

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
City Hall – Meeting Room 3-1
111 North Main Street

ATTENDEES: Sebastian Panioto, Cheryl Thibeault (Zoom), 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 5:20 p.m. due to technical difficulty with Zoom, by Chairman Panioto. All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. January 7, 2025

Councilman Dickau made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2025 and seconded by Councilwoman Thibeault. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

Bill Burelle, 241 Redstone Hill Road, questioned what would happen if his son came to visit and used his vehicle and got a ticket, who would get the ticket?

Alexander Roy, 23 Illinois Avenue stated that he is opposed to the cameras all together and thinks it's a money grab.

Bill Burelle, 241 Redstone Hill Road, asked if the fine was the same as a parking ticket? What judge would grant a ticket to someone who wasn't driving the car?

Lisa Kane, 85 Bartholomew asked why the cameras were being installed in the first place. She is opposed to the installation of the cameras.

Judy Potoir, 36 Willis Street asked if someone gets a ticket, would it be points on their license? Councilman Dickau said it wouldn't. She also asked is this issue would be going to a referendum? The Committee responded that it would go through the City Council and the Police Commission. There would also be another Public Hearing for the people to be heard.

Mike Adams, 185 Ivy Drive stated that people have a total disrespect for traffic lights. The police would have to sit at the intersection of Maltby Street at St .Gregory's Church to see how people

are driving. He stated he was in favor of the traffic cameras and that they need to be installed before someone gets killed.

Property owner at 17 Hemlock Street stated that Route 72 is hell. People go from point A to point B on Route 72 to see how fast they can go. People have been killed at the intersection of Route 72 and Lincoln and she is in favor of the cameras.

Mike Pletcher, 59 Douglas Road stated that when he stops at a red light there are one or two people that are behind him that go around him and through the red light.

4. Old Business

- a. Report from public hearing regarding changes to Section 2-97.3 and 19-17, Police Retirement and Benefits, and Ranks and Grades in the Police Force.

Councilman Dickau made a motion to approve the language of Section 2-97.3 and 19-17 and to refer to the City Council for approval, seconded by Councilwoman Thibeault. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

- b. Review of Draft Red Light Camera Ordinance proposal.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated that she has taken the time to make some bullet points that were brought up at the last meeting about who's running the lights. How dangerous are these cameras if someone suddenly stops for a light? She also prefaced that before any action was taken, there needs to be further debate. This will go to another Public Hearing and also go before the Police Commission.

Councilwoman Thibeault made some changes to the draft ordinance regarding the citation process that she would like added to the language.

Chairman Panioto made a motion to include the amendments Councilwoman Thibeault added to the draft language and to refer back to the Police Commission for their review and to provide additional data, seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

5. New Business

6. Additional Public Participation

Mr. Burelle asked if someone gets a ticket, would they be able to see the footage?

Kay Finegan, 181 Sherbrook Road stated that West Hartford used to have cameras and it significantly slowed down traffic. She also asked if these cameras would catch people who would "jump" at light, meaning they would start moving before the light turned green.

Chief Morello spoke to the Committee and the public and gave some background of the red light cameras. There is certain criteria that has to meet according to the State of Connecticut. Some of those include:

Needs to have a history of accidents at the intersection.

A death at one of the intersections.

Amount of average daily traffic.

Has to be at least two accidents in a three year period.

What is the poverty rate in the area?

What is the roadway geometry?

Aerial image of the sites.

Have to post sign that there are cameras ahead.

Traffic sign control plan.

Must be on the approved OSTA list

7. Committee Member Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary