

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Michael Corsello, Douglas Hempstead, Colin Hosten, Thomas Livingston, Beth Siegelbaum

STAFF: Atty. Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel's Office,

OTHERS: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer;
Atty. Cara Murphy, Board of Ethics

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Discuss and vote on Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(1)(a) – Review of complaint

There was no one present who wished to comment on the Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(1)(a) – Review of complaint.

Discuss and vote on Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(1)(b) – Appointment of Investigating Panel.

There was no one present who wished to comment on the Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(1)(a) – Appointment of Investigating Panel.

Discuss and vote on Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(2)(c) – Investigation of Probable Cause; Confidentiality of Initial Proceedings.

There was no one present who wished to comment on the Code of Ethics Section 32-12(E)(2)(c) – Investigation of Probable Cause; Confidentiality of Initial Proceedings.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSIONS:

Ms. Murphy spoke with the Committee about confidentiality versus free speech.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE
COMMON COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:**

CODE OF ETHICS SECTION 32-12(E)(1)(A) – REVIEW OF COMPLAINT.

CODE OF ETHICS SECTION 32-12(E)(1)(B) – APPOINTMENT OF INVESTIGATING PANEL.

CODE OF ETHICS SECTION 32-12(E)(2)(C) – INVESTIGATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE; CONFIDENTIALITY OF INITIAL PROCEEDINGS.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no one present who wished to address the Committee at this time.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES.

April 16, 2019 – Ordinance Committee meeting

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2019 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2019 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS.

Discuss Code of Ethics Section 32-1 – Title; administration

Discuss Code of Ethics Section 32-2 – Declaration of policy

Discuss Code of Ethics Section 32-3 – Definitions.

The Committee discussed all three items. There was a brief description of these three sections. The Ordinance Committee was interested in an updated report from the Board of Ethics about the work they have done over the past year.

NEW BUSINESS.

Discuss Chapter 42A – Inspections by Fire Marshal – Abatement of Fire Hazards.

Fire Marshal Sawyer came forward to give an overview of the inspection by his office and the hazard abatement issues. These ordinances were crafted to protect the City from liability. There were four fatal fires due to hoarding according to the Fire Marshal. If they don't "hold the scene", they would need an administrative warrant to get back in the residence according to Fire Marshal Sawyer. He reviewed in depth four examples and displayed photographs showing potential exposure, which illustrated the dangers of not

having these sites inspected. The Committee discussed CGS 29-05 and CGS 29-306. The Committee suggested some minor changes.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THAT BOTH THE INSPECTIONS BY FIRE MARSHAL AND THE ABATEMENT OF FIRE HAZARDS BE SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss Use of Single-Use Plastic Straws and Stirrers by Food and Beverage Establishments.

The Committee discussed the item and decided that they would like to ban plastic straws and stirrers with the exception of medical disability. If people want to bring their own stirrers or straws, that would be acceptable. There was a question as to when this would be effective, so this will be discussed further.

The topic of banning Styrofoam also was briefly mentioned as it is very harmful because it can not be recycled. Westport, Connecticut and Suffolk County, New York both have bans in place. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Mr. Hempstead requested that the Committee consider a discussion on Solar Power on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco Blois
Telesco Secretarial Services