

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 1, 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
Richard Hart, Fire Chief

1. The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council Member Tyler.
2. Approval of Minutes

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022 meeting seconded by Jacqueline Olsen. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

3. Public Participation
 - Dave Rackliffe, 730 Lake Ave. Mr. Rackliffe represents Bristol Residents for Clean Air. Tom Colin has provided him with useful information. Their organization had a meeting last night and received advice from an attorney on what should be in the ordinances. They should be focused and clearly directed as well as detailed. He provided some detail. He distributed the suggestions that the attorney made (see 3 pages at end of minutes). Dave answered questions.
 - Mary Rydingsward, Marcia Drive, President of Pequabuck River Watershed Association. They are interested in a Stand Alone Conservation Commission. She explained what the commission should do. She was also concerned about the time given to conservation issues at city meetings. If there was a conservation commission, then they could apply for grants.
 - Laura Carter, Bristol (via Zoom). Ms. Carter expressed concerns about the size of the particulate matter.
 - Jane Anastasio, 78 Holley Rd. Ms. Anastasio mentioned there was an article in the Hartford Courant today about particulate matter. She summarized and provided information from the article. She is concerned with cadmium, mercury and lead with the burning of the waste and the cost to the community, both health-wise and financially.
 - Frank Kramer, Crescent Drive. Mr. Kramer inquired can Federal guidelines be exceeded without breaking rules.

4. Old Business

- a. Report from public hearing, Secs. 16-3 and 16-7 Cannabis use in public parks

No one was at the Public Hearing on this topic today.

Jacqueline Olsen made a motion to adopt and refer the proposed ordinance to City Council. Cheryl Thibeault seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Update regarding air quality issues

Susan Tyler referred to the information in the meeting packet for review and distributed a newspaper article. Attorney Conlin said there was a lot of information and encouraged the committee to review. He has included two ordinances that he received from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (Bridgeport and Norwalk) and they do have measurement standards and how they attempt to enforce them. The article from the Wall Street Journal concerns what the EPA is doing towards regulatory

efforts. Most of this is fossil-fueled based. You can go to your congressional representatives and senators and speak to them about your concerns because this is timely.

Cheryl Thibeault said that Bridgeport has an energy plant larger than Bristol but not doing medical waste. She also got information from Norwalk. She reported that a Covanta facility in Pennsylvania posts info online (daily info) and this is the data that they provide to the state and we may want to consider this as well. These are the required items that are posted. That facility does municipal waste only.

Cheryl also mentioned that Covanta has reached out to every city council member (not via a Covanta employee but someone who was hired to reach out). She told the representative that they have to speak to the people and answer their questions.

There was general discussion about the Covanta agreement.

5. New Business

a. Request from Fire Chief Richard Hart: Fire suppression systems inspection reporting

Chief Hart reported that the Fire Marshall has recommended assistance from a Compliance Engine (Brycer Compliance Engine). Many towns all across the country are using this compliance engine. This is a third-party agency that will compile all the information on commercial and residential fire protection systems that need to be inspected on an annual basis (2-year and 3-year). Using them will increase our compliance. He explained what the company does and how it would operate and the cost. Attorney Conlin has drafted an ordinance (Sec. 7-18). This would decrease liability on the city. Chief Hart answered questions. Susan Tyler stated she would like to review and get a little more information.

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to table this item and put it on next month's agenda. Jacqueline Olsen seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

6. Committee Member Comments – There were no member comments.

7. Adjournment

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. seconded by Jacqueline Olsen. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary