

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2022 7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Tom Livingston; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Tom Keegan; Dominique Johnson; Joshua Goldstein

STAFF: Atty. Brian Candela

OTHER: Councilman Greg Burnett, Ken Hughes, Chris Torre, Anthony Carr, Darin Callahan

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:02. There was a quorum present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella called in to first, thank the committee for the discussion at the last meeting on a ban on pesticides and second to ask the committee to investigate the biologics used to combat mosquitos in drain pipes.

She also thanked the committee for looking into affordable housing in Norwalk.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES of MARCH 15, 2022

*****Mr. Livingston moved to accept the minutes of the Mar 15, 2022 meeting with the corrections as submitted.**

*****The motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Discuss the draft of the new pesticides ordinance.

Chair Shanahan read the purpose of the ordinance. This is a draft for new regulations concerning the use of pesticides.

The IPMT is the Inter Departmental Pest Management Team. This consists of the Director of Health, the Director of Parks and Rec, the Senior Conservation Officer, the Chief of Operations and the Director of Transportation Mobility and Parking . Chair Shanahan suggested that maybe there should be a member of the community as well.

Chair Shanahan wanted to emphasize the definition of organic product is based on the codes for domestic products country wide.

The goal of organics is to promote the most natural products that are most effective and the least toxic.

There is a list of chemicals that are prohibited throughout Norwalk.

Mr. Livingston discussed using organic pesticides. He stated that the goal is to ban certain pesticides unless there is special permission given by the city and only on city owned or controlled properties.

All use of pesticides will be posted on the website, so it is clear what chemicals were used where and when.

The biggest issue is poison ivy on school grounds and making sure that the chemicals do not run off into any waterways.

Mr. Goldstein asked how this new ordinance would be communicated to the people of Norwalk. Chair Shanahan said that once the ordinance is complete there will be a series of library talks about the use of pesticides.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the biologics used in the drain pipes. This is handled by the Health Department and the question will be followed up with them.

Mr. Hughes talked about different types of chemical free pesticides they are trying to find which types offer the best results.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about mosquito and tick control, especially around the schools. Mr. Hughes stated that currently the Parks and Rec Department does not do anything to mitigate ticks. There is no budget nor do they have the needed expertise.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked what further steps are considered in organic land management. Mr. Hughes gave the example of how the pollinator pathway people physically remove mugwort so this invasive species stays under control.

Next month, the ordinance will be presented to the committee again in the hopes that it will then be close to a final draft.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss the Affordable Housing ordinance with a presentation by the following:

- a) Darin Callahan; Assistant Corporation Counsel
- a) Greg Burnett, Common Council Member

Mr. Burnett stated that the goal of the ordinance is to provide an account to house the finances of the Affordable Housing ordinance, specifically an account that doesn't lapse at the end of every year. This will keep the money separate from the annual budget process for the city.

Atty. Callahan further explained that the first step in the ordinance is to establish an account. The next step is to establish a governing body for the committee, called the Affordable Housing Committee. This should consist of a member of the Common Council, a member of the Planning and Zoning Appeals Board, a resident of affordable housing and experts in the field. There would be staggered four year terms.

The final part of the ordinance relates to how the funds will be used. The funds will go to buildings that fit the definition of affordable housing, and will go to hard building materials and costs i.e. construction and maintenance.

The last element is the approval process on how the funds will be spent.

There will be no vote on this ordinance until the final draft is submitted.

Mr. Goldstein asked why the committee has a member from the Planning and Zoning Commission, and not the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mr. Goldstein asked if there are any other non-lapsing accounts in the city. There is something similar in the tree committee, but this would be the first for the city.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked why this committee would need a non-lapsing account. Atty. Callahan replied that this is because the amounts of funds are large, and you want the account to be able to accrue interest over time.

ADJOURNMENT

*****Mr. Goldstein moved to adjourn the meeting.**

*****The motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Shanahan adjourned the meeting at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Chaple
Telesco Secretarial Services