

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Tom Livingston, Bruce Kimmel,
Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, Travis Simms (7:10 p.m.);
Douglas Hempstead (7:11 p.m.)

OTHERS: Diane Cece

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Melendez called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present. She added that Atty. McCann was not able to be present and another staff member from Corporation Counsel was in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS
(possible action on)**

Don't Block The Box.

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance on Don't Block the Box at 7:06 p.m. She asked if there was anyone who was present that wished to address the Committee regarding the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Diane Cece of Olmstead Place, came forward and said that her street abuts the highway and coming out of Olmstead Place is often dangerous. She noted that the two proposed intersections were at Exit 16 northbound and at France Street and Park Avenue.

Ms. Cece said that the East Avenue and Exit 16 box would be difficult for the police to monitor because it would require two patrol vehicles on site and there is nowhere to pull a vehicle over. She said that the Don't Block the Box initiative includes painted hash marks and signage

Mr. Simms joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Cece said that the back up was really just a symptom of the fact that the traffic signals are not coordinated and the local people know that the police can't enforce it, so they will just ignore it.

Mr. Hempstead jointed the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

She said that she thought that the same issue was happening at France Street

Ms. Melendez asked a second and third time. Hearing none, Ms. Melendez closed the

public hearing on the proposed ordinance on Don't Block the Box at 7:11 p.m.

City of Norwalk Harbor Management Commission Rules and Regulations For Mooring and Anchoring Vessels.

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing regarding the City of Norwalk Harbor Management Commission Rules and Regulations For Mooring and Anchoring Vessels at 7:11 p.m. She asked if there was anyone who was present that wished to address the Committee regarding the proposed ordinance. No one came forward. Ms. Melendez asked a second and third time. Hearing none, Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing on City of Norwalk Harbor Management Commission Rules and Regulations For Mooring and Anchoring Vessels at 7:12 p.m.

Taxation - Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article III Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing regarding the City of Norwalk Taxation - Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article III Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners at 7:12 p.m. She asked if there was anyone who was present that wished to address the Committee regarding the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Cece said that she believed that the City was looking to increase the rates and eligibility and that she supported this change wholeheartedly. She said that she did not think the senior citizen should be forced out of their homes because of taxes.

Ms. Melendez asked a second and third time if there was anyone else who wished to address the Committee on the proposed ordinance. Hearing none, Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing on the Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article III Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners at 7:14 p.m.

Taxation - Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article VI Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing regarding the City of Norwalk Taxation - Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article VI Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners at 7:14 p.m. She asked if there was anyone who was present that wished to address the Committee regarding the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Cece came forward and said that she would like to express her support for this ordinance also.

Ms. Melendez asked a second and third time if there was anyone else who wished to address the Committee on the proposed ordinance. Hearing none, Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing on the Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article VI Tax Relief for the

Elderly and Disabled Homeowners at 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Melendez then closed the Public Hearing Portion of the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Don't Block the Box - Regarding Don't Block the Box, Mr. Livingston commented that the enforcement might be a problem, but his take away was that the Chief wanted to have the intersection striped.

Mr. Simms said that he thought it might be premature to move on the item. He said that East Avenue was very wide and that the drivers were simply trying to get home. The Committee needs to do their due diligence. He suggested that the Committee check with DPW to see if the light timings could be changed.

Mr. Hempstead said that the fines would be one issue but at least the City could paint the intersection it would be a first step.

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco said that they had been talking about this since the last session and acknowledged it was not a perfect solution, but it would give the police the tools that they need. Mr. Simms disagreed and said that moving on this now is not right. The Committee needs to do their due diligence and to have an analysis done. He said that he was not opposed to the striping, but felt that it was not good to have the fines done.

Mr. Kimmel pointed out that there was a safety issue in that area and drivers often have sight lines blocked. He said that he felt that this should move forward.

Mr. Livingston said that in the last meeting, they were told that they couldn't paint the lines without the ordinance being approved.

Ms. Melendez said that she agreed with everyone, and said that it was easy to end up in the box if the box had been painted on the street. She said that the police understand this issue and pointed out that the drivers can't figure out where the area is without the lines there. She said that she would like to send this item to the full Council for consideration.

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE DON'T BLOCK THE BOX ORDINANCE TO THE FULL COUNCIL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Harbor Commission –

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE CITY OF NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MOORING AND ANCHORING VESSELS TO THE FULL**

COUNCIL.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article III Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

Mr. Kimmel said that the Committee would be reviewing this every year. He said that it was important to realize that the value of someone's house should not be a factor.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE NORWALK CITY CODE CHAPTER 103, ARTICLE III TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS TO THE FULL COUNCIL.**

Mr. Hempstead said that he felt it was wonderful that the Committee could offer this to the residents. It's a plus if they can help an elderly person stay in their home.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Norwalk City Code Chapter 103, Article VI Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners VI

**** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE NORWALK CITY CODE CHAPTER 103, ARTICLE VI TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS TO THE FULL COUNCIL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Livingston had a question about the outcome of the vote for Harbor so the vote was taken again for the record.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE CITY OF NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MOORING AND ANCHORING VESSELS TO THE FULL COUNCIL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16 2016**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (MELENDEZ, SIMMS, KIMMEL, HEMPSTEAD AND LIVINGSTON) IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (O'TOOLE-GIANNDURCO)**

**OLD BUSINESS
(possible action on)**

- **Commercial Parking.**

Mr. Livingston pointed out that if there were any problems with the proposed Commercial Parking ordinance, the Committee could always revisit it.

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE COMMERCIAL PARKING ORDINANCE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Alarm ordinance**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ALARM ORDINANCE.**

Mr. Kimmel asked if the ordinance had been revised. Ms. Melendez said that it had been revised but the items had not been renumbered. Mr. Kimmel asked what the concern was. Ms. Melendez replied that the concern was about not being able to collect the fines. The staff then gave a brief overview how the fines would be collected and what the process would be for the determination of the fines. The Blight Ordinance has the same procedure.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS
(possible action on)

Mr. Kimmel said that he had planned to ask for a suspension of the rules to discuss the street vendors. He said that the ordinance was written in 1989 and the amount was \$200.00. He said that he would like to have this included on the next agenda. Mr. Hempstead said that he thought it might be because there because there were vendors going along the parade routes selling stuff. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services