

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

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. February 4, 2025

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025 and seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Old Business

Chairman Panioto stated that the Ethics Committee talked about putting together procedures on how they were going to conduct their meetings. He hasn't heard back from anyone on the Committee but would be happy to review the procedures once they are complete.

Chairman Panioto gave an update on the red light cameras stating at the last Ordinance Committee, it was sent back to the Police Commission to provide more data. The Police Commission took it up at their last meeting and the red light camera proposal was voted down 7-1. They created a subcommittee to come up with different solutions to make traffic safer as there is a real concern.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated that the red light camera concept wasn't shot down in this Committee and that a lot of hard work was put into coming up with language. If the Police Commission decides to bring it before the Ordinance Committee again, we already have language to start with.

5. New Business

Fire Chief Hart addressed the Committee with regard to private fire hydrants. There are 400 private fire hydrants in the City and all of them are supposed to be registered with the Fire Department and annually inspected. He would like to attach a fine for anyone who is not in compliance and make it a tiered system of either fining daily, weekly or monthly. He stated that the Fire Department doesn't use these fire hydrants because they don't know if they meet the standards or if they are even functional. He would like to create an ordinance to address this issue.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated that there should be language in the condo association documentation as this could lead to destruction of private property, commercial property and loss of life.

Fire Marshal Kris Lambert spoke in support of Chief Hart stating it is difficult obtaining compliance. He recently sent out a gentle reminder to private entities to test sprinklers and fire hydrants. As of now, out of the 400 fire hydrants, there are only 4 that have given them their inspection report. He would like an ordinance in place and usually monetarily works. He stated that Meriden and West Hartford has language in their Ordinance that we can review.

Councilwoman Thibeault stated she talked to an insurance company about this issue and was told that if the insurance company knows private owners are out of compliance with hydrants it can cause an increase in insurance rates.

6. Additional Public Participation

None.

7. Committee Member Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dickau. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary