

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 2, 2024
City Hall – Meeting Room 1-1
111 North Main Street, CT

ATTENDEES: Sebastian Panioto, Jacqueline Olsen, Cheryl Thibeault,
ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Jeffrey R. Steeg, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Marco Palmeri, Director, Bristol-Burlington Health District
Raymond Rogozinski, Director of Public Works
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. June 4, 2024

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None.

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to move items 5a and 5b up on the agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. Proposed Revisions to the Flood & Erosion Control Board, Chapter 8, sections 8-1 through 8-2.

The Committee continued addressing this issue from last month. Ray Rogozinski stated that he would have people from his Department clean up any trash/recycling issues within the City and invoice the offender/owner of the property. Attorney Steeg stated that the invoice couldn't go to the Tax Office as this would skew her numbers and it should be a collection within the Department of Public Works. The Committee also discussed giving tickets under code enforcement and handle it the same way as other code enforcement issues. Ray would talk to Attorney Conlin once he returned to the office next week.

No action taken.

- b. Proposed Revisions to the Solid Waste Ordinance Chapter, 10 sections 10-1 through 10-59.

The Committee discussed the revisions to the Flood & Erosion Control Board and made some typographical changes.

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to refer this matter to the City Council for them to set a date and time for a Public Hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

4. Old Business

a. COVANTA update

Marco Palmeri, Director of Bristol-Burling Health District stated that his lead investigator, Jennifer Rodriguez has been working with Covanta, now called Reworld on this investigation and has heard the noise being complained of. She has been working with ReWorld and had contacted the Police Department. The PD used their sound machine and concluded that, at the time, the noise did not exceed the levels in the Bristol Code of Ordinances. Therefore they had to hire an expert. In a conference call with Reworld, they did recognize that they are the source that people have been complaining about.

Reworld hired their own consultants and identified the sound causing the issue. The fans were not operating in sync and need to be recalibrated. At this point BBHD hired a second consultant to expand their investigation. The Connecticut Department of Health didn't want to help BBHD. And, the Department of Environmental Protection no longer has authority or responsibility to investigate and sent the complaint back to the BBHD.

Mr. Palmeri stated that their office reached out to over a dozen attorneys before he found Attorney Keith Answorth, who specializes in and has represented numerous cases involving noise nuisances.

Attorney Keith Answorth addressed the Committee and gave an informational review of the issue. He explained that there are high frequency sound waves and low frequency sound waves. High frequency sound waves are things like every day traffic, noise from Lake Compounce and machinery. Low frequency sound waves are waves that are very long and travel a long distance and travel through buildings and trees. High frequency sound waves get absorbed where low frequency do not. Because it was determined that the low frequency waves were the issue, he hired an expert, Carl Casio to help with the investigation. Mr. Casio is the person who designs our submarines to make them silent.

What has been determined is that Reworld was the issue. It was hard to figure out, but they did agree that it was coming from the fans. If the fans are out of sync it will cause this low hum that people can actually hear and feel and it is real what these people are feeling. The fans were replaced and it did drop the decibels within the last month. Mr. Casio has a series of testing he will be doing to try and control it even further. There are a five potential causes and testing on these will be conducted this week.

Mr. Palmeri stated that a survey was sent out to the residents in that area and they received 12 back. Some said it was better but still annoying. Some said better and not interrupting sleep as

much, but they can live with it. But when the complaints first started coming in, everyone was mad and angry and couldn't sleep, couldn't think and couldn't read. It was a quality of life issue.

Councilwoman Thibeault suggested that Mr. Palmeri send a statement to the Public stating that they are working with Reworld and experts to come to a resolution. Mr. Palmeri stated that he had planned on doing that.

No action taken.

6. Additional Public Participation
7. Committee Member Comments
8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary