

*(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).*

## **ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Paul H. Archetto, Chair  
Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee, Vice-Chair  
Councilman Mario Aceto  
Councilman Steven A. Stycos  
Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.  
Council Vice-President Michael J Farina  
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Ron Ronzio, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Orientation/Presentation by Peter Lapolla, Planning Director and Stephen Marsella, Asst. City Solicitor  
Zoning matters  
Comprehensive Plan and Land Use  
Planning Commission

**Peter Lapolla**, City Planner, appeared to give a presentation. He stated that the Planning Commission is governed by Charter and by State Law and Zoning and Subdivision regulations.

**Councilman Aceto** asked why the Planning Commission at times forwards items to the City Council or Committee with no recommendation and he asked if there is any way that they be required to give a positive or negative recommendation. Mr. Lapolla stated that all matters require a majority of the Planning Commission. They are an independent body. If they can't get votes to approve or pass an item, then there is no recommendation. In some cases, instead of giving a recommendation of denial, they send a no recommendation. Councilman Aceto asked if this is similar in other municipalities. Mr. Lapolla stated, yes. Councilman Aceto questioned if this is really productive. Mr. Lapolla stated that in most cases, there is a recommendation. The only case he can think of that there was no recommendation, was the Stop and Shop project. In Zoning cases, there is always a recommendation in favorable or unfavorable.

**Councilman Aceto** asked Mr. Lapolla what the City Council can do to help the planning experience and expediting for the taxpayer. Mr. Lapolla stated that there is a process that is followed and he feels the process works fairly well.

**Councilman Aceto** asked if the State has approved the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Lapolla stated that it has been formally accepted.

**Chair** asked that the following item be added to next month's agenda: "Discussion to brainstorm ways to address the rat problems in the City".

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees