

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; David Heuvelman; Dominique Johnson; Manny Langella; Thomas Livingston; Kadeem Roberts; Thomas Keegan, 7:12 p.m.

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the Roll as indicated above.

Mr. Candela said that this is the last meeting of the Ordinance Committee for 2020. He said that going forward, the Legal Notices for public hearings will be on the agenda. This is another way for Norwalk residents to see what is going on with the Ordinance Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

Discuss and Vote on Code of Ethics Section 32-4 – Conflicts of Interest; interference with duties; prohibited interests; exceptions

Ms. Shanahan opened the public hearing and asked if anyone from the public wished to comment.

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos said she did not have direct comments on the language of the Ordinance. She described an ethics complaint she filed in 2018. She said that the current language does not address political contributions; there are no provisions for political contributions and there is the appearance of pay to play. Ms. Smirniotopoulos suggested adding language requiring that all political contributions are disclosed.

Mr. Keegan joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Candela reviewed the Conflict of Interest language. He said that 32-4 was discussed by the prior Ordinance Committee. In addition, it was discussed by the Board of Ethics. Mr. Candela explained that the legal notice was included with the agenda. Also included in the meeting packet was the red lined version that was reviewed by the Ordinance Committee and the Board of Ethics.

Mr. Candela described the Ordinance and said that it is very broad because it is not possible to enumerate every situation. He added that the Ordinance includes some good examples of various conflicts of interest.

Mr. Candela summarized the changes made to the Ordinance and said they were made with review from the Board of Ethics.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Ms. Shanahan opened the conversation to the Committee members, noting that the Committee has seen this three – four times.

Mr. Livingston referenced Ms. Smirniotopoulos' comment and told Mr. Candela that he wants to be sure that people feel their issues have been discussed by the Board of Ethics. He asked if the Board of Ethics considered political contributions. Mr. Candela said that this is approximately four years of work and they did not leave any stone unturned.

Mr. Candela said it was helpful that they went through the exercise of amending the Ordinance and tried to make it easier for the regular citizenry to follow the Code. The definition is broad enough to include many situations.

- ** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CODE OF ETHICS SECTION 32-4 – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; INTERFERENCE WITH DUTIES; PROHIBITED INTERESTS; EXCEPTIONS AND MOVE IT TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. HEUVELMAN; MS. JOHNSON; MR. KEEGAN; MR. LANGELLA; MR. LIVINGSTON; MR. ROBERTS; MS. SHANAHAN**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Flynn, said he filed 13 Ethics Complaints that were unanswered, including one against Mr. Candela.

Ms. Shanahan asked Mr. Flynn if he had concerns about Section 32-4 and told him it was on the website. He said he could not get it. Ms. Shanahan told Mr. Flynn that his comments have to be directed to Section 32-4 as that was the only agenda item. Mr. Flynn said his first ethics complaint was against Mr. Camacho. Ms. Shanahan reiterated that his public comments could only speak about Section 32-4 and direct his comments to the language in the Ordinance. Mr. Flynn continued and Ms. Shanahan said that he could not speak about complaints that he might have personally filed; only about the code section noticed on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Flynn said he learned nothing in two years. He said no one takes his calls or returns his e-mails. He said it would not be so bad if his son was not strangled in his driveway.

Ms. Shanahan told Mr. Flynn that he had reached the three minute limit.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

November 17, 2020 regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Under attendance: Add Mr. Livingston and remove one reference to Mr. Keegan.

Page 8: correct spelling of protest.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Shanahan announced that the gun ordinance has been tabled indefinitely for further review by other Common Council committees.

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. HEUVELMAN; MS. JOHNSON; MR. KEEGAN; MR. LANGELLA; MR. LIVINGSTON; MR. ROBERTS; MS. SHANAHAN**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services