

(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).

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilmember Paul J. McAuley
 Councilmember John P. Donegan
 Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair

Absent: Councilmember Edward J. Brady
 Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas
 Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
 Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
 John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

Public Hearing for Advice and Consent on the appointment of DAVID V. RODIO, as Director of Building Inspections.

Director Parrillo stated that the Mayor recommends Mr. Rodio for Advise and Consent of his appointment as Building Official and he gave Mr. Rodio's background. Director Parrillo also stated that Mr. Rodio will be replacing Stan Pikul, who will be the Alternate Building Official.

Mr. Rodio appeared to speak and answer questions.

Councilmember McAuley stated that he is very impressed with Mr. Rodio's resume. He asked Mr. Rodio why he left the City of Providence Building Inspector's Office. Mr. Rodio stated that he did his 25 years and retired with a pension.

Councilmember Stycos stated to Mr. Rodio that there were news reports of ethical problems with the Providence Inspections and him. He questioned what that was. Mr. Rodio stated that those allegations were dismissed. He did nothing improper and there was no evidence.

Councilmember Stycos stated that the City Council has been discussing placing notices of violations online so residents could track that. He asked Mr. Rodio his opinion of that. Mr. Rodio stated that it sounds like a good idea and he will definitely think about it. He also stated that an easier way to address that would be placing a lien on the property. Councilmember Stycos asked what happens once the lien is placed. Mr. Rodio stated that it would go to the Solicitor's Office to come up with a fine or find a solution in removing the violation. Councilmember Stycos asked Mr. Rodio, in his experience, if the Courts in Providence impose fines for violations very often. Mr. Rodio stated that the Court tried to be lenient for the owner to fix the violation.

Councilmember Vargas asked Mr. Rodio how many staff members he oversaw in Providence. Mr. Rodio stated that there were two Plan Reviewers, two Clerical and two Building Inspectors.

Councilmember Vargas indicated to the resume and asked Mr. Rodio if he is still working at Bentley Builders. Mr. Rodio stated, no. When he filed his resume in December, he was working full time, but he is currently working in the Town of Hopkington as the Building Official.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that Cranston has a few businesses in the City that have been very disruptive to the neighborhoods. He asked Mr. Rodio if he will be aggressive to go after these businesses to protect our residents. Mr. Rodio stated that he will be, as long as he has the staff.

Councilmember Vargas stated that she hopes that if Mr. Rodio is confirmed, he educates himself of current pending situations and violations, as far as complaints coming in and he keeps an open line of communication with the City Council.

Councilmember Donegan stated that at times at the City Council meetings constituents appear to speak to address issues of Code and Housing Violations or complaints. He asked Mr. Rodio if he would be supportive of having a representative from the department attend the Council meetings. Mr. Rodio stated that that is a great idea. He does not have a problem with that.

Councilmember Donegan asked Mr. Rodio to expand on allegation of ethics violation and outcome. Mr. Rodio stated that he conducted home inspection of a relative. As he stated earlier, he did nothing wrong and there is no evidence.

Public Speakers:

Stan Pikul, Acting Building Official, appeared to speak and stated that Mr. Rodio will be a welcome to the department. He also stated that he has tried to keep the department going after a number of employees in his department, who had a lot of knowledge, left the City. He stated that Mr. Rodio will bring a great amount of wealth to the department with the Building Code. He can bring a lot to the department and will be a good asset.

Robert Wilson, 114 Mayflower Dr., President of Edgewood Height Neighborhood Association, appeared to speak on behalf of the Association and read a statement from the Association welcoming Mr. Rodio. He stated that he is looking forward to working with him with the Yardworks issues, which have been going on for many years.

Chuck Phelps appeared to speak and stated that he worked for the Building Inspector's Office for eleven years and Mr. Rodio is a professional associate and is well respected. He also stated that the department is very understaffed.

Brittany Rodi, Edgwood resident, appeared to speak and stated that she has many issues with her landlord and all the compliance is based on the landlord. There has to be some process in place to assist tenants.

Noah Shavelia, Broad St., appeared to speak and echoed the statements made by Ms. Rodi.

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to recommend approval of the Mayor's Advice and Consent of the appointment of David Rodio as the Building Official.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Donegan stated that the potential ethical violations is troubling, but he believes in second chances and he will vote in favor of the Advice and Consent.

Director Parrillo stated that there were no impropriety proven and the allegations never went anywhere with the Ethics Commission.

Councilmember McAuley stated that he will fully support the Advice and Consent of the appointment of Mr. Rodio as Building Official.

Chair stated that he commends Mr. Rodio for standing up for his principals and he fully support the Advice and Consent also.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the Mayor's Advice and Consent of the appointment of David Rodio as the Building Official and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee



City of Cranston
Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to Section 5.02 of the Cranston City Charter and Sec. 2.08.110 of the City Code, The City Council Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 8:30 p.m. in Cranston City Hall, Council Chambers, 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, R.I.

Re: Advice and consent hearing on
Mayor Fung's appointment of
David V. Rodio as Inspector of Buildings
Michael Favicchio, Finance Chair

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing and hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk's Office at 461-1000 ext.3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date. **ProJo 3/29/2019**