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Members of the public can use a telephone to call in, attend, listen and comment during the meeting. However, they will not be able to see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. For the current meeting, the **meeting ID is 828 7379 8981**, the **passcode is 377930** and the **call in number is 646-558-8656**. The information can also be found using the link above.



Upon written request not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, a member of the public can request a physical location to attend this virtual meeting at City Hall. Such a member of the public will be provided access to a telephone so that they can attend the meeting in real time. The member of the public can call in, attend, listen and comment during the meeting. However, they will not be able to see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. For the current meeting, the **meeting ID is 828 7379 8981**, the **passcode is 377930** and the **call in number is 646-558-8656**. The information can also be found using the link above. A set of instructions will be left with the telephone for the member of the public to use in order to access the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to “view the meeting live” and/or “provide live comments” can use the Zoom meeting platform by going to www.norwalkct.org/meetings and clicking on the “View/Participate Live on Zoom” link that is on the line with the meeting date and time. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the “raise your hand indicator” and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Brian Candela at bcandela@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

COMMON COUNCIL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

June 20, 2023

6:30 p.m. – By Videoconference and Teleconference

AGENDA

- 1. ROLL CALL:**
- 2. PUBLIC HEARING (possible action on):**
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION:**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**
- 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**
 - May 16, 2023 – regular meeting of the ordinance committee
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Discuss and vote on Leaf Blower ordinance.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 8. DISCUSSION ITEM:**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MAY 16, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Edwin Camacho; Joshua Goldstein;
David Heuvelman; Thomas Livingston

STAFF: Brian Candela, Assistant Corporation Counsel

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no one in attendance to speak, and Ms. Shanahan closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Discuss and vote on the Arts and Cultural Commission Ordinance
(Chapter 17a – Arts Commission)

Ms. Shanahan recommended one minor change to 17A-6a to leave paragraph a. and delete paragraph b. because it is redundant. Mr. Livingston went through the minor wording changes for Atty. Candela to make edits to the ordinance. There was discussion on the effective date, and it was agreed the logical date to have the ordinance go into effect would be July 1, 2020.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ARTS AND CULTURAL
ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 17A – ARTS COMMISSION) AS DRAFTED AND
FORWARD THIS ITEM TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – April 18, 2023

Correct the spelling of Ms. Ayres to Ayers throughout.

- ** MR. GOLDSTIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTION NOTED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services

Chapter XX

LEAF BLOWERS

§ XX-1. Purpose.

The City of Norwalk finds and declares that leaf blowers represent a significant source of environmental pollution in the form of high and low-frequency noise, carbon and noncarbon emissions, and dust particulate, which represent a present and increasing threat to the public peace and to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City, the landscape workers who use these machines, and wildlife. Noise generated by leaf blowers interferes with the physical and psychological well-being of persons, as leaf blowers generate low-frequency noise at high decibel levels, exposure to which has been determined to generate more severe adverse health effects when compared to high frequency noises, including hearing loss, tinnitus, reduced cognitive performance, heart disease, and hypertension. Additionally, leaf blowers of both an internal combustion and electric design displace significant amounts of particulate matter, spreading pollen, mold, chemical pesticides, and other fine particulates which are harmful to human health. Wildlife is also adversely affected by the use of leaf blowers, including the disruption of nesting sites for insects and birds as well as exposure to pollution. Internal-combustion leaf blowers are recognized as “hyper-polluters,” emitting significant carbon and noncarbon emissions in greater magnitudes than automobiles over similar operating periods. Accordingly, it is the policy of the City to regulate the use of leaf blowers to minimize and mitigate the harmful effects of their use.

§ XX-2. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER

A Leaf Blower that is powered by only electric means, including, but not limited to, battery-powered and cordless rechargeable Leaf Blowers.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION LEAF BLOWER

A Leaf Blower that is powered by an internal combustion engine or rotary engine using gasoline, diesel, alcohol, or other liquid or gaseous fluids.

LEAF BLOWER

Any motorized device that is used or designed to move leaves, grass clippings, dust, dirt, or other matter by blowing them with air emitted by such device.

PERSON

An individual, partnership, limited liability company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof.

§ XX-3. Prohibition on the operation of Internal Combustion Leaf Blowers.

Effective January 1, 2027, for individual properties of two acres or less, and January 1, 2028, for individual properties of more than two acres:

- A. No Person shall operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk.
- B. No owner of real property, tenant in possession of real property, or Person in control of real property shall allow the operation of an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower on such real property in the City of Norwalk.
- C. No Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance, or similar service shall allow an employee or agent of that service to operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk.

§ XX-4. Required safety features for the use of Leaf Blowers.

Effective [September 1, 2023]:

No Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance, or similar service shall allow an employee or agent of that service to operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk without [OSHA-approved] safety equipment, including, but not limited to, ear and lung protection to mitigate the possible hearing loss and toxic fumes produced by said machine.

§ XX-5. Prohibition of the operation of Leaf Blowers during certain months and hours of the day.

- A. **Lawns, Gardens and Other Landscapes.** A Leaf Blower, whether it be an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower (prior to their absolute prohibition) or an Electric Leaf Blower, may only be operated on lawns, gardens, parks, woodlands, playing fields, and other landscapes in the City of Norwalk during the following periods of the year:
 - (1) April 1 through June 1; and
 - (2) October 15 through December 15.

- B. **Impervious Surfaces.** Electric leaf blowers may be used any day of the year on sidewalks, streets, parking lots, pool decks, and other impervious surfaces.
- C. **Operating Hours.** During the periods of the year when Leaf Blowers are permitted to be operated in the City of Norwalk, they may only be operated during the following hours:
 - (1) Monday through Friday, excluding state and federal holidays: between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - (2) Saturday: between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - (3) Sundays and state and federal holidays: property owners and tenants in possession of real property only between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- D. **Water Emergency.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this Subsection XX-5, the use of any Leaf Blower may be further restricted by the Mayor in the event of a Water Emergency pursuant to Chapter 57C-4 of the Norwalk City Code.

§ XX-6. Temporary suspension for storm and hurricane or other emergencies.

The Mayor of the City of Norwalk, in their sole discretion, may temporarily suspend provisions of this Chapter to allow the use of Leaf Blowers for cleanup and debris removal in the event of a storm, hurricane, or similar extreme weather event, or other emergency.

§ XX-7. Violations and penalties, responsible parties.

- A. Upon the initial violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter, the Person in violation shall be issued a written warning, with no penalty being imposed.
- B. For any further violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter, the Person in violation shall be fined a penalty of not more than \$250 per subsequent offense. For purposes of this Chapter, each use of a Leaf Blower on a property constitutes a separate violation.
- C. Notwithstanding subsection XX-7A, a Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance or similar service shall be solely responsible for violations of this Chapter by its employees and agents.
- D. Any aggrieved Person may file an appeal to the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk in accordance with Connecticut law.

§ XX-8. Effective Date.

Except as provided in Subsection XX-3 and 4, this Chapter shall be effective on [September 1, 2024].