

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Heather Dunn; Joshua Goldstein; Johan Lopez;
Nora Niedzielski Eichner; Jalin Sead

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel; Greg Pacelli and Jim Travers,
Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Vanessa Valadares, Chief of
Operations

OTHERS: Gregory Burnett; Nicole Eddy; James Frayer Common Councilmembers

ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC HEARING (possible action on)

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

Ms. Diana Lauricella spoke in support of the Complete Street Project and said it will increase the quality of life and create a safer environment. She added that it is important to have all options.

Ms. Jamie Faeles spoke in support of the Complete Street Ordinance and said a few things could be added to it such as mandating the coordination with private developers, requiring the Committee to engage with Norwalk not for profits and having a reporting requirement.

Mr. Mike Mushak spoke in support of the Complete Streets Ordinance and said he saw nothing in the Ordinance he would change; however, a shortfall in Norwalk becoming a true 15 minute city are the State routes through the City. He said that in 2012 he presented the need for a bike lane on East Avenue and noted a 4ft. shoulder acts as a traffic calming measure. The latest plan from the State is 4ft lanes and no bike lanes on East Avenue. He said he would fight the battle because it is a matter of saving lives and public safety. A huge obstacle to Norwalk becoming bike friendly are the State's obsolete rules.

Mr. Harvey Jones spoke in support of the Complete Streets Ordinance and said the high level goal is awesome and a great investment. He said he would like to see efficiency and coherence in the transportation network.

Mr. Paul Fox spoke in support of the Complete Streets Ordinance and spoke about section one in the ordinance regarding exemptions, specifically signal modifications. He said consideration should be given to best practice for safety and complete streets.

Mr. Thomas White spoke in support of the Complete Streets Ordinance and emphasized the use of traffic calming measures.

Ms. Emily Bernaman, Chair Bike Walk Commission spoke in support of the Complete Streets Ordinance.

Ms. Becca Stolls spoke in support of Complete Streets Ordinance and pointed out the need for full, unobstructed sidewalks.

Mr. Tanner Thompson spoke in support of Complete Streets Ordinance and provided details on why it is needed.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Discuss and vote on the City of Norwalk Complete Streets Ordinance

Ms. Shanahan thanked everyone involved who worked on the Ordinance.

Mr. Candela shared his screen and went through the changes made to the Ordinance. Mr. Goldstein said this was a real team effort and highlighted the Ordinance. He noted it is an exception review board and progress reports are included in the Ordinance.

Mr. Goldstein expressed his thanks to everyone who worked on the Ordinance and to the many residents who made their voices heard.

Ms. Shanahan asked Mr. Travers to discuss the mobility definition. He shared comments about the definition of mobility.

Ms. Dunn asked if they discussed including a Police Officer on the Committee to review exceptions. Ms. Shanahan said she believes that Mr. Travers is involved due to his expertise on design. Mr. Goldstein added that the Police have a voice on the Traffic Authority. He said this is an exception review board and he does not feel, in this

particular circumstance, the need to have them involved. Ms. Dunn said she would like to hear from the Police. Mr. Travers said communications will be key. He said they value the opinion from the Police and speak with them on a regular basis.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED THE COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE TO THE
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Ms. Diane Lauricella spoke about the issue related to the Department of Public Works and said none of her suggestions she offered last month were put in. She said she did not see why they could not mention recycling and reusing. She said the Ordinance should show the main goal should be to reduce the collection of solid waste.

Ms. Lauricella highlighted specific areas of the Ordinance and urged that the Chief of Operations have an Engineering background. She said qualifications should not be reduced. In addition, senior staff should be able to have the skills to manage staff and consultants.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

September 17, 2024 – special meeting of the Ordinance Committee

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discuss and vote on Chapter 90, Department of Operations and Public Works, Sections 90-1 through 90-12

Ms. Shanahan led the discussion reviewing the changes made to the Ordinance.

- ** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS
CHAPTER 90, DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS,
SECTIONS 90-1 THROUGH 90-12 AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discuss Chapter 95, Streets and Sidewalks, Sections 95-0 through 95-39

The item was reviewed and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Discuss and vote on Chapter 58A, Blight Prevention, Sections 581 and 58A-4

Mr. Candela reviewed the changes that were made to the Ordinance.

- ** MS. DUNN MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS
CHAPTER 58A, BLIGHT PREVENTION, SECTIONS 581 AND 58A-4 AT THE
NEXT MEETING OF THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 19,
2024**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed this evening.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no additional discussions items presented this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Ordinance Committee
Regular Meeting
Via Videoconference and Teleconference
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