

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
MAY 15, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Michael Corsello; Thomas Livingston; Beth Siegelbaum; Doug Stern; Doug Hempstead; Chris Yerinides

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Brian Benz; Deborah Goldstein; Louise Washer; Kerry Shaw; Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Broderick Sawyer, Fire Marshall; Timothy Sheehan, John Slovak

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Ms. Melendez. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

Senior Tax Relief

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing on Senior Tax Relief at 7:10 p.m.

There were no speakers. Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing on Senior Tax Relief at 7:10:45 p.m.

Signs

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing on signs at 7:10 p.m.

Brian Benz 139 Pontus Avenue, co-owner of Bucciarelli Farms, said he spoke with the Common Council about the signage issues. He said he hoped to get a vote to acknowledge the signs as legal.

Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing on signs at 7:12 p.m.

Fracking

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing on fracking at 7:12 p.m.

Ms. Deborah Goldstein of 66 Osborne Avenue said she is happy that Norwalk is moving toward a fracking ordinance. She said nobody definitively owning the enforcement is a mistake and it should be somebody grounded in environmental training. Ms. Goldstein said there is nothing to prevent the transport of the fracking materials and stiff penalties should be implemented for spillage to protect air, rail, road and water.

Louise Washer of 280 Silvermine Avenue is the President of the Norwalk River Watershed Alliance and is very much in favor of this ordinance especially since the State failed to vote on a State ban.

Kerry Shaw of 11 Lisette Court asked why put a dangerous material in the 4th highest population density of all 50 states. He said it seems unconscionable to put dangerous materials in a high population area.

Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health Department, said the department has conducted a review of health impacts and the biggest concerns are the storage and disposal of the waste. She said the Health Department would be willing to be an enforcer if the city needed its assistance. Ms. D'Amore said the Department could help with research and provide a list of products to look out for that are brought into the City.

Ms. Melendez closed the Public Hearing on Fracking at 7:18 p.m.

Senior Tax Relief

There was no discussion

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THAT THE ORDINANCE ON SENIOR TAX RELIEF THAT WAS CRAFTED ON APRIL 17, 2018 BE SENT TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL**

****THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Signs

Mr. Corsello spoke on signs. He said there is no definition of Farm Stand. He said when you try to carve out an exception for one particular purpose it is never a good idea.

Mr. Hempstead said he is struggled with this because he wants to help the farm. He said we need a better Ordinance, but said the problem is we do not enforce them. He said he does not want to hit non-profits.

Mr. Livingston said there is a need for broader discussion. This is a unique situation as this is the only local farm. He said it is a worthy cause.

Mr. Corsello asked where do you draw the line. He said what allows this business to be accommodated.

Mr. Livingston said the farm is unique and the city has been asked to promote local farming. He said we need an ordinance to enforce.

Mr. Yerinides said the fact that the State has requested that Norwalk assist helps discern a difference with this particular issue.

The Committee debated the issue of using the word farm instead of farm stand.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AMEND SECTION 21-19, SUBSECTION 8 OF THE ORDINANCE TO READ:**

NO MORE THAN (7) SIGNS FOR EACH FARM AS DEFINED IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 1-1(q), WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWALK. THESE FARM SIGNS MAY ONLY BE ERECTED AND/OR DISPLAYED BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND OCTOBER 31 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR.

****THE AMENDMENT PASSED WITH SIX (6) VOTES IN FAVOR (MS. MELENDEZ, MR. LIVINGSTON, MS. SIEGELBAUM, MR. STERN, MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. YERINIDES) AND ONE (1) VOTE OPPOSED (MR. CORSELLO).**

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM AS AMENDED TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) VOTES IN FAVOR (MS. MELENDEZ, MR. LIVINGSTON, MS. SIEGELBAUM, MR. STERN, MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. YERINIDES) AND ONE OPPOSED (MR. CORSELLO).**

Fracking

There was a discussion on Section F1 Enforcement of the ordinance.

Mr. Corsello said nobody wants fracking waste in this town. He said maybe this is better done by a resolution by the Council than an ordinance that is not going to be enforced.

Mr. Hempstead said putting it on the books is important. He said if the State does act then it becomes moot.

Ms. Melendez said this is our way of being proactive. Mr. Livingston said he would prefer we have something on the books to enforce.

Mr. Stern said symbols matters and the act of Norwalk participating in creating an ordinance is worthwhile. If Norwalk and other towns act it could force the State to do something.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE
SECTION C, PARAGRAPH 1**

**"THE" APPLICATION BECOMES "AN" APPLICATION
INSERT THE WORD "PUBLIC" BEFORE ROAD AND BEFORE REAL PROPERTY
THE WORD "WITH" BECOMES "WITHIN"**

SECTION D, PARAGRAPH 1-3

THE WORD "PUBLIC" IS INSERTED BEFORE ROADWAY AND REAL PROPERTY

**SECTION F, PARAGRAPH 1, 3RD SENTENCE WILL READ
ANY DESIGNEE AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY
THE MAYOR SHALL ENFORCE THIS ORDINANCE**

**SECTION F, PARAGRAPH 2, 3RD LINE
“THE” APPROPRIATE BECOMES “AN” APPROPRIATE**

SECTION F, PARAGRAPH 3 IS REMOVED

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****MR. CORSELLO MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE ORDINANCE TO THE
COMMON COUNCIL**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hempstead left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

April 17, 2018

On Page 1 and Page 2 change “Maury” to “Marny”.

****THE MINUTES AS AMENDED WERE PASSED 6-0. MR. HEMPSTEAD WAS NOT
PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.**

Mr. Hempstead returned to the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Liquor License

Mr. Broderick Sawyer, Fire Commissioner, said the reason the inspection is \$65 to make it cost effective. Mr. Yerinides said the regular renewal is \$65 and any follow up renewal is \$100.

****MR. YERINIDES MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON
LIQUOR LICENSE ON JUNE 19, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Innovation District

Mr. Timothy Sheehan and Mr. John Slovak of the Norwalk Innovation District addressed the Committee. The goal of the District is to assist in the revitalization of the Wall Street and West Avenue areas. Mr. Sheehan said he is asking the Committee to approve what the Planning Committee approved.

Mr. Livingston said it would be helpful for the Committee to see what was talked about in terms of the tax incentives.

The Committee requested more information from Mr. Sheehan and will discuss this further at the next Committee Meeting in June.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Venuto
Telesco Secretarial Services