

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; David Heuvelman; Dominique Johnson;
Thomas Keegan; Thomas Livingston; Kadeem Roberts

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Adam Cohen, Pullman and Comley

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There was no public hearing this evening.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

December 15, 2020 – regular meeting

Page 1 – correct time to 7:03 p.m.

Page 2 – public comment, second paragraph should read as follows:

Ms. Shanahan asked Mr. Flynn if he had concerns about Section 32-4 and told him it was on the website. He said he could not get it. Ms. Shanahan told Mr. Flynn that his comments have to be directed to Section 32-4 as that was the only agenda item. Mr. Flynn said that his first ethics complaint was against Mr. Camacho. Ms. Shanahan reiterated that his public comments could only be about Section 32-4 and to direct his comments to the language in the ordinance. Mr. Flynn continued and Ms. Shanahan said he could not speak about complaints he might have personally filed; only about the code.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A SHOW OF HANDS**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss new potential ordinance – Canfield Island Special Services District

Mr. Cohen represented Canfield Island Special Services District. He explained that the District was created by an ordinance in the mid 1980s. However, this ordinance did not lay out its powers. For the last 30 plus years, the District has operated under the assumption that this ordinance existed.

There are two other special services districts in Norwalk, Birchwood Condominiums and Waypointe. He noted that the Canfield Island Special Services District was validly created. He said the by-laws can be adopted as the ordinance.

Mr. Cohen said the ordinance requires the approval of the Ordinance Committee and the Common Council. He explained the purpose of a Special District. He said the bridge to Canfield Island needs to be replaced and they want to be sure to have everything in order so they can finance the project.

Mr. Livingston said he was struggling with the request. Mr. Cohen explained that Canfield Island Special Services District has a set of by laws. He added that he has to make a few tweaks to proposed ordinance. Mr. Candela said he will review the Connecticut State Statute. He said that at first glance, it looks like the proposed ordinance mirrors the ordinances in place for Birchwood and Waypointe.

Mr. Cohen explained that the ordinance is needed because everything the District does is guided by an ordinance.

Mr. Cohen said the plan is for the residents of the District to raise the money themselves by levying a tax to pay for the bridge. He said he will make a few changes to the ordinance and submit a final draft.

- Chapter 7, General Provisions, Section 6 – Definitions – Gender

Ms. Shanahan thanked Ms. Johnson for her research. Ms. Johnson reviewed the item and explained that the idea was raised to change the definition of gender so that going forward, every ordinance would use language that was gender neutral. She noted that

what is proposed is used by the State of Connecticut. The second and third sentences are the means to address gender neutrality. The Committee members discussed the code. Ms. Johnson said that bringing the code up to the 21st century is an opportunity to demonstrate inclusivity. She noted that there are citizens in Norwalk who will see themselves reflected in this document.

Mr. Keegan said he agreed with Ms. Johnson and said they should keep this as a simple statement. Mr. Roberts agreed. He added that at the end of the day, they want everyone to be comfortable.

Ms. Johnson said she will separate the amendment and bring it back to the Committee next month.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no other discussion items.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services