

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
City Hall – Meeting Room 1-1
111 North Main Street, Second Floor Bristol, CT

ATTENDEES: Sebastian Panioto, Jacqueline Olsen (via Zoom), Cheryl Thibeault,

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jeffrey R. Steeg, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Noelle Bates, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Panioto. All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. March 5, 2024

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Old Business

Councilwoman Thibeault asked if the Committee would be bringing back Street takeovers, Covanta and Vape Shops to the Agenda. She stated she sent an email to Senator Martin's staff about the status of the Street Takeover bill in the legislation doing and she is waiting to hear back from them. She also sent Mark Van Weelden at Covanta an email about the status of the perceived noise problems and she is waiting for Mark to email her back.

Councilman Panioto stated that Deputy Chief Moskowitz couldn't be at the meeting tonight, but that the issue of street takeovers is presently going through the legislature. We will have to wait to see what the outcome is and then determine if there is anything we should do on the local level.

5. New Business

a. Discussion of Downtown Bristol Business Profile

Councilman Panioto stated that he wanted the Committee to make suggestions on what they wanted downtown to look like. What businesses did we want to allow or not allow such as vape shops.

Councilwoman Olsen said she would prefer not to have vape shops in downtown but there is nothing we can do about that. She also thinks there are too many dollar stores but they are allowed to be in the downtown zone. She would like to see more buildings like Carrier's building with apartments,

restaurants and places for people to shop. She asked if we could put in some stipulations for vape shops like we did for the marijuana retailers.

Councilman Panioto stated that the Ordinance Committee is in a tough spot as this is a zoning issue.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated she was not in favor of creating ordinances when development is handled through the Zoning Commission.

Attorney Conlin explained to the Committee that the zoning regulations were not commandments created by a civilian board, but had flexibility. He handed out a package of a portion of the zoning regulations to the members. He stated that people need to address the zoning board to voice their frustration and let them know what they would like to see in downtown and have them put it on their agenda for discussion. We have changed zoning regulations many times for single parcels. Attorney Conlin also suggested that when people address the Board they need to have a package together of what they would like to propose. This way the Board has something concrete to review for discussion.

6. Additional Public Participation

Director of Public Works addressed the Committee members regarding making changes to City Ordinances Sections 21-66 through 21-84 pertaining to Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Division 3. Contractor's License. He handed out his suggested changes to the members and will add it to next months' agenda for discussion. A copy of these changes are made a part of these minutes.

7. Committee Member Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary