



REGULAR MEETING – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

**JULY 21, 2026, 7:00 PM
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. 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. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called 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. Please find the information using the link above.



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.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **PUBLIC HEARING**
- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. Discuss and vote on regular meeting minutes of the ordinance committee dated June 16, 2026
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Discuss and vote on Chapter 95 (Streets and Sidewalks), Article II (Honorary and Historic Naming of Streets), Sections 37, 38, 39

B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 61A (Leaf Blowers), Sections 61A-1 through 61A-8

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss Light pollution

VIII. DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 16, 2026
Hybrid Meeting (Council Chambers and Zoom)**

ATTENDANCE: Jalin Sead (Chair), Anne Wennerstrand, Josh Goldstein (Council President), Jesse Buccolo, Richard Dellinger.

STAFF: Brian Candela, Steve Kleppin.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. There was a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead acknowledged those present as noted above.

PUBLIC HEARING A. Chapter 118 (Zoning)

Public hearing held on the proposed amendment to repeal the outdated Chapter 118 in its entirety and replace it by referencing the current City of Norwalk Zoning Regulations and Map (available at the Planning and Zoning Office and a designated website link).

One public comment was received from Eric Dice (Oakfield Road) regarding challenges in locating and understanding the agenda materials and backup documents for the item.

Minor revisions to the proposed language were discussed: correcting “Planning Zoning Office” to “Planning and Zoning Office” and removing the specific effective date (December 5, 2025) to accommodate ongoing updates.

**** MR. DELLINGER MOVED TO FORWARD THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 118 (ZONING) TO THE COMMON COUNCIL WITH THE MINOR REVISIONS AS DISCUSSED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public hearing closed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT

Public comments were received from Diane Lauricella (Gregory Boulevard) regarding the May 19, 2026, minutes (request that her prior comments on the Board of Ethics be reflected) and Chapter 61A (Leaf Blower), including a suggestion for clearer agenda descriptions of intent and the need for enforcement and education. The ordinance committee confirmed her comments were already included in the minutes, but she overlooked them.

It was noted that the discussion and vote on Chapter 55 (Demolition Delay) would be tabled due to the absence of required staff.

Public participation closed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 19, 2026

**** MS. WENNERSTRAND MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2026.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCILMEMBER JESSE BUCCOLO).**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Chapter 95 (Streets and Sidewalks), Article II (Honorary and Historic Naming of Streets), Sections 37, 38, 39

Discussion held on draft revisions to the ordinance presented by Attorney Brian Candela. Topics included restructuring around application criteria and qualifications, a potential two-thirds resident petition requirement (practical challenges noted for large streets and multifamily properties), notification procedures and costs (website/social media suggested as alternative to certified mail), “clear geographic relationship” language (suggestions to broaden), the deceased requirement and waiver provision, fees (possible limitation to special requests such as weekend ceremonies), fiscal impact, and the need for input from DPW (Vanessa) on the current application form and operational feasibility.

No vote was taken. Further drafting and review to continue. Notes from the meeting and the current application form will be distributed to committee members. A meeting with DPW will be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chapter 55 (Demolition Delay) – Tabled (required staff not available).

B. Chapter 61A (Leaf Blower)

Discussion held on the history of the ordinance, the existing schedule for gas-powered leaf blowers (no changes proposed), and the delayed ban provision under Section 61A-3 (affirmative Council vote required by September 1, 2026 on implementation, further delay, or removal). Topics included technology advances since the original adoption, impacts on landscapers, local businesses, residents, and the workforce, lithium battery safety and fire risks, enforcement challenges and options (Click & Request app, education, and suggestion of a dedicated non-emergency police line), and the treatment of electric leaf blowers (suggestion to encourage electric use and focus restrictions primarily on gas-powered equipment).

No vote was taken. Outreach will be made to DPW, Fire Marshal Troy Donahue, and former Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer for input on equipment, battery safety, and the ban dates/provisions. Members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BUCCOLO MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary**

ARTICLE II
Honorary and Historic Naming of Streets
[Adopted 10-28-2014; amended in its entirety 9-23-2025]

§ 95-37. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to establish criteria and guidelines ~~and as well as~~ formalize procedures when considering the honorary or historic naming or renaming of a City street or roadway, administered under the responsibility charged to the Public Works Committee of the City Common Council, or its successor (hereinafter "Public Works Committee").

§ 95-38. ~~Policy~~ Criteria and considerations.

- A. Any application to have a ~~If a~~ City street or roadway ~~is to be~~ named in honor of an individual shall include the following information:
1. A statement about the qualifications of the individual to be honored. This may include the following:
 - a. The ~~it is generally required that such individual has made a~~ significant contribution(s) to the community through public service and deeds.
 - b. The ~~and is respected for their accomplishments and good conduct. Consideration cultural, economic, educational, intellectual, political impacts to the community. shall be given to individuals who have made recent accomplishments and contributions as well as individuals with historic ties to the City.~~
 - c. Other information that would be significant in rendering a decision, including, but not limited to military service, historical impact or humanitarian efforts.
 2. A petition signed by no less than 2/3 of the residents who reside on the street being considered for an honorary or ceremonial naming.
 3. A clear ~~geographic relationship~~ to the street and the individual.
 4. A signature of a ~~current City Council member.~~
 5. An individual shall be deceased at least one year prior to the naming unless the Common Council determines by a two-thirds majority plus one vote that a living individual or a person who has been deceased less than one year deserves the honor. Groups should not be in a position to influence the process by funding of past or future operations of the street or roadway, and it is ultimately important for the City to avoid any perception of improper manipulation, special favor, vested interest, or endorsement of businesses, products or services.
- B. The completed application shall be filed with the Chief of Operations and Public Works, or their respective designee. Failure to submit a completed application shall be reason to deny it.
- C. An individual shall be deceased at least one year prior to the naming unless the City Council determines by a two-thirds majority plus one vote that a living individual or a person who has been deceased less than one year deserves the honor. Groups should not be in a position

Commented [BC1]: What about larger streets?

Commented [BC2R1]: Make a judgment call. It shouldn't be a popularity contest.

Commented [BC3R1]: Strike this section.

Commented [BC4]: Need some flexibility here. This needs to be changed.

Commented [BC5]: Should be removed - potential conflict.

to influence the process by funding of past or future operations of the street or roadway, and it is ultimately important for the City to avoid any perception of improper manipulation, special favor, vested interest, or endorsement of businesses, products or services.

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§ 95-39. Procedure.

Naming of City streets or roadways shall proceed as follows:

A. At least 30 days before the proposed naming of a City street or roadway is placed on the Public Works Committee regular meeting agenda for discussion and review, the Chief of Operations and Public Works, or their respective designee, shall deliver copies of this notice to the owners and residents of the street being considered. Copies of this notice may be made via registered or certified mail.

A.B. The proposed naming of a City street or roadway shall be placed on a Public Works Committee regular meeting agenda for discussion and review. In the event that the street or roadway to be named is located within a City park, the proposed naming shall also be placed on the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee of the ~~City Common~~ Council, or its successor, agenda for discussion and review, following which such committee shall report its recommendation to the Public Works Committee.

B.C. A public hearing is required prior to forwarding the naming request to the full ~~City Common~~ Council for approval. The hearing shall be held at a regular meeting of the Public Works Committee, and the scheduling of said hearing shall have been approved at a previous regular meeting by a majority vote of the Committee.

C.D. A two-thirds-majority of the ~~City Common~~ Council is required for the approval of all honorary or historic street or roadway names, except in the case where a living individual or a person who has been deceased less than one year is the honoree, in which case a two-thirds-majority plus one vote is required.

Commented [BC6]: Notice should be made via the website.

§ 61A-1. Purpose.

The City of Norwalk finds that leaf blowers represent a significant source of environmental pollution in the form of high- and low-frequency noise, carbon and noncarbon emissions, and dust particulate, which represent a present threat to the public peace and to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City, the landscape workers who use these machines, and wildlife. Noise generated by leaf blowers interferes with the physical and psychological well-being of persons, as leaf blowers generate low-frequency noise at high-decibel levels, exposure to which has been determined to generate severe adverse health effects, including hearing loss, tinnitus, reduced cognitive performance, heart disease, and hypertension. Leaf blowers displace significant amounts of particulate matter, spreading pollen, mold, chemical pesticides, and other fine particulates which are harmful to human health. Wildlife is also harmed by the use of leaf blowers. Internal-combustion leaf blowers are recognized as "hyper-polluters," emitting significant carbon and noncarbon emissions in greater magnitudes than automobiles over similar operating periods. Accordingly, the City will regulate the use of leaf blowers to minimize and mitigate the harmful effects of their use.

§ 61A-2. Definitions.

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

ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER — A Leaf Blower that is powered by only electric means, including, but not limited to, corded, battery-powered and cordless rechargeable Leaf Blowers.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION LEAF BLOWER — A Leaf Blower that is powered by an internal combustion engine or rotary engine using gasoline, diesel, alcohol, or other liquid or gaseous fluids.

LEAF BLOWER — Any motorized device that is used or designed to move leaves, grass clippings, dust, dirt, or other matter by directing high-velocity air by such device.

PERSON — An individual, partnership, limited-liability company, society, association, joint stock company, corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other legal entity and any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination thereof.

§ 61A-3. Prohibition on the operation of Internal Combustion Leaf Blowers.

Effective January 1, 2027, for individual properties of two acres or less, and January 1, 2028, for individual properties of more than two acres:

- A. No Person shall operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk.
- B. No owner of real property, tenant in possession of real property, or Person in control of real property shall allow the operation of an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower on such real property in the City of Norwalk.
- C. No Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance, or similar service shall allow an employee or agent of that service to operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk.

§ 61A-4. Required safety features for the use of Leaf Blowers. [Amended 5-28-2024]

No Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance, or similar service shall allow an employee or agent of that service to operate an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower in the City of Norwalk without manufacturer recommended and rated personal protective equipment in accordance with industry standards, potentially including, but not limited to, eye, hearing and respiratory protection. This subsection shall go into effect on August 1, 2024.

§ 61A-5. Prohibition of the operation of Leaf Blowers during certain months and hours of the day.

- A. Lawns, gardens and other landscapes. A Leaf Blower, whether it be an Internal Combustion Leaf Blower (prior to their absolute prohibition) or an Electric Leaf Blower, may only be operated on lawns, gardens, parks, woodlands, playing fields, and other landscapes in the City of Norwalk during the following periods of the year:
 - (1) April 1 through June 1; and
 - (2) October 15 through December 15.
- B. Impervious surfaces. Electric Leaf Blowers may be used any day of the year on sidewalks, streets, parking lots, pool decks, and other impervious surfaces.
- C. Operating hours. During the periods of the year when Leaf Blowers are permitted to be operated in the City of Norwalk, they may only be operated during the following hours:
 - (1) Monday through Friday, excluding state and federal holidays: between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - (2) Saturday: between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - (3) Sundays and state and federal holidays: property owners and tenants in possession of real property only and only between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- D. Water emergency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this § 61A-5, the use of any Leaf Blower may be further restricted by the Mayor in the event of a water emergency pursuant to § 57C-4 of the Norwalk City Code.

§ 61A-6. Temporary suspension for storm and hurricane or other emergencies.

The Mayor of the City of Norwalk, in their sole discretion, may temporarily suspend provisions of this chapter to allow the use of Leaf Blowers for cleanup and debris removal in the event of a storm, hurricane, or similar extreme weather event, or other emergency.

§ 61A-7. Violations and penalties; responsible parties.

- A. Upon the initial violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, the Person in violation shall be issued a written warning, with no penalty being imposed.
- B. For any further violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, the Person in violation shall be fined a penalty of not more than \$250 per subsequent offense. For purposes of this chapter,

each use of a Leaf Blower on a property constitutes a separate violation.

- C. Notwithstanding Subsection A, a Person who owns or operates a gardening, landscape maintenance or similar service shall be solely responsible for violations of this chapter by its employees and agents.
- D. Any aggrieved Person may file an appeal to the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk in accordance with Connecticut law.

§ 61A-8. Effective date.

Except as provided in §§ 61A-3 and 61A-4, this chapter shall be effective on September 1, 2024. Provided that § 61A-3 shall only take effect if the Council has affirmatively voted by majority vote as of September 1, 2026, to implement § 61A-3.