

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Michael Corsello; Bruce Kimmel;
Thomas Livingston; Shannon O' Toole Giandurco

STAFF: Brian McCann, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Susan Wallerstein, Arts Commission; David Orr; President,
Norwalk Police Union

ROLL CALL

Ms. Melendez called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and called the Roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing held this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There was no discussion held this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present this evening who wished to speak.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

October 18, 2016

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: add Ms. O'Toole Giandurco to attendance

Page 1: delete "a Maritime Aquarium employee"

**** MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS

Arts Commission

Ms. Wallerstein read a statement addressing questions that were asked at the last meeting. She also addressed several areas in the proposed Ordinance. She noted that the Arts Commission follows FOI laws and ethics rules. Attorney McCann noted that once they become a City of Norwalk commission, any new policies will have to go before the Common Council for their review and approval.

Mr. Livingston asked if their proposal for the Executive Director to work not more than 19 hours a week is standard. Attorney McCann said that it is not standard, but they may run into a situation where the employee would want benefits. This is consistent in the City's approach. Ms. Wallerstein asked how it would work if they used a consultant. He said that they would not be an employee. Mr. Livingston said that there is nothing that says they can't hire a full time employee; this only addresses the Executive Director. Mr. Kimmel noted that once they are part of the City's budgeting process, they will have to follow the City's process.

Mr. Corsello asked Ms. Wallerstein if she envisions this Commission being an additional cost to the City. She said that this Commission provides a valuable function that needs to be performed and there will potentially be revenue sources.

Ms. Melendez said that she did not know how she feels about two members of the Common Council counting toward the quorum. Mr. Kimmel noted that quorums are generally not an issue for these commissions. He added that Common Council members are counted as part of the quorum on other commissions.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO SEND THE PROPOSED ARTS
COMMISSION ORDINANCE TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Extra Police Work

Norwalk Police Sgt. David Orr said that two weeks ago, he met with Mayor Rilling, representatives from Public Works and the Finance departments to try and get on the same page about neutralizing costs. He said that the paving projects in the City are what brought him here last February. At the end of the meeting two weeks ago, they agreed on language that would make this cost neutral.

Attorney McCann said that he was reluctant to send the revised Ordinance because it was the result of a negotiation with another entity. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that the meeting should have been held with this Committee and that she would have liked to have this presented. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that she is not happy that the meeting did not have any Common Council representation present.

Mr. Livingston said that he is struggling with this. It started out as a way to address safety, but that could be done by the Public Works Director talking to the Police Chief. He said that he is not happy with the cost and it makes work in the City more expensive.

Mr. Kimmel said that it seems that they get a question answered, and then it goes in another direction. He said that the Finance Department said for several years that this is cost neutral. Mr. Kimmel said that he feels that safety is paramount and if the City wants safety, they will have to pay. This is not a cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Corsello agreed that safety is important; it is ok if it is \$50,000, but he said that he has heard other figures. He said that he is being asked to vote on an Ordinance he never saw before. Attorney McCann said that it is somewhere between zero dollars and \$50,000.

Sgt. Orr said that for \$50,000 the City will get 30 – 60 Police Officers on the street daily. He said that his intentions are rooted in public safety. He said that the Police Officers have to answer to problems at sites with Flagmen, but they have no authority.

Mr. Corsello suggested that if this does go to the Common Council that a document be provided showing Police response calls.

Ms. Melendez asked what language was voted on and if they accepted that language in their meeting with the Mayor.

The Committee members reviewed the proposed language.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE PROPOSED EXTRA POLICE WORK
ORDINANCE TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR.
LIVINGSTON)**

Mr. Corsello said that he voted in favor of this based on the understanding that this Ordinance will be close to cost neutral.

Mr. Kimmel said that the Committee could re-visit this Ordinance next year to see if it is cost neutral.

Parking Authority

- ** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS

Oak Hills Park Authority – Indemnification

Attorney McCann said that the State Ordinance required all board, commissions and committees to be indemnified. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco asked making the Ordinance more generic and not specific to certain entities. Attorney McCann said that he will update the Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services