

(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, February 18, 2020, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins
Councilmember Paul J. McAuley
Councilmember Edward J. Brady
Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas

Also Present: Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
Councilmember John P. Donegan
Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Pauline Derosa, 97 Cypress Dr., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 1-20-7, specifically for rooftop solars and stated that the City should make residents aware of not only the advantages but also the pitfalls of this system. She asked that the Council give serious thoughts and deliberate further before making any decisions on this Ordinance.

1-20-01 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 8.20 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Noise Control” (Noise Measurements). Sponsored by Councilmember Stycos.

On motion by Councilmember McAuley, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Stycos explained the amendment to this Ordinance he is proposing. He stated that there is another section of the Zoning Code that needs to be amended, but he will introduce that Ordinance at a later date. He stated that he introduced this Ordinance mainly because of the Yardworks issue.

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

1-20-03 Ordinance in amendment of Section 17.24 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Zoning – Performance Standards Generally” (Medical Marijuana Dispensaries). Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

Joshua Berry, Senior Planner, appeared to speak and gave a presentation. He stated that the Ordinance would only allow compassion centers in M-1 and M-2 Zones only with special use permits. Buffers do apply across jurisdictions. He also indicated that the Planning Commission gave position recommendation.

Councilmember Paplauskas asked if signage is addressed in this Ordinance. Mr. Berry stated that it does address signage, but very similar how it was addressed previously. This Ordinance is more restrictive as to signage.

Councilmember Hopkins indicated to educational and asked if that includes such businesses as Paul Mitchell, Tractor Trailer Teaching School or just Cranston Schools. He stated that we need a stricter interpretation. Mr. Berry stated that this could be modified, but we did not try to create any new definition from scratch.

Councilmember Stycos asked if there are any dispensaries that the City is aware of that is considering sites in Cranston. Mr. Berry stated, no, people have asked if we have an Ordinance on the books though. There is interest.

Planning Director Pezzullo stated that because of what is happening in the State, there is interest and this is what is precipitating this Ordinance.

Councilmember Stycos asked what the Planning Commission's feelings on the benefit of passing this as opposed to doing nothing. Mr. Berry stated that transparent business climate, providing access to medical to Cranston residents. Councilmember Stycos asked, of the two Planning Commission members, what was their concerns on this? Mr. Berry stated that he had a conversation with Member Maccarone and she had an issue with security. The other member, he did not have a conversation with and she voted "nay".

Councilmember Donegan stated that we should approve this because we could lose out on significant revenue.

Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that as to the security issue, we do not have any say in security, just like other Ordinances. The State has control over medical facilities.

Councilmember McAuley stated that as long as we do our due diligence, he supports this Ordinance. To have something in place is extremely important.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Paplauskas stated that he wishes the radius was 500' for residential. He will vote against this Ordinance if it stays at 400'.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance and motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmembers Hopkins, McAuley, Brady, Council Vice-President Favicchio and Council President Farina -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmember Paplauskas -1.

1-20-06 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17.24 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning" (Solar Energy Systems-Rooftop). Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

1-20-07 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005 entitled "Zoning" (Schedule of Uses) Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

Director Pezzullo appeared to speak and stated that language is mostly as a cleanup for both Ordinances.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of Ordinance 1-20-6. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of Ordinance 1-20-7. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees