



REGULAR MEETING – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

JANUARY 20, 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 (POSSIBLE ACTION ON)**
- IV. **PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION**
- V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT**
- VI. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. **Regular Meeting: DATE**
 1. Discuss and vote to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the ordinance committee on November 18, 2025
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and vote on Chapter 33A (Complete Streets), Section 33A-8 (Exceptions)**
- B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 29 (Cannabis), Section 29-6 (Enforcement; fines/citation; hearing; report)**
- C. Discuss and vote on Chapter 112A (Vape Shops), Section 112A-13 (Penalties)**
- D. Discuss and vote on Chapter 112A (Vape Shops), Section 112A-7 (Issuance of license)**

IX. DISCUSSION

- A. Discuss the financial disclosures and impact of ordinances**

X. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 18, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan (Chair), Heather Dunn, Anne Wennerstrand, Josh Goldstein, Jalin Sead, Johan Lopez (7:03 p.m.)

STAFF: Brian Candela.

OTHERS: Chief Walsh (Norwalk Police Department)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan took the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Discuss and vote on new ordinance: Use of School Bus Violations Enforcement Systems

Ms. Shanahan opened the public hearing. Mr. Candela reported no members of the public had raised their hand to speak and he had received no emails on the item. Ms. Shanahan noted the matter had been discussed in detail at the previous meeting and closed the public hearing.

****MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW ORDINANCE REGARDING USE OF SCHOOL BUS VIOLATIONS ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS AND FORWARD IT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS DECEMBER 9, 2025, MEETING.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Discuss and vote on Chapter 68 Noise, Sections 68-1, 68-2, 68-3, 68-4, 68-5, 68-6, 68-7, 68-8, 68-9, 68-10, 68-11, 68-12, 68-13, 68-14 and 68-15.

Ms. Shanahan opened the public hearing. Mr. Candela reported he had received no emails on the item.

Ms. Beverly Wright spoke in strong support of the proposed revisions, citing the clarity and measurability of the new standards, Police Department endorsement, compliance with state guidance, and the well-documented health impacts of excessive noise.

Mr. Peter Lane also spoke in support, praising the committee for removing conflicts with state regulations and creating a more enforceable ordinance that protects the right to quiet enjoyment. No other members of the public spoke.

Ms. Shanahan closed the public hearing.

****MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 68 NOISE, SECTIONS 68-1 THROUGH 68-15, AND FORWARD THEM TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS DECEMBER 2025 MEETING.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Candela reported no emails had been received on any agenda items and initially no hands were raised.

Mr. Tanner Thompson spoke in support of the spirit of the new state e-bike law while emphasizing the important distinction between lower-speed Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes used for sustainable transportation and higher-speed devices that are essentially electric motorbikes or motorcycles.

Mr. Ben Hanpeter echoed those points, noting he relies on a lower-power e-bike for transportation and does not own a car.

Mr. Paul Fox was unable to connect verbally but submitted written comments that were read into the record by Mr. Candela. Mr. Fox urged the committee to preserve accessibility of low-speed e-bikes and focus stricter enforcement on higher-power vehicles.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Discuss and vote to approve October 21, 2025 – regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee

****MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2025, REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. Discuss potential revisions to Chapter 112A, Vape Shops ordinance

Ms. Shanahan invited Chief Walsh to provide an update on enforcement of the recently enacted Chapter 112A vape shop ordinance that took effect September 1, 2025.

Chief Walsh reported that of the forty-eight shops required to register under the ordinance, only twelve were properly registered as of the previous week. Five applications had been denied based on suitability background checks. Special Services officers visited every non-compliant shop and issued thirteen \$250 infractions for failure to register. A small number of shops that had changed ownership were granted a brief grace period to come into compliance.

Chief Walsh noted three successful criminal operations resulting in sixteen total violations (three for illegal sales and thirteen for failure to register). He explained that the ordinance was silent on a specific penalty for failure to register, but enforcement action was taken under the spirit of the requirement. He reported attending a statewide meeting in Hartford where approximately thirty-five to forty municipalities reported similar compliance challenges, and the Norwalk ordinance was highlighted by the Department of Consumer Protection as a model for others. He recommended that the next Council consider adding explicit language and tiered penalties for failure to register, as registration is the foundational requirement of the ordinance. Ms. Shanahan and Mr. Goldstein thanked Chief Walsh and the Police Department for their vigorous enforcement and for making Norwalk a statewide leader.

Mr. Goldstein asked the Chief to continue thinking about additional enforcement mechanisms that could incentivize compliance.

Mr. Lopez thanked Chief Walsh and Mr. Candela for their work on an issue that is personally important to him.

Ms. Dunn thanked the department for protecting children and gave a special acknowledgment to the late Officer Gomez. The committee agreed to revisit the ordinance in six to eight months to consider any further refinements identified through continued enforcement.

No motion was required or made on this discussion item.

B. Discuss new laws addressing motorized bicycles and scooters

Ms. Shanahan introduced the item for discussion.

Mr. Goldstein expressed significant public-safety concerns regarding minors operating e-bikes and especially e-scooters, noting the potential for serious injury, the lack of licensing requirements for younger riders, and the speed capabilities of many devices.

Chief Walsh confirmed the new state law took effect October 1, 2025, and that the Police Department had conducted a social media education campaign. Discussion followed regarding age restrictions, rental-company safeguards, fire risks from improper battery charging, and the need for municipal authority to negotiate with rental operators or regulate charging locations.

Ms. Wennerstrand suggested a broader public-safety messaging campaign. Ms. Dunn highlighted fire risks in multi-family buildings.

Mr. Sead recommended continued collaboration between the Ordinance and Public Safety committees in the coming year, along with enhanced city-wide communication efforts. The Committee agreed the matter warrants further examination of possible local ordinances and public education initiatives.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Shanahan thanked the committee members and staff.

Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Candela, and others expressed appreciation to departing members, Ms. Dunn and Ms. Shanahan, for their service.

****MS. DUNN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary

§ 33A-8. Exceptions.

- A. An exception is required when a project is 1) unable to meet a requirement in the Design Guide or 2) accommodate an identified User. Exceptions shall not be required where an exemption exists.
- B. The following shall be considered reasonable and appropriate reasons for requiring an exception:
 - (1) Applying a standard would result in adverse impacts to the goals established in this chapter that significantly outweigh the benefits of the project or of accommodating a User Group.
 - (2) Adhering to the standards would result in exorbitant costs or in Transportation Projects that substantially exceed the identified existing or future benefits.
 - (3) A plan or study adopted by the City with community input after the adoption of this chapter explicitly states that a Transportation Project is not appropriate or a User Group cannot be accommodated.
 - (4) Applying a standard would result in substantial adverse impacts to the goals or objectives established in an adopted plan, study, policy, or ordinance.

The foregoing is intended by way of example and not as an exclusive list of reasonable and appropriate reasons for requiring an exception.

- C. To seek an exception, an Exception Report, as defined within the Complete Streets Design Guide, documenting the reasons for an exception shall be made to Complete Streets Committee. After receiving the Exception Report, the Complete Streets Coordinator shall:
 - (1) Approve the following de-minimus exceptions, and permit the project to proceed without further review, if deviations from the standards will have no material impact on:
 - (a) The quality of the Users' experience;
 - (b) The ability of Users to meet their mobility needs; and
 - (c) The ability of the City to achieve the goals established in this chapter;
 - (2) Approve the project with changes that would bring the project into compliance with the Design Guide; or
 - (3) Determine that the project requires an exception.
- D. If the Complete Streets Coordinator determines that a project requires an exception, he or she shall forward the Exception Report to the Complete Streets Committee, which shall have 45 days to review the Exception Report and make a determination. The project shall not progress to construction until the earlier of 1) the end of the forty-five-day review period (as extended in accordance with Subsection E below), and 2) the date the Complete Streets Committee approves the project with or without modifications.
- E. Where a project is especially complex, requires substantial review, or where there are

extenuating circumstances that prevent adequate review within the forty-five-day review period, the Complete Streets Committee may extend the review period for up to an additional 45 days.

- F. In evaluating an Exception Report, the Complete Streets Committee shall consider all relevant information, including public input. If the Complete Streets Committee cannot come to a unanimous conclusion regarding the exception, there must be a vote on the exception, on which the exception is either approved, approved with modifications, or disapproved, in each case by a simple majority. The determination of the Complete Streets Committee shall be made publicly available on the City's website.
- G. An applicant that is denied an exception may, within 30 days of receipt of such denial, take an appeal to the Superior Court for the Stamford/Norwalk judicial district.~~in accordance with Connecticut law.~~
- H. This chapter shall not apply to projects under construction or with final design approval on or before the effective date of this chapter. Where active projects have not yet received final design approval, the Complete Streets Coordinator shall determine on case-by-case basis whether the requirements of this chapter should be incorporated into such projects based on considerations such as, but not limited to, project schedule, available right-of-way, geometric constraints, and project funding.

§ 29-6. Enforcement; fines/citation; hearing; appeals; report.

A. Fines/citations; appeals.

(1) Any Person violating any provision of this chapter may be subject to the following penalties:

(a) If it is determined that an individual has consumed Cannabis and/or Cannabis Products outdoors where consumption is not permitted by this chapter, such individual shall be subject to a fine/citation of \$50 for each violation.

(b) If it is determined that a Person permits the outdoor consumption of Cannabis and/or Cannabis Products in violation of this chapter, such Person shall be subject to a fine/citation of \$250 for each violation.

(c) Any aggrieved Person may file an appeal to the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk within 30 days of receipt of such fine/citation.~~in accordance with Connecticut law.~~

B. The Chief of Police or their designee shall, on an annual basis or as otherwise requested by the Common Council or the Mayor, prepare and deliver a written report to the Common Council and the Mayor concerning the number of violations issued pursuant to this chapter. This written report shall include, but not be limited to, information concerning the geography and demographics of the violations issued and such other information as requested by the Common Council or the Mayor.

§ 112A-13. Penalties for offenses. [Amended 6-24-2025]

A. Violations.

- (1) Any retailer who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction and subject to civil penalty fine, suspension, and/or revocation of the license. Each violation, and every day in which a violation occurs, shall constitute a separate and distinct infraction.
- (2) In the event that a violation has occurred, the City Clerk shall have 30 days from the date of the violation to issue notice of said violation via written order to the retailer. The order shall specify the section of this chapter of which the retailer is in violation and shall specify the penalty for noncompliance. Notification shall be sent by certified mail to the applicant's residence or place of business. Said notification shall be deemed complete seven days following the date of mailing.
- (3) A retailer shall be found in violation of this chapter if:
 - (a) The retailer or any salesperson sells vape products to any person under the age of 21 years.
 - (b) The retailer fails to post signage and license as required.
 - (c) The retailer fails to pay any fines imposed in accordance this chapter.
 - (d) The retailer or any salesperson sells or uses on the premises any narcotic substance or any controlled drug as defined in § 21a-242 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended from time to time.
 - (e) The retailer fails to maintain standards prescribed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health or the City's Health Department, or their respective successors.
 - (f) The retailer or any salesperson refuses to submit to the City Clerk any reports or make available any records required in investigating the establishment for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this chapter.
 - (g) The retailer or any salesperson fails or refuses to submit to an investigation by persons authorized by law to conduct fire, building, health, or law enforcement related inspections.
 - (h) The retailer or any salesperson violates state or local vape products sales and use laws.
 - (i) The retailer or any salesperson violates any of the provisions of this chapter, or any rules and regulations established by the City Clerk, pursuant to this chapter.
 - (j) The retailer or any salesperson furnishes or makes any misleading or false statements or reports in relation to this chapter, including in connection with an application for an initial or renewal license or an inspection under this chapter.
 - (k) Upon suspension or revocation of a license, the retailer fails to remove all vape products from the premises.

B. Penalties.

- (1) If the Chief of Police or the Director of Health find that a retailer is in violation of this chapter, it shall be punishable by a fine, suspension, and/or revocation of the license as follows:
 - (a) Upon the first violation of this chapter, the Chief of Police, the Director of Health, or their respective designees, shall impose a fine of \$250 per day for each day the violation continues.
 - (b) If a second, separate, violation of this Chapter chapter is issued within a twelve-month period following the first violation, the Chief of Police, the Director of Health, or their respective designees, shall impose a fine of \$250 per day for each day the violation continues. ~~The~~ the retailer's license shall also be suspended for six months by the City Clerk. Upon suspension of a license, all vape products shall be removed from the premises. Failure to remove shall constitute a separate violation for each and every day of noncompliance.
 - (c) If a third, separate, violation of this Chapter chapter is issued within a twenty-four-month period following the first violation, the Chief of Police, the Director of Health, or their respective designees, shall impose a fine of \$250 per day for each day the violation continues. ~~The~~ the retailer's license shall also be revoked by the City Clerk. Upon revocation of a license, all vape products shall be removed from the premises. Failure to remove shall constitute a separate violation for each and every day of noncompliance.
- C. Upon suspension or revocation of a license, all vape products shall be removed from the premises within seven days from the date of suspension or revocation.

§ 112A-7. Issuance of license. [Amended 6-24-2025]

- A. The City Clerk shall issue a license to sell vape products within 45 days following receipt of the application, provided the application complies with the provisions of this chapter and upon finding:
- (1) All requirements concerning operations and facilities described in this chapter will be complied with as of the effective date of the permit.
 - (2) Compliance with all other statutes, codes or ordinances, including health, zoning, building, fire and safety requirements of the City and the State of Connecticut as of the effective date of the license.
 - (3) The applicant/retailer has not had two or more violations of any provision of the Norwalk City Code within the last 24 months.
 - (4) The applicant/retailer has no outstanding violations of any provision of the Norwalk City Code.
 - ~~(5)~~ Neither the applicant, if a natural person, nor any shareholder, director, officer, member, or partner of the applicant, if the applicant is not a natural person, has been convicted of any felony.
 - ~~(5)~~(6) Neither the applicant, if a natural person, nor any shareholder, director, officer, member, or partner of the applicant, if the applicant is not a natural person, has been convicted of any of the following General Statutes: General Statutes § 21a-278(b)(1)(D), as amended and General Statutes § 21a-246, as amended.
 - ~~(6)~~(7) The applicant is at least 21 years of age.
- B. Upon issuance, the license shall be valid for a period beginning with the date of the license until December 31 of that same year, unless sooner suspended or revoked in accordance with this chapter, or unless the retailer to whom it was issued discontinues the business. In either case, the holder of the license shall immediately return it to the City Clerk.