

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.gov/meetings.



Members of the public can use a telephone to call in, attend, listen and comment during the meeting. However, they will not be able to see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. For the current meeting, the **meeting ID is 838 8053 7065** and the **call in number is 646-558-8656**. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed.



Upon written request, not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, a member of the public can request a physical location to attend this virtual meeting at City Hall. Such a member of the public will be provided access to a telephone so that they can attend the meeting in real time. The member of the public can call in, attend, listen and comment during the meeting. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID (see above). A set of instructions will be left with the telephone for the member of the public to use in order to access the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to “view the meeting live” and/or “provide live comments” can use the Zoom meeting platform by going to either <https://norwalkct-org.zoom.us/j/83880537065> or www.norwalkct.org/meetings and clicking on the “View/Participate Live on Zoom” link that is on the line with the meeting date and time. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the “raise your hand indicator” and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Brian Candela at bcandela@norwalkct.gov with the subject line “Public Comment” to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

COMMON COUNCIL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE **REGULAR MEETING**

February 20, 2024
7:00 p.m. – By Videoconference and Teleconference

AGENDA

- 1. ROLL CALL:**
- 2. PUBLIC HEARING (possible action on):**
 - Discuss and vote on Section 9-3: Procedure for sale of City property.
 - Discuss and vote on Chapter 58A – Blight Prevention.
 - Discuss and vote on Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION:**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**
- 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**
 - January 30, 2024 – special meeting of the ordinance committee
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 8. DISCUSSION ITEM:**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:**

PROBATE NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Paragiotis Tsilifidis
(22-00207)

The Hon. Douglas Stern, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Norwalk - Wilton Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Stephanie Bergamo,
Deputy Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

George P. Tsilifidis c/o LUKAS J THOMAS, OWENS SCHINE AND NICOLA, P.C., 799 SILVER LANE, TRUMBULL, CT 06611

PROBATE NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Leonel Araujo
(23-00990)

The Hon. Douglas Stern, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Norwalk - Wilton Probate Court, by decree dated November 28, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Diane Ely, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Leslyia Araujo,
4-6 Union Avenue, Apt. 5,
Norwalk, CT 06851

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Call 203-333-4151

M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Chapter 9, Article I, Section 9.3 - Procedure for Sale of City Property. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Chapter 9: Administration, Article I, Section 9.3

§ 9-3 Procedure for sale of City property.

All sales, conveyances and transfers of real property and personal property of an estimated value at an amount greater than \$50,000 or as recommended by the Purchasing Agent owned by the City shall be made and issued in the name and on behalf of the City after notice and public hearing, and after a resolution providing for such sale, conveyance and transfer shall have been passed in due form by the Council of the City. Instruments of conveyance shall be signed and executed by the Mayor on behalf of the City and shall have the Seal of the City affixed thereto.

Reference:

The notice and public hearing requirements are identified in Connecticut General Statutes § 7-163e, as amended.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this _____ day of January 2024.

ATTEST:

Irene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on an Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

City of Norwalk

Common Council

Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts

Chapter 9 – Article IX

§9-25 Common Council and Board of Education Voting Districts.

A. Common Council Districts. In accordance with §3-4.A(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by two elected members on the Common Council ("Council Districts").

B. Board of Education Districts. In accordance with §3-4.B(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Board of Education Districts, which shall correspond to the five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by one elected member on the Board of Education.

C. At-Large Members of the Common Council and Board of Education. The number of elected Councilmembers-at-Large must be equivalent in number to the number of Council Districts as may exist, from time-to-time, in accordance with §3-4.A(2) of the Charter. At the time of the adoption of this Chapter there are five at-large members of the Common Council. Moreover, there are four at-large members of the Board of Education, in accordance with §3-4.B(2) of the Charter, elected in the manner set forth in 3-4.B(3) of the Charter. The elected at-large members are not subject to the periodic reapportionment required by the General Statutes, §3-4.A(3) of the Charter, or this Chapter.

§9-26 Standards Pertaining to Reapportionment.

The reapportionment of Council Districts shall conform to federal and state constitutional standards and statutory requirements. Accordingly, the Council Districts shall be:

- A. of substantially equal population; and,
- B. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in compact and contiguous form following geographical divisions, considering communities of interest and historical boundary lines and shall further use best efforts to include the boundary lines of the Taxing Districts as defined in the Charter within a single Council District where practicable; and,
- C. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in accordance with the requirements of C.G.S. 9-169f.

§9-27 The Reapportionment Advisory Committee: Appointment Date.

A. Appointment. No later than thirty days following the completion of reapportionment of the General Assembly, as required by the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, as further set forth in the General Statutes, a Reapportionment Advisory Committee consisting of seven members, no more than three of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Council, following consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Council, and approved by a Majority Vote of the Council. In addition to consulting with the caucus leaders of the Council, the President shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Chapter 9, Article I, Section 9.3 - Procedure for Sale of City Property. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Chapter 9: Administration, Article I, Section 9-3

§ 9-3 Procedure for sale of City property.

All sales, conveyances and transfers of real property and personal property of an estimated value at an amount greater than \$50,000 or as recommended by the Purchasing Agent, real and personal, owned by the City shall be made and issued in the name and on behalf of the City after ~~reasonable~~ notice and public hearing, and after a resolution providing for such sale, conveyance and transfer shall have been passed in due form by the Council of the eCity. Instruments of conveyance shall be signed and executed by the Mayor ~~in~~ on behalf of the City and shall have the Seal of the City affixed thereto.

Reference:

The notice and public hearing requirements are identified in Connecticut General Statutes § 7-163e, as amended.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this 17th day of January 2024.

ATTEST: Irene T. Dixon
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Chapter 58A – Blight Prevention. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Chapter 58A. Blight Prevention

[HISTORY: Adopted by the City of Norwalk Common Council 6-9-2015,^[1] effective 1-1-2016. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building Code — See Ch. 26.
Department of Code Enforcement — See Ch. 35A.
Fire prevention — See Ch. 42A.
Housing Code — See Ch. 59.
Landlord identification — See Ch. 62A.
Zoning — See Ch. 118.

[1] *Editor's Note: This ordinance also superseded former Ch. 58A, Housing Blight, adopted 8-13-2013, effective 1-1-2014.*

§ 58A-1. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

BLIGHTED PROPERTY

Any building or structure, or any part of a building or structure, or a vacant parcel of land, in which at least one of the following conditions exist:

- (1) It is determined by the City's Chief Building Official that existing conditions pose a serious or immediate danger to the community, i.e., a life-threatening condition or a condition that puts at risk the health or safety of citizens of the City.
- (2) It is not being adequately maintained; without limitation, the following factors may be considered in determining whether a structure or building is not being adequately maintained: (a) missing or boarded windows or doors; (b) collapsing or missing roof or exterior walls; (c) siding that is seriously damaged or missing; (d) fire damage; (e) damaged, decaying, or deteriorating condition that could allow vermin or other wildlife interior access; (f) a foundation that is structurally faulty; and (g) garbage, trash or

abandoned motor vehicles situated on the property (unless the property is a junkyard legally licensed by the State of Connecticut).

- (3) It has been cited for violations of state statutes and/or state regulations, or City Charter or Code provisions.
- (4) It has become a place where criminal activity has taken place as documented by reports of the Norwalk Police Department.
- (5) It is a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or as documented by reports of the Norwalk Fire Department.
- (6) It is a factor creating a substantial and unreasonable risk of interference with the reasonable and lawful use and enjoyment of other space within the building or other surrounding properties within the Neighborhood, as documented by Neighborhood complaints, or cancellation of insurance on surrounding proximate properties.
- (7) It is a factor that is materially depreciating property values in the Neighborhood.
- (8) It contains unauthorized outside storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, boxes, paper, plastic, or refuse of any kind or the parking of inoperable motor vehicles, boats, motorcycles or other inoperable machinery on the property or the public right of way. For the purposes of this Chapter "authorized" shall pertain to local, state, or federal laws and/or regulations.
- (9) It has been vandalized, or otherwise damaged to the extent that it is materially depreciating property values in the Neighborhood.
- ~~(10)~~ — It contains a Property Maintenance Violation as defined in this Chapter.
- ~~(10)~~ .

BLIGHT PREVENTION OFFICER

The Chief Building Official of the City of Norwalk or his, her or their designee. They shall investigate complaints of Blighted Properties, issue warning letters and citations when appropriate, and explain their findings and actions to the citation hearing officers when necessary.

CODE VIOLATION

A violation of any Zoning Regulations, building codes, public health codes, and fire codes.

DISABLED INDIVIDUAL

In the case of an owner-occupied residence, an individual who has a mental or physical disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., as amended, and does not have other household

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members capable of providing the maintenance necessary to abate [Blighted Properties](#)~~blight~~.

ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL

An individual over the age of 65, who does not have a household member capable of providing the maintenance necessary to abate [Blighted Properties](#)~~blight~~.

LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL

An individual or a family unit that has an income below the highest level of income established by the State of Connecticut's Elderly Tax Relief Program. This level is in the upper limit of Step 5 as set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-170aa(c), [as amended](#). It is immaterial that a person is or is not elderly for purposes of this definition.

MANAGED NATURAL MEADOW LANDSCAPE

A planned, intentional, and maintained planting of primarily native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, or trees. A Managed Natural Meadow Landscape shall not include Turf Grass that has reached a height greater than nine inches. The provisions of this definition are not intended to allow a property owner to avoid Property Maintenance responsibilities as set forth herein.

NEIGHBORHOOD

~~An area of the City comprised of all properties or parcels of land, any part of which is within a radius of four hundred feet of any part of another parcel or lot within the City.~~

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATION

A. With respect to lots or parcels, the violation of any the following standards:

- (1) No shopping baskets, carts or wagons shall be left unattended or standing, and the baskets, carts, or wagons shall be collected as often as necessary and removed to an appropriate enclosure intended for such purpose or to the interior of the building or buildings from which they were taken.
- (2) All fences shall be maintained. Such maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting as needed, removal or covering of graffiti, and the replacement or repair of fences which may become in disrepair.
- (3) Yards, courts, and vacant lots shall be kept clean and free of physical hazards, rodent harborage, and infestation. The owner of the property shall

maintain the premises litter-free, and shall remove discarded or inoperative appliances, furnishings, and machinery.

- (4) All signs exposed to the public view shall be maintained in good repair. Excessively weathered or faded signs shall be removed or put into good repair. A non-operative or broken electrical or other sign shall be repaired or removed.
- (5) All places of business that serve food or drink to patrons (e.g., restaurants, cafes, bars, etc.) shall maintain receptacle(s) for the disposal of cigarettes on their premises and shall empty the receptacle(s) on a regular basis.
- (6) No dumpster or other refuse container usually used on a construction site may be kept in a residential area unless for a construction or improvement project (which may include the disposal of household items) that is to commence within two weeks of the placing of a dumpster on the premises, provided that such dumpster or other refuse container may not be kept on the premises more than two weeks after the completion of the project.

B. With respect to buildings and structures, the violation of any of the following standards:

- (1) The exterior of a buildings and-or structures shall be maintained so that it is not dilapidated, deteriorating, or decaying, nor open to the elements. The following factors may be considered in determining whether a building or structure is being maintained: (a) missing or boarded windows or doors; (b) collapsing or missing roof or exterior walls; (c) exterior walls that contain holes, breaks, loose or rotting materials or the presence of graffiti, or exterior walls that are not properly surface-coated to prevent deterioration; (d) siding that is seriously damaged or missing; (e) foundation walls that contain open cracks or leaks or are structurally faulty; (f) overhang extensions, including but not limited to, canopies, signs, awnings, stairways, fire escapes, standpipes, and exhaust ducts, that contain rust or other decay; and (g) chimneys and other appurtenances that are in a state of disrepair.
- (2) The foundation walls of every building shall be maintained in good repair and in a structurally sound condition.
- (3) Foundations, floors, and walls shall be in good painted or finished condition without peeling.
- (4) Exterior walls (including doors and windows), roofs, and the areas around doors, windows, chimneys and other parts of a building shall be maintained as to keep water from entering the building and to prevent undue heat loss from occupied areas. Materials that have been damaged or show evidence of dry rot or other deterioration shall be repaired or replaced and refinished in a workmanlike manner. Exterior walls, roofs and other parts of the

building shall be free from loose and unsecured objects and material. Such objects and materials shall be removed, repaired, or replaced.

- (5) Buildings and structures shall be maintained free of insect, vermin, bird, rodent, and other wildlife harborage and infestation.
- (6) Buildings and structures shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition free from health, safety, and fire hazards.
- (7) All storefronts, both occupied and non-occupied, and their walls exposed to public view shall be kept in a good state of repair and free of graffiti.

~~B.~~ C. Property ~~M~~aintenance ~~V~~iolations shall also include:

- (1) Any conditions that unreasonably hinder the use of adjacent properties, block or interfere with the use of the public sidewalk and/or public or private street or right of way, or obstruct the sighting of any road sign, obstruct utility lines or other cables to or around the premises, or extend or infringe beyond the boundaries of the premises, and
- (2) Situations in which the overall condition of the premises causes an unreasonable impact on the enjoyment of or value of neighboring surrounding properties ~~as expressed by a complaint(s) from adjoining and nearby property owners.~~

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TURF GRASS

A grass commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas (such as, but not limited to, bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends), maintained in accordance with this Chapter.

§ 58A-2. Creation or maintenance of Blighted Property prohibited.

No owner of real property within the City of Norwalk shall cause or allow such property or any buildings thereon to become a Blighted Property, nor shall an owner allow the continued existence of a Blighted Property.

§ 58A-3. Managed Natural Meadow Landscape Exemption.

A. A property owner may claim an exemption from the provisions of this Chapter on the grounds that an alleged Property Maintenance Violation is a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape. The property owner's exemption claim must be made in writing to the Blight Prevention Officer within seven days of the date of the citation.

B. After a timely exemption claim is made by the property owner, a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape (hereafter, "Meadow") shall be exempt from the provisions of this Chapter if in the determination of the Blight Prevention Officer, in their sole discretion, all the following conditions are met:

- (1) The Meadow is a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of primarily native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, or trees;
- (2) The Meadow does not (a) unreasonably hinder the use of adjacent properties; (b) block or interfere with the use of the public sidewalk and/or public or private street or right-of-way; (c) obstruct the sighting of any road sign, obstruct utility lines or other cables to or around the premises; (d) block or interfere with the use of a fire hydrant or other fixture used in fire suppression; or (e) extend or infringe beyond the boundaries of the premises; and
- (3) Upon request by the Blight Prevention Officer, the property owner presents to the Blight Prevention Officer a completed Managed Natural Meadow Landscape Plan, to the satisfaction of the Blight Prevention Officer, on or before a date determined by the Blight Prevention Officer in their sole discretion.

C. As used herein, a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape Plan means a written plan that includes (1) a statement of the intended purpose of the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape; (2) a sketch of the site plan; (3) names of the dominant plant species used in the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape; and (4) a description of how the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape is maintained. The form for the written plan shall be developed by the Blight Prevention Officer and made available in the office of the Blight Prevention Officer.

D. The Blight Prevention Officer may revoke an exemption granted in accordance with the provisions of this Section at any time if, in the Blight Prevention Officer's sole discretion, the Managed Natural Meadow no longer meets one or more of the conditions set forth herein.

§ 58A-4. Warnings; citations; hearings; fines.

A. The Blight Prevention Officer shall issue a written warning notifying the property owner of a violation of this Chapter. Said warning shall detail each violation finding of blight and the corrective action necessary, and shall provide a reasonable amount of time for the property owner to correct the violation blight.

B. If the property owner does not cure-correct the violation blight within the time period stated in the written warning, the Blight Prevention Officer shall issue a citation to the property owner. Said citation shall be issued not sooner than 15 days after the deadline to cure-correct the violation blight conditions stated in the written warning. The citation shall assess a fine of \$150 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation

occurs at an occupied property; \$250 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation occurs at a vacant property; and \$1,000 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period. Any unpaid fine pursuant to this Chapter shall constitute a lien upon the real estate against which the fine was imposed in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended. Such lien shall be continued, recorded, enforced and released in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended.

C. The Mayor shall appoint one or more citation hearing officers other than police officers, City employees, or the Blight Prevention Officer, to conduct citation appeal hearings. The citation hearing officer shall be a member, in good standing, of the Connecticut Bar Association. Issuance and service of citations, payment of fines, hearings and appeals to the Connecticut Superior Court shall be governed by Section 7-152c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended~~may be amended for time to time~~.

D. Fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a separate fund to be used for expenses related to the enforcement and abatement of blight within the City of Norwalk.

§ 58A-5. Abatement by City.

When a property owner is issued a citation pursuant to this Chapter, and does not correct ~~cure~~ the violation ~~blight~~ within 30 days of the service of the citation, the City of Norwalk may cure ~~correct~~ the blight conditions that caused the violation. Upon issuance of the third violation, and for each additional blight-violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period, the City may correct the conditions that caused the violation ~~cure the blight conditions~~ immediately. The costs incurred by the City to correct the conditions that caused the violation ~~cure the blight~~ shall constitute a lien against the real property in addition to any fines assessed pursuant to this Chapter.

§ 58A-6. Special considerations.

Special consideration may be given to property owners who are Elderly Individuals, Disabled Individuals, or Low Income Individuals when the Blighted Property is an blight warning or citation concerns an-owner-occupied residential dwelling. In such cases, the Blight Prevention Officer shall give such individuals adequate time to correct the conditions that caused the violation ~~blight conditions~~ not to exceed 90 days. The Blight Prevention Officer shall provide information on possible opportunities for assistance with each such warning letter and citation.

§ 58A-7. Other enforcement.

Nothing in this Chapter shall be deemed to prohibit or limit in any manner any enforcement action with respect to any zoning, building, public health, fire, inland wetlands, or other statutes, code, regulation or laws relating to the use of real property.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this 17th day of January 2024.

ATTEST: Irene 7. Dixon
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Chapter 58A – Blight Prevention. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Chapter 58A. Blight Prevention

[HISTORY: Adopted by the City of Norwalk Common Council 6-9-2015,^[1] effective 1-1-2016. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building Code — See Ch. 26.
Department of Code Enforcement — See Ch. 35A.
Fire prevention — See Ch. 42A.
Housing Code — See Ch. 59.
Landlord identification — See Ch. 62A.
Zoning — See Ch. 118.

[1] *Editor's Note: This ordinance also superseded former Ch. 58A, Housing Blight, adopted 8-13-2013, effective 1-1-2014.*

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- (2) It is not being adequately maintained; without limitation, the following factors may be considered in determining whether a structure or building is not being adequately maintained: (a) missing or boarded windows or doors; (b) collapsing or missing roof or exterior walls; (c) siding that is seriously damaged or missing; (d) fire damage; (e) damaged, decaying, or deteriorating condition that could allow vermin or other wildlife interior access; (f) a foundation that is structurally faulty; and (g) garbage, trash or abandoned motor vehicles situated on the property (unless the property is a junkyard legally licensed by the State of Connecticut).
- (3) It has been cited for violations of state statutes and/or state regulations, or City Charter or Code provisions.
- (4) It has become a place where criminal activity has taken place as documented by reports of the Norwalk Police Department.
- (5) It is a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or as documented by reports of the Norwalk Fire Department.
- (6) It is a factor creating a substantial and unreasonable risk of interference

exhaust ducts, that contain rust or other decay; and (g) chimneys and other appurtenances that are in a state of disrepair.

- (2) The foundation walls of every building shall be maintained in good repair and in a structurally sound condition.
- (3) Foundations, floors, and walls shall be in good painted or finished condition.
- (4) Exterior walls (including doors and windows), roofs, and the areas around doors, windows, chimneys and other parts of a building shall be maintained as to keep water from entering the building and to prevent undue heat loss from occupied areas. Materials that have been damaged or show evidence of dry rot or other deterioration shall be repaired or replaced and refinished in a workmanlike manner. Exterior walls, roofs and other parts of the building shall be free from loose and unsecured objects and material. Such objects and materials shall be removed, repaired, or replaced.
- (5) Buildings and structures shall be maintained free of insect, vermin, bird, rodent, and other wildlife harborage and infestation.
- (6) Buildings and structures shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition free from health, safety, and fire hazards.
- (7) All storefronts, both occupied and non-occupied, and their walls exposed to public view shall be kept in a good state of repair and free of graffiti.

C. Property Maintenance Violations shall also include:

- (1) Any conditions that unreasonably hinder the use of adjacent properties, block or interfere with the use of the public sidewalk and/or public or private street or right of way, or obstruct the sighting of any road sign, obstruct utility lines or other cables to or around the premises, or extend or infringe beyond the boundaries of the premises, and
- (2) Situations in which the overall condition of the premises causes an unreasonable impact on the enjoyment of or value of surrounding properties.

TURF GRASS

A grass commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas (such as, but not limited to, bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends), maintained in accordance with this Chapter.

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A. A property owner may claim an exemption from the provisions of this Chapter on the grounds that an alleged Property Maintenance Violation is a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape. The property owner's exemption claim must be made in writing to the Blight Prevention Officer within seven days of the date of the citation.

B. After a timely exemption claim is made by the property owner, a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape (hereafter, "Meadow") shall be exempt from the provisions of this Chapter if in the determination of the Blight Prevention Officer, in their sole discretion, all the following conditions are met:

documented by reports of the Norwalk Police Department.

(5) It is a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or as documented by reports of the Norwalk Fire Department.

(6) It is a factor creating a substantial and unreasonable risk of interference with the reasonable and lawful use and enjoyment of other space within the building or surrounding properties, as documented by complaints or cancellation of insurance on surrounding properties.

(7) It is a factor that is materially depreciating property values.

(8) It contains unauthorized outside storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, boxes, paper, plastic, or refuse of any kind or the parking of inoperable motor vehicles, boats, motorcycles or other inoperable machinery on the property or the public right of way. For the purposes of this Chapter "authorized" shall pertain to local, state, or federal laws and/or regulations.

(9) It has been vandalized, or otherwise damaged to the extent that it is materially depreciating property values.

(10) It contains a Property Maintenance Violation as defined in this Chapter.

BLIGHT PREVENTION OFFICER

The Chief Building Official of the City of Norwalk or his, her or their designee, they shall investigate complaints of Blighted Properties, issue warning letters and citations when appropriate, and explain their findings and actions to the citation hearing officers when necessary.

DISABLED INDIVIDUAL

In the case of an owner-occupied residence, an individual who has a mental or physical disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., as amended, and does not have other household members capable of providing the maintenance necessary to abate Blighted Properties.

ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL

An individual over the age of 65, who does not have a household member capable of providing the maintenance necessary to abate Blighted Properties.

LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL

An individual or a family unit that has an income below the highest level of income established by the State of Connecticut's Elderly Tax Relief Program. This level is in the upper limit of Step 5 as set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-170a(c), as amended. It is immaterial that a person is or is not elderly for purposes of this definition.

MANAGED NATURAL MEADOW LANDSCAPE

A planned, intentional, and maintained planting of primarily native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, or trees. A Managed Natural Meadow Landscape shall not include Turf Grass that has reached a height greater than nine inches. The provisions of this definition are not intended to allow a property owner to avoid Property Maintenance responsibilities as set forth herein.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATION

A. With respect to lots or parcels, the violation of any the following standards:

(1) No shopping baskets, carts or wagons shall be left unattended or standing, and the baskets, carts, or wagons shall be collected as often as necessary and removed to an appropriate enclosure intended for such purpose or to the interior of the building or buildings from which they were taken.

(2) All fences shall be maintained. Such maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting as needed, removal or covering of graffiti, and

writing to the Blight Prevention Officer within seven days of the date of the violation.

B. After a timely exemption claim is made by the property owner, a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape (hereafter, "Meadow") shall be exempt from the provisions of this Chapter if in the determination of the Blight Prevention Officer, in their sole discretion, all the following conditions are met:

(1) The Meadow is a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of primarily native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, or trees;

(2) The Meadow does not (a) unreasonably hinder the use of adjacent properties; (b) block or interfere with the use of the public sidewalk and/or public or private street or right-of-way; (c) obstruct the sighting of any road sign, obstruct utility lines or other cables to or around the premises; (d) block or interfere with the use of a fire hydrant or other fixture used in fire suppression; or (e) extend or infringe beyond the boundaries of the premises; and

(3) Upon request by the Blight Prevention Officer, the property owner presents to the Blight Prevention Officer a completed Managed Natural Meadow Landscape Plan, to the satisfaction of the Blight Prevention Officer, on or before a date determined by the Blight Prevention Officer in their sole discretion.

C. As used herein, a Managed Natural Meadow Landscape Plan means a written plan that includes (1) a statement of the intended purpose of the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape; (2) a sketch of the site plan; (3) names of the dominant plant species used in the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape; and (4) a description of how the Managed Natural Meadow Landscape is maintained. The form for the written plan shall be developed by the Blight Prevention Officer and made available in the office of the Blight Prevention Officer.

D. The Blight Prevention Officer may revoke an exemption granted in accordance with the provisions of this Section at any time if, in the Blight Prevention Officer's sole discretion, the Managed Natural Meadow no longer meets one or more of the conditions set forth herein.

§ 58A-4. Warnings; citations; hearings; fines.

A. The Blight Prevention Officer shall issue a written warning notifying the property owner of a violation of this Chapter. Said warning shall detail each violation and the corrective action necessary, and shall provide a reasonable amount of time for the property owner to correct the violation.

B. If the property owner does not correct the violation within the time period stated in the written warning, the Blight Prevention Officer shall issue a citation to the property owner. Said citation shall be issued not sooner than 15 days after the deadline to correct the violation stated in the written warning. The citation shall assess a fine of \$150 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation occurs at an occupied property; \$250 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation occurs at a vacant property; and \$1,000 per day for every day the violation continues if such violation is the third or more such violation at such property during the prior twelve-month period. Any unpaid fine pursuant to this Chapter shall constitute a lien upon the real estate against which the fine was imposed in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended. Such lien shall be continued, recorded, enforced and released in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended.

C. The Mayor shall appoint one or more citation hearing officers other than police officers, City employees, or the Blight Prevention Officer, to conduct citation appeal hearings. The citation hearing officer shall be a member, in good standing, of the Connecticut Bar Association. Issuance and service of citations, payment of fines, hearings and appeals to the Connecticut Superior Court shall be governed by Section 7-152c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

D. Fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a separate fund to

North

Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended. Such bill shall remain in continued, recorded, enforced and released in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended.

- Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended. Such bill shall remain in continued, recorded, enforced and released in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148aa, as amended.

General

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Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on an Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

City of Norwalk

Common Council

Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts

Chapter 9 – Article IX

§9-25 Common Council and Board of Education Voting Districts.

- A. Common Council Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.A(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by two elected members on the Common Council (“Council Districts”).
- B. Board of Education Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.B(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Board of Education Districts, which shall correspond to the five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by one elected member on the Board of Education.
- C. At-Large Members of the Common Council and Board of Education.** The number of elected Councilmembers-at-Large must be equivalent in number to the number of Council Districts as may exist, from time-time time, in accordance with §3-4A(2) of the Charter. At the time of the adoption of this Chapter there are five at-large members of the Common Council. Moreover, there are four at-large members of the Board of Education, in accordance with §3-4.B(2) of the Charter, elected in the manner set forth in 3-4.B(3) of the Charter. The elected at-large members are not subject to the periodic reapportionment required by the General Statutes, §3-4.A(3) of the Charter, or this Chapter.

§9-26 Standards Pertaining to Reapportionment.

The reapportionment of Council Districts shall conform to federal and state constitutional standards and statutory requirements. Accordingly, the Council Districts shall be:

- A.** of substantially equal population; and,

- B. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in compact and contiguous form following geographical divisions, considering communities of interest and historical boundary lines and shall further use best efforts to include the boundary lines of the Taxing Districts as defined in the Charter within a single Council District where practicable; and,
- C. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in accordance with the requirements of C.G.S. 9-169f.

§9-27 The Reapportionment Advisory Committee: Appointment Date.

- A. **Appointment.** No later than thirty days following the completion of reapportionment of the General Assembly, as required by the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, as further set forth in the General Statutes, a Reapportionment Advisory Committee consisting of seven members, no more than three of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Council, following consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Council, and approved by a Majority Vote of the Council. In addition to consulting with the caucus leaders of the Council, the President shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.
- B. **Ex-officio Non-Voting Members.** The Registrars of Voters shall serve as ex-official non-voting members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.
- C. **Appointment Date.** The date the Common Council approves the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be the "Appointment Date."

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be approved by the Common Council not later than thirty days following the effective date of this Ordinance.

§9-28 Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

- A. **Written Report ("Report").** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall provide a Report, in writing, to the Common Council no later than 180 days following the Appointment Date, which shall include a tentative map setting forth the recommended boundaries of the five Council Districts.
- B. **Data and Resources.** The Advisory Committee may utilize demographic data assembled by the City, computer resources of the City, and such other third-party resources and facilities as the Council may deem desirable to carry out the purpose of this Chapter.

- C. Public Hearing.** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall hold at least one Public Hearing no less than one week before it submits its Report to the Common Council, and shall make a tentative map of its proposed districts available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Charter at least five days before the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice shall include the contents of the Report including a copy of a map illustrating the boundary lines of each of the proposed Council Districts.
- D. Action by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.** On the basis of information elicited at the public hearing, the Reapportionment Advisory Committee may thereafter alter the Report. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, five members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.
- E. Transmittal to the Common Council: Receipt Date.** The Report shall be submitted to the Common Council by filing with the City Clerk and the Town Clerk. Receipt of the Report shall be deemed to be the date upon which it is filed with the City Clerk ("Receipt Date"). The City Clerk shall transmit the Report to the Common Council.
- F. Failure to File Report.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee fails to file the Report with the Town Clerk by the close of business no later than the 180th day following the Appointment Date, the provisions of §9-30 of this Chapter shall be invoked.

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file the Report to the Common Council no later than ninety days following the Appointment Date. In all other respects the provisions of §9-28 shall remain in full force and effect.

§9-29 Actions of the Common Council.

- A. Time-Frame.** The Common Council shall vote on the establishment of Common Council Districts within forty-five (45) days of its receipt of the Report.
- B. Public Hearing and Deliberations.** The Common Council may amend the district boundaries recommended by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee before approving Council Districts, following at least one Public Hearing as required by §4-8.B of the Charter. Nevertheless, the Council Districts approved by the Common Council must comply with the standards of §9-26 of this Chapter.
- C. Voting Standard.** Approval of the Council Districts must be affirmatively supported by a Majority Vote of the Common Council, as defined in the Charter.

(1) Approval or Modification of the Report. If the Report is approved or modified by the Common Council it shall be deemed adopted, as an Ordinance,

in compliance with the requirements of the General Statutes and have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal election following Reapportionment.

(2) **Rejection or Failure to Timely Act.** If the Report is rejected or not acted upon in accordance with the time limitations set forth in §9-29.A, above, then the Mayor shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee as set forth in §9-30, below.

§9-30 Role of the Mayor, if necessitated by Failure of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee to Act or the Common Council to Approve.

- A. Appointment of a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee by the Mayor.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall fail to file the Report as set forth in §9-28.D, above, or if the Common Council shall fail to approve Council Districts within the time limit established by §9-29.D, the Mayor, within five days of notice from the Town Clerk of the precipitating action, shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee comprised of three members. Each member shall have a different political party affiliation or no party affiliation; thus, no political party shall attain a majority of the members. The Mayor shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.
- B. Deliberations.** The Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file a report with the Town Clerk delineating Common Council District boundaries within twenty-one days of its appointment. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, two members of the Advisory Committee.
- C. Standard for Approval.** The Report of the Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be subject to approval by a Majority Vote of the Council, as defined in the Charter, within one week of the filing with the Town Clerk. Once approved this provision, in furtherance of the requirements of the constitutional standard, federal law and state law; and, thus, shall have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal general election following its approval. +

§9-31 Publication of the Adopted Report.

Upon receiving such adopted Ordinance (incorporating the contents of the Report), the Town Clerk shall publish and record the same in the same manner as ordinances are required to be published and recorded as set forth in the Charter, and upon such publication and recording, such plan shall have the full force of law.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this 31st day of January 2024.

ATTEST: Irene T. Dixon
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

PROBATE NOTICES**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

ESTATE OF Panagiotis Tsiftidis
(22-00207)

The Hon. Douglas Stern, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Norwalk - Wilton Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Stephanie Bergamo
Deputy Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

George P. Tsiftidis c/o LUKAS J THOMAS, OWENS SCHINE AND NICOLA, P.C., 799 SILVER LANE, TRUMBULL, CT 06611
Anastasi Georgiades c/o LUKAS J THOMAS, OWENS SCHINE AND NICOLA, P.C., 799 SILVER LANE, TRUMBULL, CT 06611

PROBATE NOTICES**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

ESTATE OF Leonel Araujo
(23-00990)

The Hon. Douglas Stern, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Norwalk - Wilton Probate Court, by decree dated November 28, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Diane Ely, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Levia Araujo,
4-6 Union Avenue, Apt. 5,
Norwalk, CT 06851

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Call 203-333-4151

M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES**Legal Notice of Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Chapter 9, Article I, Section 9.3 - Procedure for Sale of City Property. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Chapter 9: Administration, Article I, Section 9-3**\$ 9-3 Procedure for sale of City property.**

All sales, conveyances and transfers of real property and personal property of an estimated value at an amount greater than \$50,000 or as recommended by the Purchasing Agent owned by the City shall be made and issued in the name and on behalf of the City after notice and public hearing, and after a resolution providing for such sale, conveyance and transfer shall have been passed in due form by the Council of the City. Instruments of conveyance shall be signed and executed by the Mayor on behalf of the City and shall have the Seal of the City affixed thereto.

Reference:

The notice and public hearing requirements are identified in Connecticut General Statutes § 7-163e, as amended.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this _____ day of January 2024.

ATTEST:

Trene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and voting on an Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

City of Norwalk

Common Council

Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts**Chapter 9 – Article IX****\$9-25 Common Council and Board of Education Voting Districts.**

A. Common Council Districts. In accordance with §3-4.A(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by two elected members on the Common Council ("Council Districts").

B. Board of Education Districts. In accordance with §3-4.B(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Board of Education Districts, which shall correspond to the five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by one elected member on the Board of Education.

C. At-Large Members of the Common Council and Board of Education. The number of elected Councilmembers-at-Large must be equivalent in number to the number of Council Districts as may exist, from time-to-time, in accordance with §3-4.A(2) of the Charter. At the time of the adoption of this Chapter, there are five at-large members of the Common Council. Moreover, there are four at-large members of the Board of Education, in accordance with §3-4.B(2) of the Charter, elected in the manner set forth in 3-4.B(3) of the Charter. The elected at-large members are not subject to the periodic reapportionment required by the General Statutes, §3-4.A(3) of the Charter, or this Chapter.

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- B. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in compact and contiguous form following geographical divisions, considering communities of interest and historical boundary lines and shall further use best efforts to include the boundary lines of the Taxing Districts as defined in the Charter within a single Council District where practicable; and,
- C. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in accordance with the requirements of C.G.S. 9-169f.

\$9-27 The Reapportionment Advisory Committee: Appointment Date.

Appointment. No later than thirty days following the completion of reapportionment of the General Assembly, as required by the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, as further set forth in the General Statutes, a Reapportionment Advisory Committee consisting of seven members, no more than three of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Council, following consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Council, and approved by a Majority Vote of the Council. In addition to consulting with the caucus leaders of the Council, the President shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

PROBATE NOTICES**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

STATE OF Leonel Araujo
(23-00990)

1. Douglas Stern, Judge of
Court of Probate, District of
Norwalk, Wilton Probate Court,
dated November 28,
ordered that all claims must
be presented to the fiduciary at
the address below. Failure to
present any such claim
will result in the loss of rights to
claim on such claim.

Diane Ely, Chief Clerk

Fiduciary is:
Leonel Araujo,
1000 Avenue, Apt. 5,
Norwalk, CT 06851

SCHEDULED ADVERTISING

11 203-333-4151
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

S**Learning**

1. Ordinance Committee will
meet on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by way
of videoconference/teleconference for the purpose of discussing and
voting on an Ordinance Establishing an Advisory
Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts. Please check the Ordinance Committee agenda for additional
details and instructions about how to attend this Public Hearing by way of videoconference/teleconference. The Ordinance Committee
agenda will be posted on the City website by February 16, 2024.

Section 9-3

Property and personal
items valued at more than \$50,000 or as
required by the City shall be made
available after notice and public
hearing, sale, conveyance and
the Council of the City.
executed by the Mayor on
behalf of the City.

identified in Connecticut

of January 2024.

February 9, 2024

Court District

es

Since, a hearing will be held
in Room 232, Norwalk,
for the removal of
items concerning a certain
decision will affect your in-
terests.

One wishes to have an attorney
provide an attorney upon
notice to be made immediately
to be held.

Matthew A. Zeccola, Clerk

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

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City of Norwalk

Common Council

Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts**Chapter 9 – Article IX****§9-25 Common Council and Board of Education Voting Districts.**

- A. **Common Council Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.A(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by two elected members on the Common Council ("Council Districts").
- B. **Board of Education Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.B(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Board of Education Districts, which shall correspond to the five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by one elected member on the Board of Education.
- C. **At-Large Members of the Common Council and Board of Education.** The number of elected Councilmembers-at-Large must be equivalent in number to the number of Council Districts as may exist, from time-to-time, in accordance with §3-4.A(2) of the Charter. At the time of the adoption of this Chapter there are five at-large members of the Common Council. Moreover, there are four at-large members of the Board of Education, in accordance with §3-4.B(2) of the Charter, elected in the manner set forth in §3-4.B(3) of the Charter. The elected at-large members are not subject to the periodic reapportionment required by the General Statutes, §3-4.A(3) of the Charter, or this Chapter.

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The reapportionment of Council Districts shall conform to federal and state constitutional standards and statutory requirements. Accordingly, the Council Districts shall be:

- A. of substantially equal population; and,
- B. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in compact and contiguous form following geographical divisions, considering communities of interest and historical boundary lines and shall further use best efforts to include the boundary lines of the Taxing Districts as defined in the Charter within a single Council District where practicable; and,
- C. to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in accordance with the requirements of C.G.S. 9-169f.

§9-27 The Reapportionment Advisory Committee: Appointment Date.

- A. **Appointment.** No later than thirty days following the completion of reapportionment of the General Assembly, as required by the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, as further set forth in the General Statutes, a Reapportionment Advisory Committee consisting of seven members, no more than three of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Council, following consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Council, and approved by a Majority Vote of the Council. In addition to consulting with the caucus leaders of the Council, the President shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

- B. **Ex-officio Non-Voting Members.** The Registrars of Voters shall serve as ex-official non-voting members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

- C. **Appointment Date.** The date the Common Council approves the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be the "Appointment Date."

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be approved by the Common Council not later than thirty days following the effective date of this Ordinance.

§9-28 Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

- A. **Written Report ("Report").** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall provide a Report, in writing, to the Common Council no later than 180 days following the Appointment Date, which shall include a tentative map setting forth the recommended boundaries of the five Council Districts.

- B. **Data and Resources.** The Advisory Committee may utilize demographic data assembled by the City, computer resources of the City, and such other third-party resources and facilities as the Council may deem desirable to carry out the purpose of this Chapter.





Proposals Invited

#4343 -

CALL ARCHITECT PEER REVIEW

Deadline for this solicitation is
on, Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Information is available via the Internet.
City's website site is located at
<http://www.norwalkct.gov>.

Information about doing business with
the City of Norwalk can be found within
the "Business" tab listed on the main
page of the website.

Document number will be the same
as project number indicated above.
Additional information is also available by
contacting the Purchasing Department.

Norwalk City Hall,
55 East Ave., P.O. Box 5125,
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-5125,
(203) 854-7712, Fax - (203) 854-7817

and your home from fire
approximately five percent of home
by installing smoke alarms. During
the fire escape plan that has

UT and CALL for help.

one, inside bedrooms and
and replace the batteries at

escape plan and practice the

your home, inside bedrooms

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DSS

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ledCross.org

2023 The American National Red Cross

Chapter

- C. **Public Hearing.** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall hold at least one Public Hearing no less than one week before it submits its Report to the Common Council, and shall make a tentative map of its proposed districts available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Charter at least five days before the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice shall include the contents of the Report including a copy of a map illustrating the boundary lines of each of the proposed Council Districts.
- D. **Action by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.** On the basis of information elicited at the public hearing, the Reapportionment Advisory Committee may thereafter alter the Report. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, five members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.
- E. **Transmittal to the Common Council: Receipt Date.** The Report shall be submitted to the Common Council by filing with the City Clerk and the Town Clerk. Receipt of the Report shall be deemed to be the date upon which it is filed with the City Clerk ("Receipt Date"). The City Clerk shall transmit the Report to the Common Council.
- F. **Failure to File Report.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee fails to file the Report with the Town Clerk by the close of business no later than the 180th day following the Appointment Date, the provisions of §9-30 of this Chapter shall be invoked.

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file the Report to the Common Council no later than ninety days following the Appointment Date. In all other respects the provisions of §9-28 shall remain in full force and effect.

§9-29 Actions of the Common Council.

- A. **Time-Frame.** The Common Council shall vote on the establishment of Common Council Districts within forty-five (45) days of its receipt of the Report.
- B. **Public Hearing and Deliberations.** The Common Council may amend the district boundaries recommended by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee before approving Council Districts, following at least one Public Hearing as required by §4-8.B of the Charter. Nevertheless, the Council Districts approved by the Common Council must comply with the standards of §9-26 of this Chapter.
- C. **Voting Standard.** Approval of the Council Districts must be affirmatively supported by a Majority Vote of the Common Council, as defined in the Charter.

(1) **Approval or Modification of the Report.** If the Report is approved or modified by the Common Council it shall be deemed adopted, as an Ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of the General Statutes and have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal election following Reapportionment.

(2) **Rejection or Failure to Timely Act.** If the Report is rejected or not acted upon in accordance with the time limitations set forth in §9-29.A, above, then the Mayor shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee as set forth in §9-30, below.

§9-30 Role of the Mayor, if necessitated by Failure of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee to Act or the Common Council to Approve.

- A. **Appointment of a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee by the Mayor.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall fail to file the Report as set forth in §9-28.D, above, or if the Common Council shall fail to approve Council Districts within the time limit established by §9-29.D, the Mayor, within five days of notice from the Town Clerk of the precipitating action, shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee comprised of three members. Each member shall have a different political party affiliation or no party affiliation; thus, no political party shall attain a majority of the members. The Mayor shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents, as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.
- B. **Deliberations.** The Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file a report with the Town Clerk delineating Common Council District boundaries within twenty-one days of its appointment. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, two members of the Advisory Committee.
- C. **Standard for Approval.** The Report of the Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be subject to approval by a Majority Vote of the Council, as defined in the Charter, within one week of the filing with the Town Clerk. Once approved this provision, in furtherance of the requirements of the constitutional standard, federal law and state law; and, thus, shall have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal general election following its approval. +

§9-31 Publication of the Adopted Report.

Upon receiving such adopted Ordinance (incorporating the contents of the Report), the Town Clerk shall publish and record the same in the same manner as ordinances are required to be published and recorded as set forth in the Charter, and upon such publication and recording, such plan shall have the full force of law.

Dated at Norwalk, Connecticut this _____ day of January 2024.

ATTEST:

Irene Dixon, City Clerk

THE HOUR: Please publish once on Friday, February 9, 2024

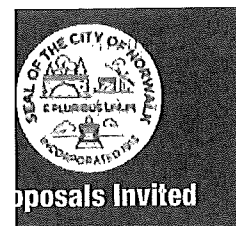
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Matthew A. Zeccola, Clerk



Proposals Invited

#4343 -

CALL ARCHITECT PEER REVIEW

deadline for this solicitation is
Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

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<http://www.norwalkct.gov>.

tion about doing business with
of Norwalk can be found within
usiness" tab listed on the main
page of the website.

urrent number will be the same
ject number indicated above.
Information is also available by
ing the Purchasing Department,
Norwalk City Hall,
East Ave., P.O. Box 5125,
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-5125,
854-7712, Fax - (203) 854-7817

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B. **Ex-officio Non-Voting Members.** The Registrars of Voters shall serve as ex-official non-voting members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

C. **Appointment Date.** The date the Common Council approves the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be the "Appointment Date."

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be approved by the Common Council not later than thirty days following the effective date of this Ordinance.

§9-28 Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

A. **Written Report ("Report").** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall provide a Report, in writing, to the Common Council no later than 180 days following the Appointment Date, which shall include a tentative map setting forth the recommended boundaries of the five Council Districts.

B. **Data and Resources.** The Advisory Committee may utilize demographic data assembled by the City, computer resources of the City, and such other third-party resources and facilities as the Council may deem desirable to carry out the purpose of this Chapter.

C. **Public Hearing.** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall hold at least one Public Hearing no less than one week before it submits its Report to the Common Council, and shall make a tentative map of its proposed districts available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Charter at least five days before the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice shall include the contents of the Report including a copy of a map illustrating the boundary lines of each of the proposed Council Districts.

D. **Action by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.** On the basis of information elicited at the public hearing, the Reapportionment Advisory Committee may thereafter alter the Report. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, five members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

E. **Transmittal to the Common Council: Receipt Date.** The Report shall be submitted to the Common Council by filing with the City Clerk and the Town Clerk. Receipt of the Report shall be deemed to be the date upon which it is filed with the City Clerk ("Receipt Date"). The City Clerk shall transmit the Report to the Common Council.

F. **Failure to File Report.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee fails to file the Report with the Town Clerk by the close of business no later than the 180th day following the Appointment Date, the provisions of §9-30 of this Chapter shall be invoked.

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file the Report to the Common Council no later than ninety days following the Appointment Date. In all other respects the provisions of §9-28 shall remain in full force and effect.

§9-29 Actions of the Common Council.

A. **Time-Frame.** The Common Council shall vote on the establishment of Common Council Districts within forty-five (45) days of its receipt of the Report.

B. **Public Hearing and Deliberations.** The Common Council may amend the district boundaries recommended by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee before approving Council Districts, following at least one Public Hearing as required by §4-8.B of the Charter. Nevertheless, the Council Districts approved by the Common Council must comply with the standards of §9-26 of this Chapter.

C. **Voting Standard.** Approval of the Council Districts must be affirmatively supported by a Majority Vote of the Common Council, as defined in the Charter.

(1) **Approval or Modification of the Report.** If the Report is approved or modified by the Common Council it shall be deemed adopted, as an Ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of the General Statutes and have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal election following Reapportionment.

(2) **Rejection or Failure to Timely Act.** If the Report is rejected or not acted upon in accordance with the time limitations set forth in §9-29.A, above, then the Mayor shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee as set forth in §9-30, below.

§9-30 Role of the Mayor, if necessitated by Failure of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee to Act or the Common Council to Approve.

A. **Appointment of a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee by the Mayor.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall fail to file the Report as set forth in §9-28.D, above, or if the Common Council shall fail to approve Council Districts within the time limit established by §9-29.D, the Mayor, within five days of notice from the Town Clerk of the precipitating action, shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee comprised of three members. Each member shall have a different political party affiliation or no party affiliation; thus, no political party shall attain a majority of the members. The Mayor shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents, as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

B. **Deliberations.** The Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file a report with the Town Clerk delineating Common Council District boundaries within twenty-one days of its appointment. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, two members of the Advisory Committee.

C. **Standard for Approval.** The Report of the Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be subject to approval by a Majority Vote of the Council, as defined in the Charter, within one week of the filing with the Town Clerk. Once approved this provision, in furtherance of the requirements of the constitutional standard, federal law and state law; and, thus, shall have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal general election following its approval. +

§9-31 Publication of the Adopted Report.

Upon receiving such adopted Ordinance (incorporating the contents of the Report), the Town Clerk shall publish and record the same in

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

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

OTHERS: Atty. Brian Candela, Atty. Steve Mednick, consultant; Atty. Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel; Stuart Wells, Democratic Registrar of Voters; Jason Christopher, Diane Paladino, Greg Helms, Cathy C., Nicole Eaddy, KLutge; Ana Tabachneck, John Levin, Jim Anderson, and Lisa Henderson.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

• **January 16, 2024** – regular meeting of the ordinance committee

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, Speaker #6 – please change “Lisa Henederson” to “Lisa Henderson”

Page 2, at the conclusion of the Public Speaking, please change the last sentence in the Public Comment section which reads:

“At this point, the Committee cut off public comment and announced that the Police were notified”

to:

“At this point, the Committee cut off public comment and announced that the Police were notified as the commenters who were muted and removed because they had made racist and anti-Semitic comments.”

Page 3, paragraph 4; please change “an email from Donna Simertous” to “an email from Donna Smirniotopoulos”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC HEARING

(possible action on)

Ms. Shanahan then made the following statement for the record:

My experience as a Common Council Member has been that we, as city officials, have always welcomed and encourage robust open communications between the public and Council in both the public comment section of our meetings as well as at public hearings. It is vitally important that we continue to hear from people who have different opinions across the community. Public discourse is vital to government work, and we want to hear from as many residence as possible regarding issues confronting our city.

What we will not tolerate is hateful rhetoric or personal attacks. Hateful speech undermines the important work we as a community need to do together. We need to foster discourse that best reflects the broader Norwalk community.

I want to encourage all of us to bring our best selves to these public commentary venues.

To remind everyone of the rules to make a public comment, one must state one's full name and address, and then there will be a pause and once Brian tells you that you may speak for three minutes on a matter listed on the agenda.

Tonight, the only thing that we are speaking about is the reapportionment ordinance.

Mr. Jason Christopher of 1 Naples Avenue, Norwalk then greeted the Committee and said that he was speaking as Chairman of District C and a Republican, he would like to say regarding the redistricting process, there were significant changes concerning District A and District C and had concerns about what appears to be a lack of inclusion in the proposed ordinance. While the new language appears to insure equality, the new language leaves much to be desired. Democrats currently hold 14 of the 15 Common Council seats with Independent Heather Dunn being the sole minority party representative, true inclusion seems challenging. He said he would advocate for the minority leader to have the right to consult with Party heads and others to provide names that are fair and balanced to ensure true inclusion in this process. The proposed rewrite feels even less equitable given the composure of the Council. He urged a strong reconsideration of the process and thanked the Committee for their time.

Mr. Fred Wilms, 6 Westview Lane, Norwalk, then greeted the Committee and said that he was present as the Chairman of the Norwalk Republican Town Committee. Mr. Wilms said that he had reviewed the revised ordinance. The president still appoints all seven members. This process is out of step with other towns in Connecticut. The State Legislature creates a bipartisan Commission with an equal number of members from both sides selected by the party members themselves. This has worked well for a number of decades for a number of different levels such as creating districts for State Senators, Probate Judges and even for the Congressional districts. Stamford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Danbury and Hamden also have bipartisan Commissions with members from both sides selected by the party leaders. This process seems more like the

Washington D.C. method where the winner takes all and there is no bipartisanship, collaboration or inclusion. This creates friction, suspicion and acrimony, which is why the State and other cities have structure this the way they have. Elections matter and Democrats hold 14 out of the 15 seats. It is important for the Council Members to ask themselves how they wish to use their power. They have a choice to go with the proposed process or to follow the State's example.

He recommended that the Council adopt Stamford's model with eight members, four selected by the majority leader and four selected by the minority leader. He noted that there was a secondary process available where the Mayor can select three people. He concluded by asking the Council Members to give this due consideration.

Atty. Candela asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Committee. No one indicated that this wished to address the Committee at this time.

Atty. Candela read the email sent by Ms. Lisa Brinton into the record as follows:

Dear Members of the Common Council Ordinance Committee,

I would like my public comments read into the record for the *January 30, 2024 Special Meeting of the Ordinance Committee*. I have also attached them as a Word document.

After speaking at the Ordinance Committee Meeting earlier this month, I am disappointed that the revised wording for *the Reapportionment Advisory Committee* remains effectively unchanged, with the Council President still maintaining the authority (and undue influence by the mayor and majority party) to select minority party members.

The process remains 'insider baseball' and is inconsistent with best practices of neighboring Democrat controlled cities: Bridgeport, Danbury, Stamford. I reference the specific *clauses* regarding their selection process. I believe each of you were provided this data in December:

- **Stamford:** The Reapportionment Commission shall be composed of eight (8) electors with four (4) members from each party selected by the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Board of Representatives.
- **Bridgeport:** If the City Council fails to adopt a reapportionment plan by the date set forth in §7.B of this Chapter, there shall be created a commission on redistricting composed of six (6) members, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the leader of the majority party on the City Council and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the leader of the minority party on the City Council. In the event that there is only one party on the City Council, the minority party members shall be appointed by the Registrar of Voters whose party is not represented on the City Council.
- **Danbury:** The reapportionment advisory commission shall consist of five members, all of whom shall be electors of the city. Two members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the City Council, and two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the City Council, in the event that there are members of no more than two political parties on the City Council.

Per the Registrar of Voters, the current composition of Norwalk's electors are as follows:

- Democrats = 22,120
- Republicans = 9,213
- Unaffiliated = 23,590
- Other = 1042

For the past decade, Norwalk has had a Democrat mayor and 14-1 Democrat controlled council, despite 45% of the electorate voting differently. While appreciating our '*first past the post*' process for determining winner outcomes – It can't be ignored that 45% of

Norwalk's electorate does not support single party rule and remains frustrated by the lack of transparency, closed party caucuses and lack of check and balance on our Democrat Party controlled city.

Should the current language move forward, it demonstrates to 45% of Norwalk's electorate that this committee doesn't care about DIVERSITY, EQUITY OR INCLUSION when it comes to minority opposition. It also makes Norwalk an outlier compared to our neighbors by being less democratic – fuelling the national debate about a lack of faith and confidence in government.

Genuine minority opposition, versus 'hand-picked insiders' regardless of the letter after their name should be welcomed. It demonstrates your commitment to the democratic process and good faith to the 45% of the electorate who vote differently. Group think can be a dangerous thing.

Thank you.

Lisa Brinton, Norwalk Independent Party Town Chair

19 Shorefront Park

Atty. Candela then read the email sent by Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos into the record as follows:

Dear Members of the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council and Madame Chairman,

My name is Donna Smirniotopoulos, and I live at 18 Shorefront Park. Please read my comments into the record.

The revised language regarding appointments to the Redistricting Committee is depressingly similar to every other Norwalk committee appointment process. The composition of the committee requires individuals from the non-majority party. However, party of registration in Norwalk is not sufficient to create true diversity of opinion on this committee.

Norwalk has invested considerable real and emotional capital in promoting the *idea* of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In fact, however, when it comes to the many appointed bodies in the City, diversity of opinion is not their strong suit, and does not seem to be a sought after quality.

You have an opportunity this evening to correct course and to create a process for populating the Redistricting Committee that respects the diversity of opinion in this city--diversity of opinion that is poorly reflected today on any committee or commission that goes through the mayoral appointment process.

I ask that you amend the process to allow the Minority Leader to appoint minority party appointees and to consider that the single largest block of registered voters are Unaffiliated. We cannot be a city of progressive ideas when we keep dipping at the same well of "friendly" and well-known faces to serve on committees. While it is the prerogative of the mayor to appoint, and the council to "anoint," the Redistricting Committee is exempt from that process. If the Ordinance Committee chooses to leave the ultimate decision-making in the hands of the Council President, who is a full-time employee at City Hall, you might as well rubber stamp the committee with the choices the Mayor feels comfortable with and get on with it. But at least if this is the course you take, have the moral courage to admit that you are choosing NOT to pursue a path that is likely to be perceived as fair, equitable or inclusive.

Respectfully yours,

Donna Smirniotopoulos

City of Norwalk
Ordinance Committee
Regular Meeting
January 30, 2024

Atty. Candela asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Committee at this time.

Ms. Lisa Henderson then indicated that she wished to speak. Ms. Henderson explained that she had experienced difficulty trying to access the meeting and indicate she wished to speak to the Committee.

Ms. Henderson stated her name and said she resides on 21 Apple Tree Lane in Norwalk. She informed the Committee that she owns properties in District C, District A and District B along with her residence. She said she was disappointed that after the last meeting there was no effective change to the ordinance than what was presented on January 16th. The taxpayers of Norwalk requested a more equitable way for the selection of Committee members but were ignored. She asked that was the message that the Committee wished to send to the taxpayers that they represent.

Ms. Henderson asked the Committee to reconsider this portion of the ordinance and allow for minority representation chosen by the minority political leaders. She thanked the Committee for their time.

Atty. Candela asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Committee at this time. No one indicated that they wished to address the Committee at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

• Discuss and vote on Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of Common Council Voting Districts with Attorney Steve Mednick.

Ms. Shanahan then indicated that there were a number of small grammatical errors in §9.25c and §9.28a; §9.28b; §9.28c, §9.28e, §9.28f, §9.29c(1), §9.30c, §9.31 Section title.

Atty. Mednick also had some edits for document.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner requested a change for §9-28a.

Atty. Candela made the changes to the document as requested.

Atty. Mednick said that §9-26b specifically recognized the minority representation. He noted that every town had different models throughout the State. He went on to speak about the major changes that were made since the previous meeting, such as having the boundary lines of the Taxing District being considered as well.

He spoke about the details of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee and explained that there would be no political majority on the Committee. The Charter makes it clear that there are

different forms of diversity that need to be recognized in the appointments. He added that he would urge the Committee to create some fail safe measures that would further protect the nonpartisan elements in the two committees. He then gave a brief overview of what that would look like. The Reapportionment Committee is advisory only and will make their recommendations, but it will be up to the Common Council to make the final judgements.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked Ms. Shanahan and Atty. Mednick for the time spent on this. She said that the addition of the historical boundaries was important and it was important to make as few changes as possible. Secondly, she said that Norwalk is not a bipartisan City and many of the voters are unaffiliated. She noted that they could not predict what the composition would be in the future. No party has a majority on the Committee.

Ms. Dunn said that there was not a sense of accountability. She said that there was no indication of intent. She said that the optics were important because they show the residents the Council's intent. She would like to see the ordinance be stronger regarding more equitable representative, such as a convicted felon. This will be a living document for the City.

Ms. Murray said agreed with Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner about the non-partisan way. She said that she supported the proposal. After researching the best practices online, the majority indicated that the best practice would be to have a non-partisan Committee.

Mr. Sead said that they had removed the power of the Mayor to appoint candidates to various commissions and now the President has that power. Giving the power to the majority leader or minority leader is simply transferring the power that they just removed from the Mayor. This was problematic to him. He said that he felt comfortable with the way it has been written.

Mr. Goldstein said that there were a number of great points made. He said that the Council would be the actual level of accountability because the plan has to be adopted and approved by the Common Council. Mr. Goldstein said he felt this was a reasonable plan and felt that the reapportionment would be fairly small. This is a nonpartisan process because there are people who are from all different political views on the Boards and Commissions across the City. He said that he didn't see a problem with this and added having an arbitrary veto power was something that the Committee should entertain.

Ms. Murray requested a roll call vote and said that there were issues in Stratford. She said that after Mr. Wilms spoke, she felt that going back to the Mayor would be a balanced fail safe for the process.

Ms. Dunn said she found it interesting they reference Stamford because there were some issues going on in their party. Ms. Dunn said her concern was what would happen if there was an all Democratic Council. She requested a roll call vote so that the record reflects how each individual voted.

Ms. Murray stated that she had reference Stratford, not Stamford. Discussion followed on the differences between Stamford and Norwalk regarding this issue.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said that no one has a majority on this advisory Committee. The goal is not to take advantage of the Democratic majority, but to take advantage of the full spectrum of the community. Discussion followed.

Ms. Shanahan said that they wanted a nonpartisan board to do this work and were hopeful that the language that stated they wished to have a diverse representation of the City gets the point across to the decision maker, which would be the Council President. The language includes references civic, political and community leaders within the community, which provides the scope for the selection.

**** MS. MURRAY MOVED TO SEND THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF COMMON COUNCIL VOTING DISTRICTS TO PUBLIC HEARING AT THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20TH.**

****MR. SEAD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (GOLDSTEIN, LOPEZ, MURRAY, NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER, SEAD AND SHANAHAN) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (DUNN).**

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES CONT'D

Atty. Candela stated that there had been no motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no additional business to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Ordinance Committee
Regular Meeting
January 30, 2024