglio; Sheri A. Petronio, Assistant Clerk and Anna M. Stetson, City Clerk.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CAUSE THE REPAIR TO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ROADWAY ON CASE LANE.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CAUSE THE REPAIR OF BEL AIR DRIVE FROM HERSCHEL STREET TO THE DEAD END PORTION OF BEL AIR DRIVE.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE REPLACEMENT OF ALL FADED "NO PARKING ANYTIME" SIGNS ALONG COVELL STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE REPLACEMENT OF ALL FADED "HANDICAP PARKING" SIGNS LOCATED IN THE PARKING LOT OF PLEASANT VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A “NO PARKING ANYTIME” SIGN IN FRONT OF 12 GLOSSOP STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CAUSE THE REPAIR TO THE SIDEWALK LOCATED AT 13 PILSUDSKI STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A “DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY” SIGN IN FRONT OF 215 LEAH STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE “NO PARKING” SIGN LOCATED IN FRONT OF 219 LEAH STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE FORESTRY DIVISION OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT TO CAUSE THE REMOVAL OF THE TREE STUMP LOCATED IN FRONT OF 219 LEAH STREET.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE “YIELD” SIGN WITH A “STOP” SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHALKSTONE AVENUE AND MANTON AVENUE.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: If there is no objection can I have a motion to dispense with the reading of items three through twelve.

COUNCILMAN CORREIA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Second.

On motion of Councilman Correia, Seconded by Vice-Chairman Jennings, it is voted to dispense with the reading of items three through twelve.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those opposed. The “Ayes” have it.

Motion Carries.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: If there is no objection can I have a motion to approve items three through twelve.

COUNCILMAN CORREIA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Second.

On motion of Councilman Correia, Seconded by Vice-Chairman Jennings, it is voted to approve the foregoing matters.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those opposed. The “Ayes” have it.

Motion Carries.

**PETITION FROM CHALKSTONE AUTOMOTIVE UNLIMITED,
224 CHALKSTONE AVENUE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
02908, REQUESTING TO ABANDON THE GANGWAY LOCATED
BETWEEN CHALKSTONE AVENUE AND LOPEZ STREET
(LOCATED ALONG PROPERTY LINE OF CHALKSTONE
AUTOMOTIVE)**

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: There are no city objections. It’s a gangway. I’m familiar with it. It’s over by the Foxy Lady and a number of automotive places. We restructured the road system over there in order to accommodate better commercial interaction because a lot of people work there. This is a street that’s between two properties and it could be better used by those paying taxes and actually employing people and providing services to the community, city and to the state. There are no city objections. It is set for a Public Hearing, which we’re going to try to expedite so that Ray Dettore, who is representing the petitioner, at the appropriate time – the price of it according to Andolfo and our own City Assessor is \$4,500.00 at \$3.75 a square. It seems like a reasonable price and a more beneficial use for the commercial entities that have agreed to assume it.

MR. DETTORE: What they plan to do, as you’re aware, if you look at it, it’s a strip of land about twelve feet wide between property that they own on this side and property they own on that side. What they will do when they acquire it is probably merge it with one of the lots and that should increase the value of the lot to a certain extent. It will also probably increase some tax revenue in the future.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: There is Janik Auto Body down there. They’re great constituent services. Their families do live in the area and they’ve always been great participants in community operations. They have expanded the

business to the extent that it's beneficial to everyone and they do pay a decent amount of taxes. I don't see where there is a fault in terms of this being a danger to anyone.

MR. DETTORE: It really is of no use to anybody except for these people.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: We have to set-up a Public Hearing first. If we can expedite this, Madame Clerk, because you're going to be away February 21st you said.

MR. DETTORE: What I talked to the Clerk about was perhaps she can put it on for the 21st of February, because the time constraints with the Journal they wouldn't be able to do it before I go away, but I will be back a week before the 21st.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: We will aggressively pursue that for you Raymond. That won't be a problem.

MR. DETTORE: I will talk to the Clerk tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Okay, no problem. Motion to continue until a Public Hearing is set.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Motion to continue.

COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Second.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Jennings, Seconded by Councilman Correia, it is voted to continue the foregoing resolution until a Public Hearing is set.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those opposed. The "Ayes" have it.

Motion Carries.

COMMUNICATION FROM NATE D. URSO, DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SUBMITTING THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: One important thing to this agreement so that the committee knows and the public knows, is that any agreement, service contract and so forth has to be submitted by the Mayor to the City Council for proper ratification. It shows the balance of the authority in the government and the participation from both sides, which I find to be enduring and it's one of the things that we should do and it's been included in a lot the agreements. Nate, do you want to just give us a quick overview.

MR. URSO: This is basically a construction and maintenance agreement. It also deals a little bit of what the funding source is from the federal highway end of it. In this case, the city is managing the construction. It outlines the funding and it basically says that the city once it's built will maintain it per federal guidelines and so forth.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: They picked all the right streets. Those streets do need serious infrastructure there is no question about that.

MR. URSO: They're changing a two-way tomorrow morning so just be aware.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: That's right, the 10th Weybosset changes.

MR. URSO: Weybosset and Empire.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: That changed in the 1970s, didn't it?

VICE-CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: These guys are going out 5:00 o'clock in the morning to change the signs?

MR. URSO: Well, the last thing is signing and stripping the double yellow.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Actually to drive down now it feels like it's going to be a two-way. It's wide open and clearer. That will actually improve the transportation in the city to because if you hit the wrong left you have to go all the way around and grab a one-way. I don't mean to discredit Pawtucket, but sometimes I fear going into Pawtucket because if you hit the wrong left, unless your GPS has some kind of miracle meter on it your going around and around. I got stuck there once and it wasn't fun. I read the agreement in its totality and it

seems to be in the proper form. It covers all the areas, it's very explanatory and one thing as I mentioned before is it does require Council approval for ratification of any agreements, which always leaves us at a point of participating and perhaps perfecting or making corrections that would be necessary. So, I find that to be cooperative and it's the proper way to do it. Any discussion on it? Motion to approve.

VICE-CHAIRMEN JENNINGS: So moved.

COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Second.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Jennings, Seconded by Councilman Correia, it is voted to approve the foregoing resolution.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those opposed. The "Ayes" have it.

Motion Carries.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A "ONE-WAY DURING SCHOOL HOURS" SIGN ON CLARENCE STREET FROM WEBSTER AVENUE TO TERRACE AVENUE.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO CAUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A "ONE-WAY DURING SCHOOL HOURS" SIGN ON STERLING AVENUE FROM TERRACE AVENUE TO WEBSTER AVENUE.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Councilwoman Matos, did you want to say something about thirteen specifically.

COUNCILWOMAN MATOS: Yes, the problem with thirteen and fourteen – and also fourteen, which are related, we are having a lot of issues with the parents when they go to drop off the students for school. So, we were thinking about what is the solution for this problem and we thought about making it a one-way. There are other schools already where they made it one-way only during school hours.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Robert F. Kennedy is one, George J. West is another.

COUNCILWOMAN MATOS: So, I would like to give the opportunity to a constituent if that is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, to express here opinion.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Just come forward and state your name for the record.

MS. ZOGLIO: Jamie Zoglio. I have a letter from the principal from Webster Avenue School just expressing her concerns.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: We can enter that into the record.

MS. ZOGLIO: There are a lot of people parking left tires to the curb as they come off of Terrace onto Clarence to drop off their children, pick-up their children. They end up facing each other head on, driving on the wrong side of the street, who's blasting the horn at who, who wants to become a little violent, who wants to own the road. There is absolutely no control there. Twice we had to place phone calls to the police officers and they asked where the crossing guards are. Why aren't they controlling the traffic? If it's a one-way just going up it kind of unclogs a lot of the traffic entering onto Webster Avenue and leaves room on Sterling for the busses.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: There is more uniformity to it. It's a predictable way of entering into the school zone and leaving the school zone. I had this done at Nathanel Green School, which I live right behind it. We actually took the space on Oakland Avenue, which is a wide area and cut in without reducing trees. The trees were saved. You can stake fifteen cars. Now parents pull in, let the child out and then re-enter traffic verses kids jumping out in the middle of traffic with two lanes going down. It was a safety issue that's why we resolved it. If you believe that this is the way to actually resolve and to prevent some kind of common hazardous condition for children, parents and everyone else then that's a good thing.

MS. ZOGLIO: This morning they came and posted a one-way sign. I'm not sure if you're aware of that, but the sign is about his big. I mean, of course, people need time to get use to it, but everyone is still coming and when the crossing guard says something they argue with her so she just keeps here mouth shut and tries not to take control of that.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Why are the signs so small Mr. Bombard?

MR. BOMBARD: I will have to check and see what size the work order was for. Obviously, if the sign is not big enough we will have change it.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: The reason is it's because it's a complicated change and it has to be done in a nice phase in with prominent signs that there is no question that there is a change in the structure in terms of how the traffic flow is. You may want to work with our city guys.

MS. ZOGLIO: Okay.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Perhaps you have a pronounced way of saying a sign this big would probably be beneficial.

MS. ZOGLIO: Well, I think it needs to start with the police officers taking more control over whose breaking the law with the double parking and the left tires to the curb.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Okay. If you want to put something together we can do that as a formal request from the committee, to do it nicely because what you're doing is you're looking out for the safety of parents and teachers. So, let's make sure that the introduction is not so hazardous that you're defeating the purpose in the beginning we're we could actually be jeopardizing people's safety and we don't want to do that. I think it's an excellent idea and congratulations to you for doing it.

MS. ZOGLIO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: Any discussion by the committee? Okay, motion to approve items thirteen and fourteen.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Motion to approve.

COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Second.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Jennings, Seconded by Councilman Correia, it is voted to approve the foregoing matters.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HASSETT: All those opposed. The "Ayes" have it.

Motion Carries.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Vice-Chairman Jennings, Seconded by Councilman Correia, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 o'clock P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. M. Jett", written in a cursive style.

City Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheri A. Petronio", written in a cursive style.

Assistant Clerk