

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**  
**First Floor Meeting Room, Bristol City Hall/Zoom**

**ATTENDEES:** Susan Tyler, Cheryl Thibeault, Jacqueline Olsen

**ABSENT:** - - -

**STAFF PRESENT:** Thomas Conlin, Assistant Corporation Counsel  
Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent, Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services  
Tom DeNoto, Assessor  
Jennifer Cole, Deputy Tax Collector (online)  
Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor (online)

1. The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Council Member Tyler.
2. Approval of Minutes

Jacqueline Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021 meeting seconded by Cheryl Thibeault. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

3. Public Participation
  - o Dave Rackliffe, 730 Lake Avenue. Mr. Rackliffe spoke about Ordinances relating to air quality in Bristol. He spoke about the June 2021 Ordinance meeting and Public Hearing and the ordinances that were eliminated (Sec. 11-31 through 11-37). Later that month the public learned about Covanta permit application to burn biomedical waste at their plant in Bristol. He read a statement, providing information and bringing up various questions about emissions and his proposal.
  - o Jane Anastasio, 78 Holley Rd. Ms. Anastasio also requested that the city hire an environmental consultant to write air quality ordinances and she provided some statistics along with some information received from Covanta. She stressed that continuous monitoring of the toxins was critically important.

Continuous monitoring was discussed along with what Covanta is monitoring for, the permits they have applied for and for what tonnage. Dave and Jane answered questions.

- o Laura Carter (online). Added information about the standards that they are testing for. She stressed that the city provide an ordinance and ask for regulation.

Additional public participants arrived at 5:47 p.m.

- o Samuel Vasile, 639 Lake Ave. Is in support of an ordinance that would regulate the emissions in Bristol.
- o Olivia Bechard, 15 Vance Dr. Is in favor of taking back our Clear Air Act.
- o Zach Ward, 371 Emmett St. Is here in support of Clean Air Act.
- o Sean Doyle, 371 Emmett St. Also in favor of Clean Air Act. He also has asthma and is in agreement with the others here today.
- o James Peters, 941 Farmington Ave. Is CEO of a local pool company. Is in support of the Clean Air Act.
- o Mike Ewall, Philadelphia (online). Mr. Ewall is not a Bristol resident. He is available if anyone has any questions about what other communities have done. Cheryl Thibeault asked if there was any other cities in Connecticut that have passed regulations.

4. Old Business
  - a. Sec. 16-3 Cannabis use restriction – public parks and property

Mr. Medeiros has reached out to the State Parks Association and he shared information he learned at that meeting.

Connecticut has followed what Colorado was doing for federal housing. Cannabis use is not legal federally but is legal in Connecticut – if you are in federal housing you cannot use it. They did not have an answer about the ban in public places. He reviewed the definition of “smoking” – more specific language is needed. He reviewed and has contacted other towns and has only heard from one. It did not seem to be an urgent issue with the other towns. Tom Conlin added information. He has also contacted Brian O’Connor (CCM legal counsel) and added information about designating a public space.

Cheryl Thibeault has reached out to White Betts and Cara Pavalock with specific questions. She has also asked questions of folks who worked at the legal medical marijuana site and they were not available last week.

Susan Tyler said that they can put a policy in place with regard to Parks and continue to work on the designated area as more information becomes available. Discussion.

**Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to introduce to City Council for Public Hearing the changes to Section 16.3 and 16.7 that deal with cannabis use in City Parks. Jacqueline Olsen seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Mayor Caggiano pointed out that the Board of Education have their own policy and also banned smoking and vaping and is in charge of their own policies.

b. MV registration penalties – out of state motor vehicles

Tom DeNoto reported that it is definitely an issue and currently not applicable to apartments. There is an unregistered component to the personal property tax declaration but they do not have very many of them. It is difficult to track and trace. The code enforcement officer would handle and have the authority to issue the citations. There would also be an appeal process. With an ordinance then the code enforcement officer could initiate the investigation and can write a citation now but currently cannot impose a fine. The residency need to be confirmed. It would need to be a provable case before a tax bill issued.

Susan Tyler has contacted Chief Gould. There is a State regulation and she asked if they could issue a citation. Tom DeNoto replied yes and they have worked with the police but it is a fluid process. Discussion. Cheryl Thibeault commented she would like to see what other towns are doing and how many appeals they have before we begin to charge tickets.

Jennifer Cole added information. The tax office turns these over to a collection agency but they usually do not get paid. She spoke about the Senate Bill which is for the “owner” of the motor vehicle and was concerned about it becoming a lien on the property. She added that Waterbury is going forward with a process through the police department but they have access to search the out of state registrations.

Susan Tyler reviewed information she received from Ann Bednaz, basically a list of concerns.

5. New Business

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to bring air pollution quality standards to the table for discussion. Jacqueline Olsen seconded the motion.

Cheryl spoke about how/when the original ordinances were removed as they were obsolete. Marco Palmieri had been contacted at that time. She would like to look at toughening up the ordinances but need to know any ramifications if tougher laws were enacted. For example – will be costs be increased by a change in the law subsequent to the company's agreement (with Covanta). How does this apply to an application in process? She would like to look at what was taken out and what could be put back in and possibly look at hiring an outside consultant.

General discussion on what was taken out and how effective it actually was or wasn't.

**Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to refer this matter to Corporation Counsel to work with the team to propose changes to the ordinance that affect the air, water, land (environmental) quality and know that they have the ability to bring in outside counsel should they need to. Jacqueline Olsen seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

6. Committee Member Comments

With regard to the air quality discussion, Jacqueline Olsen has the same concerns and the committee will do the best to resolve these issues.

7. Adjournment

**Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. seconded by Jacqueline Olsen. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cooper  
Recording Secretary