

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 17, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDEES: Jalin Sead (Chair), Josh Goldstein, Richard Dellinger, Jesse Buccolo, Ann Wennerstrand, Johan Lopez, Colin Hosten.

STAFF: Matthew Sapienza (Attorney), Garrett Bilella.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mr. Sead.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead conducted roll call and a quorum was established.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Discuss and vote on Chapter 33A (Complete Streets), Section 33A-8 (Exceptions)

Mr. Sead opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to Chapter 33A, Section 33A-8, which clarifies the appeal period to 30 days in alignment with Connecticut case law and ensures due process. No members of the public indicated a desire to speak.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 33A, SECTION 33A-8 (EXCEPTIONS) AND FORWARD TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL.**

**** MR. LOPEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 29 (Cannabis), Section 29-6 (Enforcement; fines/citation; hearing; report)

Mr. Sead opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to Chapter 29, Section 29-6, which strengthens clarity around enforcement, ensures reporting, and promotes transparency. No members of the public indicated a desire to speak.

**** MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 29, SECTION 29-6 AND FORWARD TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL.**

**** MR. LOPEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Discuss and vote on Chapter 112A (Vape Shops), Section 112A-13 (Penalties)

Mr. Sead opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to Chapter 112A, Section 112A-13 (Penalties). No members of the public indicated a desire to speak.

**** MR. LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 112A, SECTION 112A-13 AND FORWARD TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL.
** MR. BUCCOLO SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

No additional discussion occurred under this item.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sead opened the floor for public comment on any item on the agenda. No members of the public indicated a desire to speak.

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Discuss and Vote on minutes from the regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee dated January 20, 2026

Mr. Sead asked for any corrections or omissions to the minutes of January 20, 2026. None were noted.

**** MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2026 REGULAR MEETING AS PRESENTED.
** MR. DELLINGER SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss and vote on new ordinance: City Council member being appointed as ex officio member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation

Mr. Sead opened discussion on the proposed ordinance to appoint a City Council member as an ex officio (non-voting) member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, consistent with Charter Section 7-2A1C. Attorney Matthew Sapienza explained that the draft was prepared by Attorney Brian Candela and aligns with the Charter provision.

Ms. Wennerstrand asked whether any additional criteria or qualifications should be specified beyond the Charter language, which provides that the Council President appoints the member subject to majority approval by the City Council. Mr. Goldstein noted that the Charter is intentionally not overly specific on qualifications and that the ordinance could add detail if

desired, but cautioned against overly restrictive language that might prove unworkable in future councils.

Discussion followed regarding the need to allow a designee to attend meetings in the appointed member's absence (particularly during the intensive budget season), the value of establishing a term length (such as one or two years) to permit periodic reevaluation, and the possibility of treating the appointment similarly to committee assignments under Council rules. Council President Goldstein raised concerns about mechanisms to replace a member who fails to represent Council priorities or is unable to attend regularly.

Attorney Sapienza agreed to relay the points raised to Attorney Candela for further review and refinement. The committee agreed that additional work is needed and that a vote would be deferred to a future meeting.

B. Discuss and vote on new ordinance: Financial Disclosures and Impact of Ordinances

Mr. Sead introduced the proposed ordinance on financial disclosures and fiscal impact statements for ordinances, which remains under development by Attorney Brian Candela. No motion was taken.

Mr. Dellinger commented on inconsistencies in references to “Common Council.” Mr. Lopez suggested revisions to Section 4A (removing Council member completion of fiscal notes and assigning the task to departments in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer), Section 4C (requiring written documentation of amendments), and Section 4D (adjusting the timing of submission to provide more review time and adding flexibility language such as “to the extent practicable”). Mr. Lopez also questioned the feasibility of a mandatory five-year financial projection in all cases and suggested qualifying language.

Mr. Buccolo suggested staff time allocation as part of the fiscal impact ordinance and future staff capacity.

Mr. Hosten suggested modeling the ordinance on existing nonpartisan fiscal analysis processes at the state (Office of Policy and Management) and federal (Congressional Budget Office) levels and reviewing municipal examples.

Mr. Sead agreed to follow up with Attorney Candela and Councilmember Nicole Ayers (the proposal's sponsor) to incorporate the committee's feedback and return the item to a future meeting for further discussion.

IX. DISCUSSION

Mr. Sead invited any additional ideas for ordinances from committee members or other Council members and encouraged continued collaboration.

X. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin,
Recording Secretary