

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, July 15, 2010 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Anthony J. Lupino, Chair
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier, Vice-Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Peter LaPolla, City Planner
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 Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, 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:

2-10-4 Ordinance approving the 2010 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cranston (Referred from City Council 5/24/2010, Cont. 6/17/2010).

Mr. LaPolla appeared to speak.

Chair stated that to date, he has not received any questions from the City Council regarding the particular classifications. He asked if the Comprehensive Plan takes into consideration the recently adopted Land Uses for the State. Mr. LaPolla stated that starting in 2010, we will be using the statistical data from the Census to see how the City is broken down.

Councilman Pelletier indicated to Mr. LaPolla that the ball fields and soccer fields in Western Cranston are not designated as recreation in the Comprehensive Plan. They are left as Open Space. Mr. LaPolla stated that some of the fields are Open Space. Most has largely been reserved as Open Space. Councilman Pelletier indicated to Mr. LaPolla that the Comprehensive Plan shows that there is a very large section listed as Open Space development, Alpine Estates and Cranston Country Club. Mr. LaPolla stated that it is listed as such, so we can work with those owners and develop a zoning classification that would give them some development potential that would still have Open Space.

Chair asked if infrastructures or improvements should be part of this Plan. Mr. LaPolla stated, no.

Councilman Aceto addressed green development zones and asked if the Comprehensive Plan should identify a policy or procedure when a landowner wants to make their property a green development zone property. Mr. LaPolla stated that the Comprehensive Plan has not developed actual regulations, but it speaks about establishing green zone developments. Councilman Aceto stated that there should be a section in the Comprehensive Plan that specifically speaks and encourages green zones and he would really like to see this done. Chair asked how the plan can be amended and if it can be done by letter. Mr. LaPolla stated that a green zone category could be created.

Jason Pezzullo, City Principal Planner, appeared to speak and stated that the Comprehensive Plan can be amended multiple times after it is approved.

No one from the public appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

Chair spoke regarding density and stated that we have A-20 and A-80. He questioned why there is nothing in-between. Mr. LaPolla stated that that has been historically in the City, since 1965.

Council President Lanni stated that the last time the Comprehensive Plan was approved was eighteen years ago. There is nothing in this Plan that addresses cluster developments, green zones. We need to pass a Comprehensive Plan that would be a blueprint for the City for the next eighteen to twenty years.

Chair stated that if the Plan is approved by September, and send it to the State, Mr. Flynn and Mr. Rhodes will not be involved in the approval of this Plan since they worked on it when they were employed by the City of Cranston. He asked Mr. LaPolla when the process spoken by Councilman Aceto and Council President Lanni begin for us. Mr. LaPolla stated, immediately.

Mr. LaPolla stated that for the next meeting, he will put together an addendum to address the green zone.

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

5-10-4 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Health and Safety" (Foreclosure Repeal Owner Occupied Residential).

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under discussion:

Councilman Aceto stated that there is possibility that State legislation will be passed and we're awaiting to see what State action is taken.

Motion to continue this Ordinance passed unanimously.

5-10-5 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Health and Safety" (Foreclosure Repeal Owner Occupied Residential).

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

6-10-1 Ordinance in amendment of Title 17.92 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (Variances and Special Use Permits).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under discussion:

Councilman Lupino discussed the purpose and reason for this Ordinance is to prevent future plans which misrepresent the size and scale of signs in relation to the building, even though the exact dimensions are specified within the plans, the graphic designs are misleading.

Motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance passed unanimously.

6-10-2 Ordinance in amendment of Title 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Zoning” (Nightclubs).

Chair stated that the sponsor of this Ordinance has asked for a continuance and the Solicitor would like to review this Ordinance further. Chair asked if there was anyone from the public to speak on this matter, no one appeared.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Pelletier, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked Solicitor to provide report for the next meeting on how this might affect existing venues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees