

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Faye Bowman, Chair; Eloisa Melendez, Steven Serasis,
Nick Sacchinelli

OTHERS: Council Member Travis Simms; Timothy Callahan, Norwalk
Health Department Director

CALL TO ORDER.

Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. A quorum was present. Ms. Bowman said that due to an oversight, the meeting agenda was not published although the meeting had been noticed. She distributed copies of the updated agenda to those present.

**** MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE ON THE
AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

September 22, 2016.

A brief discussion followed about whether the minutes should be voted on at this time.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES TO THE NEXT
MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (BOWMAN,
MELENDEZ AND SACCHINELLI) AND ONE ABSTENTION (SERASIS).**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to address the Committee at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Norwalk Health Department

Action Item

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a sole source purchase order to Seraphin, a division of Pemberton Fabricators, Inc., for a fully enclosed Seraphin low profiles lip on testing trailer in the amount of \$36,100.00.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Callahan explained that the Health Department routinely checks the weights and measures, along with checking the oil trucks to make sure that the consumers pay for the amount of heating oil they are charged for. He gave a brief overview on how the trailer works and said that two years ago, the Norwalk trailer was parked in the City Hall parking. Someone stole the trailer and this is a request for a replacement. Up until recently, the City has been using Stamford's unit.

Mr. Simms asked if this issue was brought before the Council. Mr. Callahan said that it was reported to the police and the Department waited to submit their request because they had access to the Stamford unit. He said that it was time to replace the unit.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion Item
Food Truck Fee Comparison and Suggested changes

Ms. Bowman gave a brief overview of the issue.

Ms. Melendez said that she had heard from constituents and they wanted it to go even higher. She said that she was in favor of leaving it at the current level.

Mr. Simms said that there was an issue a number of years ago with a vendor selling stuff during the Memorial Day Parade and the fee was raised to force the vendor out. Since then, the fee has remained. He said that by raising the fee, it was sending the wrong message. Norwalk wants to attract businesses.

Mr. Serasis said that he felt that it should be a one time fee. He said that there was a vendor who pays \$500.00 a month for one parking space location and is able to do so. He said that when there are a number of food trucks in a relatively small area, people are attracted to the area. He then spoke about a potential plan for a two month, designated parking area. He said that the City was actually giving the vendor something, such as a parking space in a designated area. Ms. Bowman said that the Committee does not have the authority to set Parking Authority fees.

The discussion then moved whether the restaurants would object to the presence of food trucks. Mr. Serasis said that when there is an area that is populated with people, they will buy the food, whether it is a brick and mortar restaurant or a food truck. Mr. Simms agreed.

Mr. Sacchinelli agreed and said he would like to see more details on that plan. He said that he would like to reduce the City fee. Mr. Callahan pointed out that the bricks and mortar pay over \$500 for a license while the fees for the vendor trucks would be about \$450. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simms said that down in SoNo, the restaurants stop serving at 10 p.m. He suggested that the food trucks might want to look into serving the bar patrons.

Ms. Bowman said that Mr. Serasis will report back to the Committee. Also Ms. Bowman said that Mr. Simms will look into the fees charged by the police Department. Then the Committee can start hearing how the public feels before it goes to a public hearing. Another question that needs to be answered is where the fees go Mr. Simms pointed out.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services