

(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 15, 2014, 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: 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 President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Vice-President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Finance Director
Anthony Moretti, City Council Internal Auditor
Peter Lapolla, City Planner
Captain Stephen Barry, Acting Police Colonel
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Lapolla appeared to speak regarding “Resolution proposing amendment to Section 13.01 of the Cranston Home Rule Charter and directing the Secretary of State to place on the ballot the following as a Referendum Question. (City Planning Commission Composition)” and stated that the current composition is working well.

4-14-1 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” (Overnight Parking Permits). [\[click to view\]](#)

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto stated that he made a motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance for the purpose of discussion, however, this needs to be looked at more. We may need to get the Public Safety, Fire and Traffic Engineer involved to review this because there may be streets in the City where this could not be done. There is also the fee that we need to charge.

Council President Lanni stated that he agrees that more research is needed regarding this as far as looking at streets that have accessibility problems currently and make sure those streets are accessible for emergency vehicles, snow plows, etc.

Councilman Stycos indicated that streets with emergency access problems would have the same parking regulations at night as they have during the day. He asked Captain Barry his opinion regarding this Ordinance.

Captain Barry appeared to speak and stated that there has to be more information gathered to address emergency vehicle access and snow plows.

Council President Lanni suggested an oversight committee be formed from members of the Police Department, Fire Department and Planning Department to work on this Ordinance.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

Councilman Aceto asked what the Administration’s position is regarding this Ordinance.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance for one month.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Cordy stated that it is worth looking into. Typically, the streets that need more parking are typically the most narrow streets. Enforcement also needs to be looked at.

Councilman Aceto stated that the intention would be to have Municipal Court issue the permits and collect the fees.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance for one month and motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Stycos asked what the next step would be. Councilman Aceto stated that there is a Traffic Safety Commission in the Charter and there is an Ordinance on the books regarding putting together a Traffic Commission, but the Solicitor would have to research this.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this is a little different than a Traffic Commission issue. He recommended a committee be formed and have it make a recommendation to the City Council.

4-14-2 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” (Penalty for Overnight Parking). [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto stated that proposed amendment of \$25 is a more reasonable fine.

City Clerk indicated that there is a scrivener’s error on line #26 , where it should state “7 A.M.” rather than “P.M.”

On motion by Council Majority Leader Archetto, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, it was voted to amend line #26 to “7 A.M.” Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Majority Leader Archetto, seconded by Councilwoman Line, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution to Hire a New Cranston Chief of Police From Outside the Department. [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni stated that for years and years, the City of Cranston has always promoted from within and there has always been dissention in the department. We need an outside person who will do what is best for the Police Department and not for the individual. He commended Captain Barry for the good work he has been doing as Acting Colonel and the moral in the Police Department has been very high.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is anything in the Police Contract that prohibits hiring from outside. Mr. Cordy stated that on the advice of the labor attorney, there is no conflict in the Police Contract.

Councilman Botts asked for Captain Barry’s opinion regarding this Resolution.

Captain Barry stated that he feels this is a good viable solution to open up application to the outside.

Councilwoman Lee asked if there are any applications filed yet and what the timing is for hiring someone. Mr. Cordy stated that an advertisement has been placed for the position with criterias. Deadline to apply was originally scheduled for today, 5/15/2014, but since that, an addendum to the application was sent out and the application deadline has been extended to 5/30/2014. Worst case scenario, we will have a new Police Colonel sometime in September.

Councilwoman Lee asked Captain Barry if he will be able to stay on until the new Colonel is hired. Captain Barry stated, yes, he thinks there has to be a transitional period.

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

Resolution proposing amendment to Section 13.01 of the Cranston Home Rule Charter and directing the Secretary of State to place on the ballot the following as a Referendum Question. (City Planning Commission Composition) [\[click to view\]](#)

Councilman Aceto motioned to recommend approval of this Resolution. Council Majority Leader Archetto seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto stated that this Commission is supposed to be an independent Commission. He questioned how it can be an independent Commission when all the appointments are made by the Mayor. His reason for this amendment is so each Ward would have a voice by the City.

Council President Lanni asked if there are any other committees that the Council does not have at least one appointment besides this committee. Mr. Cordy stated that he would have to research this.

Councilman Stycos stated that he thinks this is overloading the committee having a representative from each Ward.

Councilman Aceto stated that if there are changes the Council members would like to make to this Resolution, he is open to that.

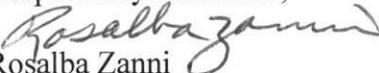
Council President Lanni stated that this has merit. Even if the person was just an observer on the committee and report back to the Council.

Councilman Botts stated that if the concern is the Council does not know what is going on, maybe we can require that the minutes of their meetings be filed online as soon as possible.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to continue this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees