

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr., Vice-Chair
Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Council Member Maria A. Bucci
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Absent: Council Vice-President Paula B. McFarland, Chair

Also Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Vito Sciolto, City Solicitor
Jared Rhodes, City Planner
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

10-06-2 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 10 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Richland Road – Domestic Bank). Cont. from 12/7/2006.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Garabedian stated that he has been working and putting much time in resolving this issue. One of the issues is the entrance in the residential area across the street and he has come up with a plan to remove the parking in the residential area. The plan will have proper handicapped parking and Mr. Baker, President of Domestic Bank, has agreed in going forward that the driveway will go to the right.

Committee took a five minute recess while the Council President showed members of the public the plan he referred to earlier.

Timothy Dodd, Esq. appeared to represent Domestic Bank and stated that Council President Garabedian is correct that they have worked hard to try to go forward. They have made significant progress. Back in December, the bank submitted a schedule, per the request of the Committee. One of the issues in the punch-list was if the bank complied with the time schedule, the appropriate sub-committee would agree to the lifting of the cease and desist. This cease and desist is still there. He asked that the Ordinance regarding the two-hour parking not be adopted.

Council President Garabedian stated that he agrees not to act on this Ordinance and suggested that the representatives from the City, bank and neighbors meet immediately to finish the documents that were being worked on and make it feasible and by then a final drawing will be available.

Cynthia Fogarty appeared to speak to represent Thomas Cloonen, one of the neighbors who objects to the lifting of the cease and desist order. She stated that the plan being discussed is exactly the same plan the Planning Commission reviewed a year ago. She asked that the Committee not to lift the cease and desist and get the bank moving.

Councilman Barone suggested not lifting the cease and desist order and table this Ordinance.

Councilman Barone removed his motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance and Council Member Bucci removed her second to the motion.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to table this Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

10-06-8 Ordinance in amendment of Title 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (Change of Zone-Atwood Ave. Police Station). Cont. 12/7/2006.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Member Bucci, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Mr. **Rhodes** appeared to speak and stated that making this residential would be counterproductive to economic growth to the City. The best thing would go to commercial and stay commercial. Councilman Santamaria stated that making this residential, he has problem with the traffic, which is already a problem in the area due to the Dunkin Donuts. Mr. Rhodes stated that this Zone Change is for commercial zone C-2, which would allow for mixed commercial and residential use. It is not strictly for residential. He also indicated that the new Comprehensive Plan is done and will be presented to the Planning Commission at their next meeting.

On motion by Council Member Bucci, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to withdraw the motion and second to continue. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bucci asked Mr. Rhodes if he is in favor of this Zone change. Mr. Rhodes stated that his suggestion to the Council is change the zone prior to putting the property out to bid, because if you put this out to bid as an S-1, as it is zone currently, you may not get the best bid for the property.

Councilman Lupino asked if anyone has looked at the Softball field property and if anyone has proposed in taking the field, adding that parcel to the Police Station parcel. Mr. Rhodes stated that the Engineering Division has come up with a plan reconfiguring to accommodate approximately 60 cars on what is already the field property.

Council President Garabedian stated that the Council should get a full presentation with charts showing the property and then an analysis can be made.

On motion by Council Member Bucci, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Rhodes stated that this Ordinance was first introduced in October, 2006 and there were staff reports presented and proceeds from this sale could be used for the new Police Station and he feels time is of the essence.

Discussion took place on continuing this Ordinance to a special Ordinance Committee meeting instead of the next regular meeting, since Mr. Rhodes will be leaving the City on February 6th. Council President Garabedian stated that a special meeting will be held. Mr. Rhodes asked that the Public Works Department be asked to appear to discuss the parking issue.

Councilman Santamaria suggested that Mr. Rhodes make the same presentation that he made before the Planning Commission, which was very informative.

Motion to continue to a special meeting passed unanimously.

Mr. Rhodes stated that he would be willing to come back at the regular February meeting to speak regarding this Ordinance, if the Committee wishes to continue it to then.

Ordinance was continued to the February regular meeting.

11-06-5 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 10 of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (Plantations and Cypress Dr.). Cont. 12/7/2006.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

11-06-3 Ordinance authorizing the Purchasing Agent to lease a portion of 1090 Cranston St. to the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP Administrative Offices). Amended 12/7/2006.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Member Bucci, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

12-06-1 Ordinance naming a new softball field at Joe Ventetuolo Complex as “The David Taft CLCF Softball Field”.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees