

(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, December 7, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
Councilman Paul H. Archetto

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works
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 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:

Resolution that Pawtucket Red Sox Consider the City of Cranston For Their New Stadium. Sponsored by Councilman Archetto. Tabled 11/16/2017.

Chair stated that since Councilman Archetto, sponsor of this Resolution, is not present this evening, this Resolution will be continued.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Deputy Chief MacIntosh appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 11-17-03 and stated that after the last meeting, he, Councilman Stycos and Attorney Kirshenbaum met and a re-drafted Ordinance was proposed. He stated that the new version, which is before the Committee this evening, subsequently, he has further amendments. He presented copies of further proposed amendments and stated that these changes have been discussed with the attorney and this is his language. He stated that he can live with them, but has no interest in making any amendments to this Ordinance as it is on the books. He also stated that he has been told that these changes do not require re-advertising of this Ordinance.

Suzanne Arena, 88 Lakeland Rd., appeared to speak in favor of proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning "Bump Stocks" and "Trigger Cranks" and proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that there are already 43 states that have this law and our own School Committee has passed this. She does not understand what the hesitation is.

Mike O'Neill, Vice-President of RI Second Amendment Coalition, appeared to speak regarding proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning "Bump Stocks" and "Trigger Cranks" and indicated that bump stocks is already illegal in Rhode Island and there are not 43 states that have this law, it is actually a lower number.

Debbie Flitman, 51 Lindsey Lane, appeared to speak regarding proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated to the Committee members that they need to listen to their constituents and vote in favor of this Resolution.

Robert Santurri, Jr., 30 Egan Rd., appeared to speak regarding proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that this is not just a City issue, it is a State issue. He also stated that this Council debates a lot on State issues. This Resolution is a worthwhile debate to have and the residents deserve that.

George Schretlinger, 171-173 Grant Ave., appeared to speak in favor of proposed "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school" and stated that the Council should take a leadership role in the State on this issue.

Ramsey Davis, 58 Fordson Ave., appeared to speak and stated that there is a Bill passed today by the House and will be going to the Senate, where if someone has a permit to carry, they can go into another State without anyone knowing, which means that someone from out of State can come into our State and into our schools, our sporting events, our assemblies carrying a loaded concealed weapon, without telling anyone.

Tom Wojack, 11 Hall Place, appeared to speak regarding proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and asked that what the Committee should think about is if it doesn’t move to vote on this and something happens in one of our schools, do you want to have that regret that you could have done something? He stated that it is not about guns or about a right, it is about a human life.

John Patrick Donegan appeared to speak in favor of proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and stated that at a minimum, this issue should be debated as a service to the taxpayers.

Paul Rospelli, Mapleville, Rhode Island, appeared to speak and stated that this City Council helped him in passing a Resolution regarding the power plant in Burrillville and he is present this evening to return the favor and asked that the proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” be passed and there are many people who support this Resolution including the people of Burrillville.

Norly Germain, Edgewood resident, appeared to speak in favor of proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and asked that the City Council listen to their constituents and open discussion regarding this.

Aniece Germain appeared to speak in favor of proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and stated that this is about our children and not a partisan thing.

Salvatore Mancini, 226 Flint Ave., appeared to speak regarding proposed “Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school” and stated that the thought that this is being talked about is incredible. People are being murdered and you want to allow guns to come into our schools.

10-17-03 Continued to January 11, 2018 for completion of traffic study Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan of 2010 (Cumberland Farms - Intersection of Park and Warwick Ave.). Sponsored by Council President Farina, Council Vice-President Favicchio and Councilmen Colford and Paplauskas.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

10-17-04 Continued to January 11, 2018 for completion of traffic study Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Zoning” (Change of Zone – Warwick and Park Intersection). Sponsored by Council President Farina, Council Vice President Favicchio and Councilmen Colford and Paplauskas.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

11-17-01 Ordinance in amendment of Title 10 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" "No Parking On Certain Streets – Generally" (Narragansett Blvd. at Hudson, Sefton and Strathmore). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

Councilman Stycos asked for a continuance due to the residents wishes to discuss this first.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

11-17-03 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8.28 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Health and Safety" Fire Prevention Code (Cooking Fires). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

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

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows:

#1, after "owner", add another sentence to read: "Homeowners should make themselves aware of the current fire code (and subsequent amendments which may follow) which states that homeowners shall not have any fire within ten feet of a structure or building"; and after "homeowners", amend "should" to "shall".

Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows:

#4, new Subsection "C", after "at all times", amend "the cooking equipment is in use".

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Stycos suggested amending this Ordinance as follows: #6, new Subsection "D" to read: "Existing permanent cooking structures are allowed to remain if in working condition in 2017" and deleting remainder of the sentence. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that this could create more work for the Inspections Department. He also stated that the Fire Department is not qualified to determine if a structure is not in working condition. That would be the Inspections Department. Councilman Stycos asked that that this amendment be made.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows:

#6, new Subsection "D" to read: "Existing permanent cooking structures are allowed to remain if in working condition in 2017" and deleting remainder of the sentence; and also Subsection 2, amended to "Subsection 'A'", 3 to 'B', 4 to 'C' and 6 to 'D'. Motion passed unanimously.

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

11-17-04 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 6.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Dogs and Other Animals” (Animals Wild/Hybrid). Sponsored by Council Vice-President Favicchio.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning “Bump Stocks” and “Trigger Cranks”. Sponsored by Councilmen Archetto and McAuley.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

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

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to table this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

CITY OF CRANSTON

Ex. # 1 Sub: 12-7-17
Ordinance Comm
By: Debbie Flitman
Re: Res. banning guns in school

From: Debbie Flitman mflitman@cox.net
Subject: Ordinance Committee
Date: December 7, 2017 at 4:50 PM
To: Trent M. Coford Tcoford@teamhamra.com
Cc: john.lanni@yahoo.com

Please consider my email as part of the public record concerning tonight's resolution "Resolution urging the General Assembly to pass legislation banning guns in school. Sponsored by Councilman Lanni."

Hi Trent.

I have taken the liberty of including Councilman Lanni on this email as he is the sponsor of this resolution.

As a Cranston resident, and as a parent to a student currently enrolled in a Cranston public school, and your constituent, I am asking you to support Councilman Lanni's resolution.

My concerns regarding allow CCP weapons on school property are many. The following represents my own opinion based on facts I was able to uncover.

1. RI requirements for CCP do not ensure that applicants are properly/thoroughly trained to engage with the criminal element. This will CERTAINLY put my child (and all Cranston students) in danger. Law enforcement personnel undergo ADDITIONAL training with regard to the use of a weapon in criminal situations. An event that would result in a non-law enforcement CCP holder to open fire a weapon on public school property will undoubtedly set the stage for another law suit against our city.

2. Our State House, airports, post offices, Courthouses, government offices, to name just a few don't allow CCP weapons, and neither should our schools. We elected our SC to oversee all things Cranston Schools, they've done their job - they heard their constituents, and they voted to support such a resolution.

3. The Cranston City Council has the responsibility to be accountable to their constituents AND our elected SC. Many other RI locales have instituted a similar resolution.

4. I stand with my elected School Committee members, the RI Association of School Principals, RI Association of School Committees, the RI League of Cities and Towns, the RI Police Chiefs Association, and my many Cranston neighbors who support this type of resolution.

Along with my husband, Mark Flitman, and my daughter who is also a registered voter - the 3 of us speak on behalf of not only ourselves, but on behalf of my youngest child who attends a Cranston Public School to please vote in favor of this resolution.

Please let the rest of the Ordinance Committee know that you received this email with my request to make this part of the public record.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me immediately.

Thank you in advance for your consideration - and supporting our request to ban CCP holders on school property.

Sincerely,
Debbie Flitman
Mark Flitman
51 Lindsay Lane
Cranston, RI 02921