

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chairman; Heather Dunn; Josh Goldstein; Johan Lopez; Melissa Murray; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Jalin Sead

OTHER: Atty. Darin Callahan; Tanner Thompson; Jim Travers; Garrett Bolella

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There was a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There was no Public Hearing Discussion at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thompson came forward for public comment. He wished to thank the committee for their work on the Complete Streets policy. He voiced his support for public transit.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTE

MAY 21, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

**** MS. MURRAY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (SHANAHAN; GOLDSTEIN; LOPEZ; MURRAY; NIEDZIELSKI-EICHER; SEAD) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (DUNN)**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

**DISCUSS AND VOTE ON CHAPTER 69 – NORWALK HARBOR, ARTICLE I – GENERAL
REGULATIONS: 69-2, 69-5, 69-6.**

DISCUSS AND VOTE ON CHAPTER 69 – NORWALK HARBOR, ARTICLE III – NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, 69-20, 69-21, 69-22, 69-23, 69-24, 69-25 (PROPOSED NEW SECTION)

DISCUSS AND VOTE ON CHAPTER 66A – MOORING AND ANCHORING, ARTICLE I – RULES AND REGULATIONS: 66A-3, 66A-8, 66A-9, 66A-12, 66A-20

DISCUSS AND VOTE ON CHAPTER 66A – MOORING AND ANCHORING, ARTICLE II – PERMIT FEES: 66A-26, 66A-27

These items were handled at the same time.

Mr. Callahan came forward to discuss these items. He provided the proposed ordinances and their rewrites for review for those present. He said most of the changes were technical in nature. He then reviewed the proposed changes for those present. Further discussion followed.

Ms. Dunn asked, in 66A-12, why 7 days was chosen. Mr. Callahan explained the difference between moorings and that seven days had been chosen for transient moorings to encourage turnover. Further discussion followed.

**** MR. SEAD MOVED TO REMOVE THE BRACKETS IN ITEM 66A-12 AND REPLACE THEM WITH COMMA'S.**

**** MS. DUNN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. SEAD MOVED THAT ALL THESE ITEMS BE MOVED, AS AMENDED, FOR CONSIDERATION FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE NEXT MEETING ON JULY 16TH.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSS THE CITY OF NORWALK COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE

The Ordinance was provided for those present to review.

Mr. Goldstein came forward to discuss this item. He reviewed the goals of the ordinance for those present including the improvement of transportation infrastructure, improving safety, reducing traffic congestion, and increasing mobility options.

Mr. Bolella provided slides for those present detailing the plans and goals for the Complete Streets project. He noted that they wanted to reduce congestion by providing alternative ways to travel. He reviewed how the Complete Streets ordinance would seek to accomplish this. He also outlined how it would improve safety through road design. He noted that the State had also not met it's goal for safety of pedestrians over the past several years.

He also discussed the Demonstration Project and said they were looking for volunteers to help with painting. This project will, hopefully, improve safety through better markings of pedestrian areas. Mr. Travers said that, despite the pandemic lockdowns, they still had the highest amount of pedestrian fatalities and they needed to get it under control. He stressed his desire for safer streets.

Mr. Dunn left at 7:35 P.M.

Discussion followed regarding the safety impact that the project would have. Mr. Goldstein reviewed each section of the ordinance. The ordinance was provided for those present. It was noted the current version was a draft. He reviewed the following:

- New construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance.
- Priority communities.
- Public Realm improvements.
- Safe System approach.
- Complete Streets Policy which includes:
 - Complete and connected off-road trail facilities
 - A safe and convenient bicycle network
 - Safe, accessible, and comfortable pedestrian connections.
- A Strong Economy.
- A Resilient Environment
- An Equitable Community.
- An Attractive Public Realm
- Healthy Residents.
- The Complete Streets Design Guide.
- Planned Implementation involving the guide, amendments to the Norwalk Transportation Master Plan, and Department of Public Works.
- Exceptions and the rules for what will count as one including Transportation Projects and the process of how to seek an exception.

Mr. Sead expressed concern that people may see this as an attack on cars and motorized vehicles even though the focus was on safer streets.

Mr. Lopez asked if there was a need to provide a systematic account of the performance at the conclusion of each project. Mr. Travers discussed this including points like issues with traffic behavior that needed to be properly accounted for. He also reviewed further benefits of the project that would need accounting for and to highlight that it was not an attack on cars.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if the City would need to apply to the board to get an exception. Mr. Bolella said it would apply to all agencies, which would include the City. Further discussion followed regarding the responsibilities of the State and how this project was in line with the State's policies. Discussion followed regarding the bike/foot paths and their use by the city and its citizens.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There was no discussion item at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MURRAY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services