

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 21, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

ATTENDEES Jalin Sead, Anne Wennerstrand , Josh Goldstein, Jesse Buccolo, Johan Lopez, Colin Hosten, Richard Dellinger.

STAFF: Brian Candela.

OTHERS: Lori Liell, Kitty Sang.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting of the Ordinance Committee to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead noted the attendance as listed above and a quorum was confirmed,

III. PUBLIC HEARING

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 the public hearing. Mr. Candela stated that no emails had been received concerning the issue and no attendees raised their hand to comment. Mr. Sead, Mr. Goldstein, and Mr. Candela discussed the importance of the ordinance, noting that it formalized a change approved by voters in the November charter revision ballot, allowing a council member to participate fully in Board of Estimate and Taxation meetings as an ex-officio member without a vote. Mr. Candela confirmed that the language already included an alternate and that the change did not alter the BET except for the council member's presence.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO MOVE THE NEW ORDINANCE REGARDING A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BEING APPOINTED AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION TO THE FULL COUNCIL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 95 (Streets and Sidewalks), Section 10 (Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks and Driveways), Subsection F. City Code § 95-10(F)

Mr. Sead opened the public hearing. Mr. Candela stated that no emails had been received and no attendees raised their hand to comment. Ms. Wennerstrand explained that the ordinance provided clarification that residential property owners with sidewalks in front of their homes must remove snow and ice within 24 hours after the cessation of the weather-related event,

replacing previous language regarding a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Candela noted that a future conversation regarding the fee schedule for enforcement would occur in the Public Works Committee.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO MOVE THE ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 95, SECTION 10(F) TO THE FULL COUNCIL.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Sead opened public participation. Ms. Ana Tabachneck of Gilbert Street commented on the draft fiscal impact ordinance under Old Business, stating that based on the previous meeting it seemed to be getting too detailed with requirements for every ordinance and suggested that a motion to request a fiscal impact statement from the appropriate department would suffice if needed. Mr. Sead closed public participation.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Discuss and vote on approval of March 17, 2026, minutes of the regular meeting of the ordinance committee

Mr. Sead asked if any members had concerns or changes to the March 17, 2026, minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

****MR. LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Sead highlighted that the committee had reached out to department heads for feedback; most had no comment, while the Chief Financial Officer indicated that the ordinance would be helpful for planning over the next five years. Mr. Candela confirmed feedback from the Mayor, DPW, Chief of Police, Chief of Economic and Community Development, and Chief of Finance, noting general support. Mr. Lopez questioned potential misalignment between Section 3(E), which states the City Council cannot vote unless requirements are satisfied, and Section 6, which states that any mistake or inaccuracy shall not affect the validity of the legislation. Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Sead, and Mr. Candela discussed that Section 6 addresses minor inaccuracies or projections in fiscal impact statements after the fact, while Section 3(E) ensures the process is followed, and that the language was not contradictory. Mr. Sead thanked the councilwoman who brought the ordinance forward. Mr. Buccolo and Mr. Hosten asked about standardization of forms and the process if the Finance Department itself is the department in question. Mr. Candela explained

that the ordinance would still go through the Ordinance Committee and City Council for oversight. Mr. Sead noted that the process follows similar budget procedures.

****MR. BUCCOLO MOVED TO MOVE THE NEW ORDINANCE REGARDING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES AND IMPACT OF ORDINANCES TO PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss and vote on Chapter 7 (General Provisions), Article II (City Seal), Section 10 (Custody)

Mr. Candela presented the proposed changes to the custody of the City Seal to prevent unauthorized use by private companies or organizations without proper authorization by the City, including a violation and fine. Mr. Sead noted that the changes responded to a business using the seal inappropriately. Mr. Hosten suggested adding language that the seal may not be used by private companies without proper authorization. Mr. Goldstein suggested further clarifying the language to include “or organizations.” Mr. Candela agreed and stated that a policy would be developed for authorized use.

****MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO MOVE THE ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE II, SECTION 10 TO PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 95 (Streets and Sidewalks), Article II (Honorary and Historic Naming of Streets), Sections 37, 38, 39

Mr. Sead opened discussion, noting that Public Works had placed a moratorium on honorary street namings, approved by the Council the previous week, to allow the committee to update the process for equity and clarity. Ms. Wennerstrand confirmed that pending applications before the moratorium were unaffected. Mr. Candela outlined key issues for consideration including filing fees, petition requirements and percentages, sign duration, notification to property owners or residents, and criteria for honorees such as length of residency or criminal history. Mr. Sead stated that petitions should include renters as part of the community and that honorary signs should be permanent rather than time-limited. Mr. Buccolo questioned the necessity of the one-year deceased requirement and two-thirds majority vote. Mr. Hosten asked what prompted the review and clarified that honorary namings are added to, not replace, existing street names. Mr. Goldstein emphasized the emotional and symbolic importance of these namings. Mr. Hosten noted that changes should be considered for consistency with city-owned building naming processes. Mr. Candela agreed to send written examples from other municipalities for the committee to review and bring a revised version to the May meeting. No motion was made.

- C. Discuss and vote on Chapter 32 (Code of Ethics), Section 1 (Title; Administration)**
- D. Discuss and vote on Chapter 32 (Code of Ethics), Section 3 (Definitions)**
- E. Discuss and vote on Chapter 32 (Code of Ethics), Section 12 (Board of Ethics)**

Mr. Candela explained the proposed changes, presented with input from the Board of Ethics, to increase the Board from seven to nine regular members (removing alternates) with no more than three members registered to the same political party to ensure balanced panels for investigating complaints and hearing boards and to prevent burnout. Ms. Liell and Ms. Sang expressed support, noting difficulties in maintaining required political balance for panels. Mr. Hosten reminded the committee that the Independent Party is a recognized political party. Mr. Sead stated that the language “no more than three members of the board shall be registered to the same political party” was clear and preferred. Mr. Candela confirmed that changes from “Common Council” to “City Council” would be made and that minor language adjustments were not substantive. The items were discussed and voted on together.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO MOVE THE ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 32, SECTIONS 1, 3, AND 12 TO PUBLIC HEARING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Sead encouraged all council members, not only those on the committee, to bring forward ideas for ordinances.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary**