

(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 13, 2018, in the Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., 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 Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio
Councilman Paul H. Archetto

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Councilman Paul J. McAuley
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
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 Councilman Hopkins, 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:

6-18-01 Public Hearing being Continued to September 13, 2018

6-18-01 Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute a grant of easement for the Narragansett Electric Company. Sponsored by Council President Farina. (Cont. 7/12/2018).

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting at the request of the attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

06-18-06 Public Hearing being continued to August 16, 2018

06-18-06 Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (950 Phenix Avenue - Signage) Petition filed by BCPStor Development LLC. (Cont. 7/12/2018).

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting at the request of the attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Philip Tessier, 15 Kimberly Lane, appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 6-18-06 and stated that he understands that there is a request to continue this Ordinance, but he asked to make some statements in opposition. He addressed the 100' sign proposal and stated that he has visited a few of the Cube Smart's locations and did not see any 100' signs at any of their other locations. He also stated that the size and type of signage is not the type that fits in with the character of the neighborhood.

David Steinbrick, 18 Moorland St., appeared to speak regarding property at 1885 Cranston St. and complained about the Building Inspections Office. He presented photos of what he looks at every day and night and the many complaints he has made. He stated that this has been going on for months and nothing is being done by the Building Inspector nor the Constituents Affairs Department. He spoke to Councilman Stycos regarding this and was advised to attend this evening's meeting.

Council President Farina asked that Director Lopez follow up with Mr. Steinbrick regarding this issue. Director Lopez asked Mr. Steinbrick when the last time was that he spoke to the Constituent Affairs Director. Mr. Steinbrick stated that a few days ago he spoke to Leanne Zarrella regarding garbage issues but not regarding this issue. He called the Mayor's Office a few weeks ago regarding this particular issue, but did not speak to Ms. Zarrella but left a message and has not heard back from her.

8-18-01 Ordinance in amendment of Title 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Administration and Personnel" (Personnel Diversity Hiring). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to refer this Ordinance to the full Council without a recommendation.

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that he would like to hear from the Personnel Director and since Director Parrillo is on vacation this week and is not present, he would like to hear from him Personnel Director and the Administration on how this would be implemented. He stated that Director Lopez is present, but is not sure if he is prepared to speak on this. Director Lopez stated that Director Muksian's feeling is that the Administration is against this Ordinance at this point. There are some issues of how it could be implemented and what the standards would be for the people this would be geared for. This issue could also be covered during an interview process.

Councilman Stycos stated that the last time he introduced this Ordinance, former Director Coupe indicated that the Mayor was in favor of this, but there were issues that needed to be addressed so he withdrew it. Director Lopez stated that he was not aware that this was a continuation from when former Director Coupe was on staff and he asked that it be continued so he can research this further.

Councilman Stycos stated that he supports the motion to forward this Ordinance to the full City Council without a recommendation.

Councilman Hopkins asked if we could look at the School Department and see what procedure they use in their hiring practice.

Council President Farina stated that he would like to hear from the Police and Fire Unions on how they feel this would help in their recruitment. He also asked the Administration if ten days is enough to get all this information together for the next Council meeting. Director Lopez stated that a month or so would be fine.

Chair stated that he would like to hear from the Personnel Director to make sure there is no conflict with any contracts we now have with any of the Unions.

Roll call was taken on motion to forward this Ordinance to the full City Council with no recommendation and motion passed unanimously.

8-18-02 Ordinance in amendment of Title 15.12 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Building Code” (Building Code Violations Electronic Monitoring). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

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

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that his only concern with this Ordinance is when would something become a violation. Solicitor stated that he reviewed past minutes regarding this issue and quoted RIGL 38-2-2(p) and stated that anything leading up to a formal issuance of a violation is not subject to disclosure.

Councilman Stycos asked Solicitor’s opinion if line 29 was to be amended to read: “all notices of Building Code Violations”. Solicitor stated that a better language would be “issuance of all Building Code Violations”. That would take out the investigatory language.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to amend line 29 as follows: change “status” to “issuance”. Motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended and motion passed on a vote of 2-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Hopkins and Council President Farina -2. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Paplauskas -1.

8-18-07 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 10.32 of Title 10 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Harwich Rd. and Chatham Rd. 4 Way Stop). Sponsored by Council President Farina.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance pending a traffic study.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos stated that the Council has passed a few Ordinances without a traffic study. He questioned how the Council would know when the traffic study is done. City Clerk indicated that the Traffic Engineer forwards his report to the Council.

Council President Farina stated that these Ordinances are being passed pending the Traffic Engineer's Report.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees