

(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, September 14, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Solicitor Rawson stated that former Solicitor J. Patrick O'Neill was appointed Magistrate Judge in District Court and John Verdecchia will be replacing him as Assistant Solicitor and will be attending the Committee meetings. He also stated that Attorney Verdecchia is an attorney in Rhode Island and offices in the Calart Tower and has done work in Johnston and also at the State. Attorney Verdecchia appeared to speak and stated that he is looking forward to this experience and if any Council members need anything, he has given his contact information to the Clerk and is looking forward to working with this City Council and the City.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

John Lanni, Council Member City-Wide, 111 Woodview Dr., appeared to speak regarding “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and stated that this Committee tabled it once and could not get a second to the motion to discuss it at the last meeting. He is present again this evening to discuss this Resolution. He stated that over twenty School Committees have sent Resolutions to the General Assembly making this request. He also stated that the Rhode Island Association of Police Chiefs, Rhode Island State Police and Rhode Island Council of Churches are all in favor of not allowing guns in schools. Chief Winqvist is against allowing people who carry a gun lawfully on school grounds. He asked the Committee to debate this and lets not use stalling tactics anymore and please reconsider.

Councilman McAuley appeared to speak and asked that “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” be passed.

Councilman Stycos, co-sponsor, appeared to speak regarding “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and agreed on the points made by Councilman Lanni. He stated that what is upsetting to him is the Committee’s refusal to discuss this Resolution. He urged the Committee to debate this and take the vote that is best and vote in favor of this Resolution.

Tom Wojick, 11 Hall Place, appeared to speak regarding “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and stated that to squash the peoples’ ability to state their opinions, he has a very difficult time with that. He hopes the Committee has the courage to discuss this and allow the people to discuss it.

Nari Jermain appeared to speak regarding “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and urged the Committee to support this legislation.

Gretchen Bath, 5 Mather Ave., appeared to speak regarding “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and asked that the Committee move on and have hearings and be accountable for their votes.

Robert Santurri, Jr., 30 Egan Rd., appeared to speak in favor of “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and stated that he can guarantee that if there is no vote or discussion on this this evening, that there will be more people in these Chambers each and every single time until a vote is taken. He is present this evening to ask that there be a debate on this. This is a very important issue. He asked that the Committee listen to the people of Cranston and hold a vote.

Susan Friendson, 9 Oakland Ave., appeared to speak in favor of “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School” and stated that she is also very concerned that there is a gun and ammo shop across the street from an elementary school on Pontiac Ave.

Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in School. Sponsored by Councilman Lanni. Referred to Ordinance Committee 9/14/2017.

Councilman Archetto motioned to recommend approval of this Resolution. No one seconded the motion.

Councilman Archetto questioned if this is considered failed or would it have to be re-introduced. Council President Farina stated that it was not taken up by the body. The sponsor can re-introduce it if he wishes.

Update from Administration regarding Governor Sprague Mansion Cannons. (Councilman Archetto).

Councilman Archetto read a letter regarding this issue. He stated that he received a call from the Director of Administration and for the next Council meeting, she would have an update as to the status of the cannons and any communication she receives from the National Guard.

Council President Farina asked that this item be placed on the Council Docket for the next Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees