

(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, July 16, 2015, 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 Vice-Chair.

Present: Council Majority Leader Archetto, Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto, Vice-Chair
Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Michael J Farina
Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman Christopher Paplauskas
Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
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 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:

4-15-02 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Ch. 32 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Stop, Park Ave. westbound at Gansett Ave.). Sponsored by Councilman Archetto. Cont. 5/14/2015).

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

Under Discussion:

Mr. Coupe stated that he believes the Ordinance should read “heading north at the intersection of Park Ave.”, but in the meantime, the City has replaced yield signs to make them more visible and will be striping the pavement to make them more visible to the traffic. He recommended that he would be against placing a stop sign at this location because this could cause accident because of the traffic light.

No one appeared to oppose.

Council Majority Leader Archetto suggested continuing this Ordinance and have Mr. Quinlan review this.

On motion by Council Majority Leader Archetto, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that if after a year, there are no accidents at this location, this stop sign would not be needed.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

6-15-01 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8.28 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Property Maintenance Standards” (Stagnant Water Accumulation Prohibited). Sponsored by Councilman Paplauskas.
[\[click to view\]](#) [\[click to view DEM Correspondence\]](#)

Resident of Madison Ave., appeared to speak and stated that there is a pool on 50 Glenham Rd. which has not been used for the past two years. It is full of water and dirty. She contacted the City and was told there was nothing they could do. She contacted the Department of Health and they referred her back to the City. She recently contacted Councilman Paplauskas and she heard from Mr. Barone, the Mayor’s Constituent Affairs Director, and was told the property owner was cited.

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Paplauskas stated that he contacted Mr. Pikul, the Building Official, and was advised that there is nothing in the Code for the City to enforce this. He spoke to DEM and was advised that the City of Warwick has an Ordinance on the books regarding this issue. He took that Ordinance and made it fit Cranston. The Building Official is in favor of this Ordinance. This Ordinance would give the Building Official a tool to go out to the property owners and cite them.

Councilman Aceto questioned how the City is going to enforce this. Mr. Coupe stated that the City will be advised of the issues and the Inspector will cite them.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that even though he is not a member of this Committee, he would like an amendment made to this Ordinance to address foreclosed and abandoned properties. He would like language added that would allow the City to put a lien on the property. Councilman Paplauskas stated that this is addressed in the last paragraph of the Ordinance.

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that his concern is fresh water for animals or for farms.

Councilman Farina stated that he does not view fresh water as stagnant water. Councilman Paplauskas stated that the Ordinance addressed this issue on lines 52 and 76.

Council President Lanni stated that maybe the Ordinance should be more clear on swimming pools, ponds on private property or anything that would attract stagnant water or mosquitos.

Councilman Aceto questioned retention ponds that are on City properties. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that in reading the Ordinance as drafted, retention ponds would have to be approved by DEM.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #64, after "mosquito larvae", add a new sentence as follows: "Rain barrels and other rain collection systems shall not be defined as stagnant if they have mosquito larvae control." Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #64, after the above sentence, add "Water utilized for active agrarian purposes is also exempt from this Ordinance". Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees