

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
City Hall – Meeting Room 3-1
111 North Main Street, CT

ATTENDEES: Sebastian Panioto, Cheryl Thibeault, Mark Dickau

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas W. Conlin, 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. December 3, 2024

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2024 and seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

Mayor Jeff Caggiano addressed the Committee and members of the audience about the recent discussion last month at the Ordinance Committee regarding red light cameras. He stated that Chief Morello wasn't able to be in attendance so he gave an overview of the topic. This process of installing red light cameras is a long process. If the City approves the use of the cameras, it would have to go to the State for approval. The State has certain criteria that they City would have to show cause as to why they should be at certain intersections. If the State approved it, it would come back to the Ordinance Committee to conduct a Public Hearing. If it passed in Ordinance it would then go out for an RFP and then go through Ordinance again and then to City Council. If it was approved, it is good for 3 years. This is a long process and the public would have many changes to speak on this issue.

Debbie Streeter, 346 Pine Street spoke in favor of the cameras as cars are speeding down Pine Street at a rate of almost 80 miles an hour.

Maria Toamazza, 58 Lufkin Lane, Chair of the RTC was opposed to the cameras as it is government overreach.

Tom Hick, 991 Jerome Avenue is opposed to the cameras as it is a privacy issue and government overreach.

Tom Dutkiewicz, 24 Atkins Avenue is opposed to the cameras as he is a truck driver and heavy trucks can't stop in time. Suffolk County, Long Island had these cameras and they took them down because it was causing more accidents.

Sue Tyler, 993 Hill Street stated it has its pros and cons but she is opposed to the cameras. As a former police officer, you are privatizing law enforcement and undermining the trust in the police department. Choose officers to patrol these areas rather than equipment.

Gary Martin, 177 West Street is opposed to the censorship of cameras.

Art Moccabee, 70 Wolcott Street is opposed to the cameras as it poses a cyber security risk and is subject to hacking of personal information.

Russell Anderson, 93 Wolcott Road is opposed to the cameras as it won't stop the ATVs speeding down the roads. We need the police to do their job.

Gene Manson, 177 West Street (on Zoom) is opposed to the cameras and wants to see if there are other things we can try first.

Chairman Panioto informed the public that this still has to go to another public hearing and there will be more opportunities for the public.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated that the City has looked into roundabouts and speed bumps and they don't work. The Committee will have to do more research on the matter.

Councilman Dickau stated that the speed bumps are an emergency hazard to ambulances.

4. Old Business

- a. Consideration of amendments to sections 2-124 through 2-137.1 Ethics Commission.

Councilman Panioto stated that the Ethics Committee will be meeting this month to see if they can work through the procedures of the Commission as a Committee.

No action taken.

- b. Public Act 24-151 Tax Abatement.

Councilwoman Thibeault prepare some documentation regarding the tax abatement, a copy of which is attached.

No action taken.

5. New Business

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

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary