



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair
Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Council President Jessica M. Marino, Ex-Officio

Councilman Robert J. Ferri
Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 @ 6:30 P.M.

The meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held in the City of Cranston Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910, for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the agenda.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by the Chair, Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the Clerk. Stated as present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Councilman John P. Donegan, Councilman Richard D. Campopiano, Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, and Council President Jessica M. Marino. Absent: Councilman Ferri

Also present: Asst. Solicitor John Verdecchia, Legal Counsel Stephen Angell, and Clerk T. Nelson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting

MOTION made by Councilwoman Germain, SECOND by Council President Marino to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous of all members present

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

2-23-04 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 15 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Buildings and Construction" (Lead Safe Homes). Sponsored by Councilman Donegan. Co-sponsored by Councilwoman Germain. (Cont. 3/16/2023, 4/13/2023& 5/11/223)*

MOTION made by Councilwoman Germain to approve. No SECOND.

MOTION made by Councilman Donegan, SECOND by Council President Marino to continue this item to the July committee meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous of the members present

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Fioli, 101 Seven Mile Road and Atty. Steven Levesque of 165 Burnside St. were present to answer any questions regarding Ordinance 4-23-01. Mr. Fioli is constructing a building in a current C5 Zone which does not allow the purpose Mr. Fioli intends to occupy. They have been working with the Planning Department to accommodate the use. It will be a commercial warehouse; a four-unit structure with each unit occupied by a contractor such as landscaping or HVAC.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

4-23-01 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (Change of Zone – 0 Bedson Road, AP 4, Lots 2606-2609) Sponsored by Councilman Paplauskas*

MOTION made by Councilman Donegan, SECOND by Council President Marino to continue Ordinance 2-23-04 to the July Ordinance Committee Meeting.

Councilman Donegan suggested this item be continued to next month, due to the lack of a Planning recommendation.

Atty. Verdecchia confirmed with the Clerk that there was no recommendation in the file. He is not familiar with the project, nor is Chief of Staff Moretti. He concurs it's in their best interest to continue.

Chairwoman Vargas is uncomfortable voting on this without additional information from the Planning Department or Planning Commission.

Atty. Levesque has had several conversations with Doug and Josh (Planning Dept). They have made several revisions. The language was written by Doug (McLean). Once the ordinance is approved, they will start Development Plan Review. Architectural plans will be submitted.

A. Moretti spoke with the Planning Director. This will be addressed by the Planning Commission in July. A recommendation will follow.

President Marino pointed out it may need to be continued to August at the July Ordinance meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION: Unanimous of all members present.

5-23-01 *Ordinance in amendment of Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.16.010 of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled "Police Department Composition". Sponsored by Mayor Hopkins.*

MOTION made by Councilwoman Renzulli, SECOND by Councilman Donegan to approve.

Chairwoman Vargas has spoken with Major Patalano. There is a need for a Lieutenant role to respond to APRA requests. There has been a spike in media requests for camera footage. She will support.

Councilwoman Renzulli also spoke with the department. It is a good idea for this role with accountability to the Chief for cameras.

Council President Marino reminded all that this composition was approved in the recent contract. There is no additional cost. She will support.

VOTE ON MOTION: Unanimous of the members present.

5-23-02 *Ordinance in amendment of Title 17, Chapter 17.109 of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Plan Commission". Sponsored by Council President Marino and Councilwoman Renzulli*

MOTION made by Councilman Donegan, SECOND by Councilwoman Germain to approve.

President Marino feels this ordinance is long overdue. There were discussions at the budget meetings about providing convenient access to the public for the Planning Commission meetings. They cover important topics like zone changes and growth.

Councilwoman Renzulli concurs with President Marino. This is long overdue for the sake of participation and transparency so residents can review the meetings live versus through minutes.

Councilman Donegan thanked the sponsors and asked to be added as a co-sponsor. In his first term on Council, he introduced an ordinance to film all meetings. It was deemed not worth it. In four years, a lot has changed. He expects the ordinance to be supported unanimously.

Chairwoman Vargas asked to be added as a co-sponsor. During COVID this was necessary for public transparency. This ordinance was discussed during budget hearings. The ordinance is sponsored by two different city councilors, from different sides of the aisle. She is happy to see it move forward.

VOTE ON MOTION: Unanimous of the members present.

5-23-03 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 6 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled "Animals" (Roosters). Sponsored by Councilwoman Renzulli.*

MOTION made by Councilman Donegan, SECOND by Councilman Campopiano to approve.

Councilwoman Renzulli explained this ordinance was discussed at length last year. It came to pass, but Council couldn't agree on the fines. The ordinance needs teeth for reinforcement. There needs to be some type of penalty. The amendment is basic and straightforward.

President Marino asked who the decision-maker would be in execution of a violation. Would the inspector refer to Municipal Court?

Councilwoman Renzulli pointed out no change is being made to the method of enforcement. It remains as written. She assumes it would be the same as any other building code violation.

President Marino deferred to Atty. Verdecchia regarding due process. She wants to be sure there is not a false sense of expediency. It's not done once an inspector goes out.

Atty. Verdecchia indicated any violation would contain the right to request a hearing within a certain number of days.

Councilwoman Renzulli asked if language should be added; and if it would be a substantive change.

Atty. Verdecchia explained this would be treated the same as any other violation of the code. There are premade forms. There just needs to be a change in the template language on the form. Language does not need to be added to the ordinance.

VOTE ON MOTION: Unanimous vote of members present.

Councilwoman Germain:

- *Update on the City's ruling effort on Air B&B/VRBO. (Referred from 5/22/2023 Council Meeting)*

Councilwoman Germain asked for this item to be continued to the August meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Councilwoman Renzulli, SECOND by Councilman Donegan to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. All Ayes

Minutes approved as written July 13, 2023

Attest:

Tracy A. Nelson, City Clerk