

**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