

(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, October 12, 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 Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Council President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Deputy Chief, Stephen MacIntosh, Fire Department
Evan Kirshenbaum, City Council Legal Counsel
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, 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:

Frank Saccoccio appeared to oppose “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and stated that there has been a law in place keeping private security force on school property since 1990. We have not had a single incident or infraction since 1990. That 1990 law takes the exception out except for concealed carry holders. This Resolution asking for the Bill to be passed will make them felons just by going on school grounds even though they are licensed by the Attorney General and your own Police Department. This Resolution does not work and does not enhance the safety of our children and our school teachers.

Deputy Chief MacIntosh appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 9-17-04 and stated that he has numerous counterpoints to this Ordinance, such as the changes in the Ordinance contradicts current Ordinance; it also violates the Fire Code. He also questioned if this Ordinance would prohibit a ring of boulders in the backyard and burning that. This Ordinance does not address that; how can the diameters regulations be enforced? Construction debris is not addressed. He also stated that there should be a provision in the Ordinance banning use of fire in certain weather conditions and if there were such a provision, how would we make people aware that they can't burn due to the weather? This Ordinance, if passed, would ban outdoor cooking. He indicated to the Committee that the Fire Department and the Administration is opposed to this Ordinance.

Councilman Archetto appeared to speak regarding "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that this is just asking the General Assembly to pass legislation. This is already putting people in danger and he cannot support this Resolution.

Councilman Stycos appeared to speak regarding "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that Councilman Lanni, the sponsor, is on vacation in Florida and he was asked to ask the Committee to continue this until the next meeting when he will be present.

Council President Farina appeared to speak regarding "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that this is the seventh time this Resolution has come before this body. There is no General Assembly in session. The first time, the General Assembly was in session and this Resolution was debated and tabled. Councilman Lanni is using this Resolution for nothing more than political game. As Council President, he will not allow a Council member to play political games.

9-17-04 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Health and Safety" Fire Prevention Code (Fire Pits). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

Councilman Archetto motioned to recommend approval of this Ordinance for debate. No one seconded the motion.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to deny this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that based on the Fire Marshall's concerns, he urged denial of this Ordinance. If the Fire Department would like to work with the sponsor to redraft an Ordinance that everyone is in agreement with, that would be fine.

Councilman Stycos stated that this proposal comes because he has a constituent who has asthma problem in Edgewood and someone is burning very close to her property line near her window. He also stated that the neighbor is throwing a grill on a fire pit and outdoor cooking is not regulated. He asked Mr. Kirshenbaum to draft this Ordinance because of this. He is open to amending this Ordinance.

Mr. Kirshenbaum stated that he drafted this Ordinance after reviewing the NFPA Fire Code and after reading a headline in the paper stating that a "RI woman dies after falling into a fire pit".

Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that he has photos of Councilman Stycos's constituent regarding the fire pit and it is not a fire pit that someone put a grid on. It is a professional fire pit.

Councilman Archetto stated that the intent is well meant and he suggested Councilman Stycos meet with the Fire Department to come up with amendments.

Councilman Stycos suggested that Deputy Chief MacIntosh and Mr. Kirshenbaum meet and discuss this.

Council President Farina suggested that Councilman Stycos withdraw this Ordinance due to Robert's Rules and redraft the Ordinance and bring it back to the Committee. Councilman Stycos asked Deputy Chief MacIntosh if he would be willing to meet with Mr. Kirshenbaum and himself. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that both the Fire Chief and the Administration do not feel the need to change this. They are satisfied with the existing Ordinance.

Councilman Stycos withdrew this Ordinance.

9-17-05 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10, Chapter 32.040 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Tucker Ave. – No Parking On Certain Streets – Generally). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos appeared to speak regarding this Ordinance. No one appeared to oppose.

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

Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school. Sponsored by Councilman Lanni.

Councilman Archetto motioned to continue this Resolution. No one seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees