CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chairman; Joshua Goldstein, Tom Livingston, Dominique Johnson, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner,

STAFF: Atty. Brian Candela

OTHERS: Diane Lauricella, Diane Cece

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC HEARING
(possible action on)

There were no items to consider at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There were no items to discuss at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Diane Lauricella greeted the Council Members and staff. She said that she wished to speak on the Affordable Housing Ordinance. She is pleased that they are looking at different pathways for people to have housing.

On Page 11 in the packet, she said that the discussion was wonderful, but suggested a different term for the "remaining a city" to "becoming a city with affordable housing". In Section 1.2, which begins with the phrase "When the Committee empowers" she suggested adding some individuals that are familiar with construction to participate with awarding the funding. She requested that funding spent on reconstruction or remodeling on the project that there be a requirement for green building.

She said that they also consider tiny homes as part of this. Originally the Planning Commission prohibited tiny homes because they are on wheels.

Ms. Diane Cece said that she was seeing the ordinance for the first time and wished to know when the Public Hearing would be scheduled.

Ms. Shanahan said that the Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Committee was still working on the draft and it was on the agenda just as an update for the Ordinance Committee.

Ms. Cece asked who she should submit her comments on the ordinance to. Atty. Candela said that she should forward them to him and he would see that Mr. Burnett, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee received them.

Ms. Shanahan closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- **September 20, 2022** – Regular Meeting of the Ordinance Committee

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**.

A discussion followed regarding various changes to the minutes and the correction of the spelling of names. Please change all references to "marijuana" to "cannabis".

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discuss and Vote on Temporary Prohibition of all Cannabis Establishments**

Mr. Goldstein said that the effective date of the Cannabis Ordinance is contingent on the passage of the Planning and Zoning regulations.

Atty. Candela then read the text of the Effective Date, which states:

> The Temporary Prohibition of all Cannabis Establishments shall expire on March 1, 2023, or the effective Date of the amendment to the City's zoning regulations to allow retail sales of recreational Cannabis, ~~whichever occurs first. This Chapter shall be effective 10 days following approval by the City of Norwalk's Common Council~~.

A discussion followed regarding changing the effective date, and a potential extension of the prohibition section which reads:

In accordance with the authority granted under Connecticut State Regulation of Cannabis, all Cannabis Establishments are prohibited in all zoning districts in the City of Norwalk for a period of 9 months.

Several changes to the texts were made and duly noted by Atty. Candela.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO SCHEDULE THE AMENDED DOCUMENT FOR A PUBLIC HEARING.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- **Discuss the Affordable Housing Ordinance**.

Atty. Candela said that the Affordable Ad Hoc Housing Ordinance had met and he then provided the Committee with a brief overview of the various presentation and processes involved. Discussion followed. Atty. Candela pointed out that once the Ad Hoc Committee finishes their work, it will be presented to the Ordinance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to consider at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no items to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services