

(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, November 16, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Daniel R. Wall
Councilman Robert J. Ferri (left meeting at 7:20 p.m.)
Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilman Richad D. Campopiano
Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Vice-Chair (appeared at 7:00 p.m.)
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Justin Mateus, Acting Public Works Director
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

- **Approval of minutes of the October 12, 2023 regular meeting**

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 12, 2023 regular meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Councilwoman Germain: (*Cont. 8/17/2023, 9/14/2023 & 10/12/2023*)

- *Air B&B/VRBO*

Chair indicated that since Councilwoman Germain is not present, this item will be continued.

8-23-02 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 10, Chapter 10.32 of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled "Stopping, Standing and Parking on Specific Streets".*
Sponsored by Councilman Campopiano. (*Cont. 9/14/2023 & 10/12/2023*).

Councilman Campopiano stated that after conversations with Traffic Safety and Police, he will be withdrawing this Ordinance.

8-23-03 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 12, Chapter 08, Section 050 of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled "Repair of Defective Sidewalks - Generally".*
Sponsored by Councilwoman Germain. (*Cont. 9/14/2023 & 10/12/2023*).

Chair indicated that since Councilwoman Germain is not present, this Ordinance will be continued.

8-23-04 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 10, Chapter 12, Section 250 of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled "Crosswalks Enumerated".* Sponsored by Councilwoman Germain. (*Cont. 9/14/2023 & 10/12/2023*).

Councilwoman Germain stated that she had a meeting with Mr. Mateus regarding this Ordinance and they had some suggestions. She asked if Mr. Mateus is ready to speak regarding that and what the suggestions were or are we moving forward with it.

Mr. Mateus stated that as far as the crosswalk, he is not sure if we are allowed to talk about other suggestions with it not being on the agenda. He thinks we have to stick with the crosswalk, which they discussed and Councilwoman Germain gave some insight to him on what the origin of this Ordinance came from and that is more of a traffic calming issue than a pedestrian safety issue. Introducing a crosswalk on a road that has a traffic calming issue is actually introducing more hazards into the road. You are giving pedestrians a path to talk into the road when the issue here is actually trying to slow down vehicles. Based on their conversation, crosswalks is not the viable answer to solving the issue in this neighborhood.

Councilwoman Germain stated that a lot of families are not safe walking in that street and what happened is many many times the drivers, people who are cutting through the streets to get onto Pontiac, are speeding, they do not pay attention to the pedestrians. One of the suggestions proposed by residents is we have something that is why she proposed a crosswalk for the safety of the residents. They also proposed a speedbump.

Mr. Mateus stated that the first step would be to get a crash analysis there and Police reports. He does not have an answer right now of what is a better solution than a crosswalk. Only thing that they have decided is a crosswalk would not be the best solution there.

Director Moretti stated that we could take that feedback back, talk to the Police Department and see what they see, we could talk to our Traffic Engineer to evaluate that and would be happy to get back Councilwoman Germain with any recommendations if that is acceptable.

Councilwoman Germain stated that she would like to continue this Ordinance until we find a solution otherwise she will move forward with it.

This Ordinance is continued to next month's meeting.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Frias, 107 Garden Hills Dr., appeared to speak as a member of the Planning Commission regarding proposed Ordinance 9-23-01 and explained why he voted in favor of this Ordinance. He stated that the reason he voted in favor is, as everyone notices, retail sales is restricted in certain Industrial Zones.

Paul Bedrosian, 147 Sheldon St., appeared to speak regarding proposed Ordinance 9-23-05 and stated that he has concerns regarding this. He is a Trustee that owns a few laundrymats in and around the Edgewood area, one namely the Edgewood Laundry, which everyone is aware there is a problem of complaints with some of the neighbors around that and he thinks that amending this Ordinance to include Commercial Uses is going to cause a lot of problems for that business, but also may set a precedent for some unforeseen consequences for other businesses in Cranston and he thinks that we should or the Council should consider looking deeper into this. He also has a few questions about it because it seems like this is targeting this business specifically and he does not think it is fair.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

9-23-01 *Ordinance in Amendment of Title 17, Chapter 24 of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Performance Standards Generally" adding Section 17.24.50 Retail Sales of Cannabis.* Sponsored by Hopkins.

Director Moretti stated that the purpose of submitting this Ordinance is to put something on the books. The biggest concern that the Mayor has is having cannabis sales in neighborhoods. Right now, it is isolated in this Ordinance to Industrial, but certainly, the Mayor respects the input of the Council. The Administration would like to get something on the books sooner than later.

Solicitor stated that from the legal standpoint, this is a fairly comprehensive Ordinance and the State enabling legislation is very detailed and very comprehensive. This has not been completely vetted by the Legal Department. Just at a brief glance, he has noticed a few potential conflicts between the proposed Ordinance versus the State enabling legislation and the way the State enabling legislation is worded, as in most enabling legislation, they give a certain amount of authority to the towns and cities to enact their own local by-laws provided that they do not conflict with what the State scheme is. So, they do give some authority, but not complete authority and there could be some conflict. There already is, at a brief glance, and he asked for at least one continuance.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to continue the above Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

9-23-05 ***Ordinance in Amendment of Title 17 Zoning, Chapter 17.36.010 of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled 'Industrial Uses.*** Sponsored by Council President Marino.

Council President Marino stated that this Ordinance is amending an existing Ordinance that is already on the books. To have this Ordinance, provides for different protections and oversight on the part of the City with respect to some Industrial and Commercially Zoned Uses within the City. The intentions with the amendments that are made is to have this oversight of Industrial and Commercial Uses when they occur outside of the Zoned areas of Industrial and Commercial. It did receive a positive recommendation from the Planning Commission. She has spoken to Legal Counsel and there are some additional amendments that she would like to make to tweak and she would like to have some further discussions with the Administration in terms of implementation of this. She asked that this Ordinance be continued to next month's meeting.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to continue the above Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees