

*(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, February 13, 2014, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Majority Leader 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: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.  
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio  
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration  
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff  
Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Robert Strom, Finance Director  
Salvatore Saccoccio, City Assessor  
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee  
Heather Finger, 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 last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

**Chairman Archetto response to: Mayor's Response to Resolution 2014-2 Requesting the RI State Police Investigate the Alleged Cranston Ticketing Scandal** [[click to view Mayor's Response](#)]

**Chair** criticized the Mayor's response to this Resolution.

**Chairman Archetto: Munroe Farms**

**Chair** stated that approximately three years ago, the City Council passed a Resolution for Open Space for this property. He asked that for the next Ordinance Committee meeting, he would like the following information:

- What has been done in the past three years
- Overall objective for that property
- What the plans are for this property

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**8-13-08 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Zoning” (Change of Zone – East side of Power Road).** Petition by Crown Holdings II, LLC. (Cont. 10/17/2013 & 11/14/2013, 12/5/2013 and 1/16/2014 at request of applicant). [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

**Mr. Cordy** asked that this be tabled.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to continued this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**1-14-04 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 32 and Chapter 24 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic” (Jordan Ave. and Flint Ave.).** [\[click to view\]](#) [\[click to view Traffic Report\]](#)

Councilman Botts motioned to recommend approval. All members of the Committee seconded the motion.

Under Discussion:

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the Traffic Engineer’s Report was provided and recommends passage.

**Councilman Aceto** referred to Traffic Engineer’s Report and asked if the Traffic Engineer’s position has been filled or did someone else draft the report. Mr. Cordy stated that this position has been overhauled and refined and it is a part-time position.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution proposing amendment to Section 3.19 of the Cranston Home Rule Charter and directing the Secretary of State to place on the ballot the following Referendum question (Non-Interference in Administrative matters). [\[click to view\]](#)**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

**Council Majority Leader** stated that part of the Charter is currently unconstitutional. This is too draconian.

**Councilman Aceto** stated that he is confused because in the four years he has been in Office, every time he has always asked departments questions, they have always cooperated.

**Council Majority Leader Archetto** asked who has power to remove a Council member from Office. He questioned Steven Carrera, who served as a member of the past Charter Review Commission to address this question.

**Steven Carrera** stated, the majority of the Council can remove a Council member.

**Mr. Lopez** stated that the reason why all the questions and requests for information needs to go through the Administration is the Administration needs to know what is happening with the Directors, if not, there could be nine Council members making the same requests to the same Directors and this would cause chaos. This protocol is a much more efficient way to run the City.

**Council Minority Leader Favicchio** stated that he does not think we really need a Charter change at this point. It really does not send the right message.

**Council President Lanni** stated that the next election, there are going to be a lot of Referendum Questions that are important to the taxpayers of the City and he does not think this is important to the taxpayers of the City.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion failed on a vote of 3-4. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Council Majority Leader Archetto, Councilwoman Lee and Councilman Stycos -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Botts, Aceto, Council Vice-President Farina and Council President Lanni -4

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees