

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, March 17, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by the Chair.

Present: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
Councilwoman Aniece Germain
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Vice-Chair
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly, Chair
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair

Also Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to continue with the reading of the minutes last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

10-21-03 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance – Contracts and Purchases". Sponsored by Councilwomen Vargas, Marino, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri. (Cont. from 11/9/2021, 12/9/2021 & 2/17/2022).*

On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to amend the above Ordinance as follows: delete lines #135 starting with "Upon completion" thru line #141 ending with "this section terminates" and delete lines #149 thru #155 starting with "upon completion of so called study" in its entirety and lines #156 #175 starting with "3.08..094" in its entirety. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to continue this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS* and/ or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Steve Frias, 107 Garden Hills Dr., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 3-22-01S and complimented Director Lima, Mr. Jackvony and staff on what they have done. He stated that he was Chair of the Charter Review Commission that dealt with the provision prohibited gerrymandering at the local ward levels and the Commission and the staff did a good faith and great job of complying with the Charter amendment and making sure that we have Ward lines from what he can see based on history, based on neighborhoods, we are following natural boundaries and we have avoided the problem that occurs in many states by both parties and in this State, at the State level, gerrymandering. What the Commission did here is a process that should be followed by the State and could be a model for other communities. Not only was it apolitical and done correctly, it was also cost effective. They did it all inhouse and saved the City almost \$100,000 between avoiding a consultant and avoiding having pocket precincts. He thinks this Council should approve it, it is a great work product and much better than what occurred ten years ago.

Nick Lima, Registrar, appeared to speak and stated that the final report of the Redistricting Commission that was approved by the Commission on March 1st, was emailed to the City Council and Administration and published on the City website approximately sixteen days ago. He also stated that there is a Resolution to the General Assembly that is also proposed to the City Council to pass to ask the General Assembly to codify the ultimate Redistricting Ordinance in State Law. In the Ordinance, there are a few scrivener errors, such as on line #481, “of” should be inserted after “creation” and on line #518, Section 3 should be struck, it is duplicative.

Randall Jackvony, 2219 Phenix Ave., Chair of the Redistricting Commission, appeared to speak and thanked Mr. Lima and Ms. Giarrusso for all their hard work in this. The product you see in front of you is the product of the hard work of the staff. He stressed that the Commission followed those neighborhood maps and natural features, they smoothed over what they felt were some previews of the old maps. Some might consider gerrymandering, but that made those Wards much more logical to natural features in neighborhoods and tried to limit the pocket precincts and tried to eliminate the smaller precincts as much as possible, but some of that is limited by what the State provides. He thinks that you can be confident that they followed the mission that the Charter gives us, but that this Council gave them to come up with a great map for the City of Cranston for the next ten years.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

2-22-02 *Ordinance in amendment of Title 15 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Buildings and Construction”. Sponsored by Councilman Donegan and Councilwoman Marino. Co-sponsored by Councilwomen Germain and Vargas.*

On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

3-22-01S ***Ordinance in amendment of Title 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, establishing Section 2.04.090, entitled “Ward Boundaries” (Enacting the City of Cranston’s 2022 Ward Redistricting Plan). Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas.***

On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Paplauskas thanked the Canvassing Board, Ms. Giarrusso and Registrar Lima for all their hard work.

Councilwoman Vargas echoed Council President Paplauskas’s comments.

Chair also commended Director Lima, Mr. Jackvony, Ms. Giarrusso and staff. He stated that it was such a pleasant process to go through. They took the bull by the horn. They had the foresight to start this process when they did and can’t commend them enough.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance with correction of scrivener errors and motion passed unanimously.

Resolution memorializing the General Assembly to enact the City of Cranston’s 2022 Ward Redistricting Plan into Law. Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Final Report of Redistricting Committee. Informational Only.***

No action needed.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk