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October 15, 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works convened on October 15, 2008, with Chairman John Connolly presiding and Committee Member Alderman Bruce Desmond also present and voting. Also present were Administrative Assistant Jesse Baker, Assistant City Solicitor David Shapiro, Commissioner Stan Koty and Steve McEachern from the DPW and Tony Adams from NextG.

**NextG:**

Mr. Adams told the members that NextG submitted a progress report on October 14<sup>th</sup> and stated that conduit crossing were installed at Somerville Avenue and Granite Street, at Somerville Avenue and Craigie Street and on Sycamore Street. Mr. Adams also discussed changes to the original plan necessitated by the Assembly square project. At the present time, there is one crew working in the city.

Alderman Desmond informed Mr. Adams that parking in the city is at a premium, so that when NO PARKING signs are posted and the work doesn't begin, neighbors get upset. Chairman Connolly suggested that NextG send a letter of apology to the residents impacted by the error and also requested that NextG assign a point person to deal with issues that arise during the project.

Commissioner Koty informed the members that NextG has a history of inadequacies and he discussed various mistakes made by NextG's contractors. Mr. McEachern stated that the contractors do not have the proper equipment, and as a result, have made a mess of some of the streets. Mr. McEachern also cited instances where NextG's equipment was installed in a negligent manner. Contractors have also been found to be blocking bus stops and crosswalks on Somerville Avenue. Commissioner Koty stated that these concerns have been made known to NextG representatives.

Chairman Connolly suggested that no action be taken by the DPW on NextG's permits until a point person is designated to deal with problems and until a meeting is held to deal with compliance issues.

Alderman Desmond's motion *that no permits be issued to NextG and no further action or work by NextG be performed until a meeting is held between the DPW Commissioner and representatives of NextG and its contractors and subcontractors, to address the city's concerns*, was approved.

**Trees:**

The committee discussed the city's policy regarding damage to homes caused by public trees and Chairman Connolly introduced correspondence from 1994 and 2000 to demonstrate that this problem has existed for some time.

Commissioner Koty stated that the recently proposed tree ordinance was prompted by a resident who has to have his drain cleaned every 6 months because of tree roots repeatedly creating blockages. The resident asked that the offending public tree be removed and there were no objections at the public hearing, however, someone filed an appeal and the tree was not removed. Commissioner Koty explained the problems and expenses that residents may face in such a circumstance.

Chairman Connolly requested that Commissioner Koty and Solicitor Shapiro prepare a legal opinion on the city's current policy regarding the Sewer Department's role in this matter and report back to the Committee prior to October 23, 2008.

No papers were acted on.

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Alderman John M. Connolly, Chairman  
Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and  
Public Works, October 15, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk