

(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, May 16, 2013 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 Paul H. Archetto, Chair
Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee, Vice-Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto (arrived at 6:20 P.M.)
Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Vice-President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
Michael Glucksman, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Finance Director
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Stycos, 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. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair stated that Council Vice-President Farina will not be attending this evening's meeting due to a death in the family.

OLD BUSINESS:

2-13-01 Ordinance in amendment of Title 5, of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Business Licenses and Regulations” (Yard Sales). (Cont. from 4/11/2013).
[\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Chairman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Chair stated that Mr. Quinlan was to amend line #27 from “twelve yard sales” to “six yards ales per year” and enforcement would be a registration fee of \$10 either by the Police Department or the City Clerk. The Ordinance before the Committee has not bee amended. City Clerk stated that she has not received any revised copy from Mr. Quinlan. The Committee would have to amend this Ordinance this evening.

Councilman Botts asked if this issue is such a big problem that we need to put this burden on the home owners.

Councilman Santamaria stated that there should be no charge. To charge our taxpayers another fee is not fair to them.

Chair stated that this is not to get another charge from people, it is due to signs and debris after a yard sale, such as signs on poles. This causes City workers to have to go out and remove those signs from poles.

Council President Lanni stated that yard sales is part of the City. Almost every home has yard sales. There are people who buy items at flea markets and have yard sales as a business, those are the people we should be looking at having to register and pay a fee. Enforcement is another problem. The City employees taking the signs down are doing it on their own. The poles belong to National Grid.

Chair stated that he is not opposed to not charging for the yard sale. It is not the fee that he is worried about. It is the litter and the congestion in the neighborhoods that yard sales bring, especially with people that have yard sales every weekend.

Councilman Stycos agreed with Councilman Santamaria, although, he is also concerned about the litter and debris from yard sales. He recommended amending this Ordinance reducing the number of yard sales from “six” to “two” a year.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #27 amend “six” back to “two” per year. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked if the Administration has received any complaints regarding yard sales. Mr. Lopez stated that in the four years he has been employed by the City, there have been no complaints regarding yard sales.

Councilman Santamaria indicated to Section “H” of the Ordinance and stated that instead of the Police monitoring the yard sales, it should be Building Inspections.

Chair stated the following concerns: since yard sales occur mostly on weekends, the Inspections Office is closed. Also, the intent of this Ordinance was to have the operator of the yard sales register with the Police Department.

Council President Lanni stated that in his eleven years on the City Council, he never received a complaint from a constituent on yard sales and the Administration has not received any complaints. He questioned why we are trying to regulate this.

Councilman Aceto stated that he and other Council members can take a ride through the City on a Saturday to see if there is a problem with yard sales.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Chairman Archetto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

3-13-1 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 32 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Ashley and Hazelton). (Cont. 4/11/2013).
[\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Chairman Archetto, it was voted to deny this Ordinance based on recommendation of the Traffic Engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Patrick Doherty, Esq. appeared to represent applicant of 166 Cannon St. Zone Change application. He asked that the Council approve this Zone Change.

4-13-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8, Chapter 32 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Health and Safety" (Emergency Management Commission). [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Chairman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni stated that currently, we have one Emergency Management person. This Ordinance would create nine.

Chair, sponsor of this Ordinance, stated that this Ordinance would have every Council member serve on this Commission. This was due to the last blizzard and Councilman Aceto, the Emergency Management person, was out of town.

Council President Lanni stated that maybe we need an Alternate member incase the Emergency Management person is out of town or having a member from the Eastern side of the City and a member from the Western side of the City, but having nine members is an overkill.

Councilman Aceto stated that his concern is there is no protocol set for the Emergency Management Liaison.

Mr. Lopez stated that the Administration is opposed to this proposal for a variety of reasons. Under the Charter, the Mayor is the Public Safety Commissioner.

Councilman Botts stated that he would be in favor of adding an Alternate as Emergency Management Liaison if that person is out of town.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is an emergency protocol that the City has. Mr. Cordy stated that the Emergency Management Command Center the City has is very impressive and he invited anyone who would like to visit the Command Center to do so.

Chair stated that he would be in favor of continuing this Ordinance for further discussion.

Council President Lanni stated that the system has been tweaked. He is not opposed to continuing this Ordinance for further discussion.

Councilman Aceto suggested maybe having a disaster hotline for constituents to call for information during an emergency. Mr. Lopez stated that we already have established hotlines during storms anytime there is a disaster or storm, we use social media, radio and TV to notify the public. The system in place has worked as best as possible. The Administration will be happy to work with the City Council on improving the communication.

Chair withdrew this Ordinance and stated that he will have another Ordinance drafted to include suggestions made this evening.

4-13-5 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (166 Cannon St.). [[click to view](#)]

Per Council Rules, this Ordinance is before the Committee for information only and no vote will be taken on the above Ordinance and will be referred to the full City Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees