

SPECIAL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2022, 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Room 1, Lower Level
Bristol Public Library, 5 High St., Bristol, CT

ATTENDEES: Susan Tyler, Cheryl Thibeault, Jacqueline Olsen

ABSENT: - - -

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Conlin, Assistant Corporation Counsel

COUNCIL MEMBER: ---

1. The Special Ordinance Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Tyler.
2. Public Participation

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion that they move to item #3 on the Agenda as Councilwoman Thibeault needs to be at a Public Works meeting at 6:00, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. Motion passed.

3. To discuss and take action on a proposed Cannabis establishment Ordinance

Chairwoman Tyler stated the last meeting they had on this subject after the Public Hearing lasted until 10:15pm and there was a lot of discussion. They were working on a final draft but it couldn't be done in one night. She would like to move this to the Special City Council meeting for September 22nd. She discussed the ground rules for when they take comments from the audience and stated they would go through the Ordinance as a Committee.

Section 13-122. Purpose.

The Committee decided to circle back to this one after the more substantive changes were made throughout the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 13-123. Definitions.

The Committee felt that this paragraph stood on its own as this is what is in the Public Act. Councilwoman stated that she would like to come back to this section if the State changes anything in the Act.

Section 13-124. Establishment Limitation.

Councilwoman Olsen stated that she would like to take the words "retailer" and "hybrid" out of this section. Councilwoman Thibeault disagreed and said she would agree to take out retail but was in favor of a hybrid. Discussion was had as to each Committee members reasoning for taking either or both out.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to take out the word "retailer" and "hybrid, seconded by Cheryl Thibeault to allow it for discussion, but opposed it. Susan Tyler vote in favor. Motion passed.

Section 13-125A. Proximity Limitation.

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to add the words “not specified in the Zoning Regulations” after No cannabis establishment. Sseconded by Jackie Olsen. Susan Tyler voted in favor. Motion passed.

Section 13-125B. Proximity Limitation.

No changes were made to this section.

Section 13-126. Approval Required and Density Limitation.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to take out “and Density Limitation”, “retailer” and “hybrid retailer”. Also the last line that read “ Approvals shall be limited to no more retailer or hybrid retailers, and no more micro-cultivators than would result in one retailer or hybrid retailer and one micro-cultivator per forty thousand residents”. Seconded by Cheryl Thibeault. [Note: Ms. Thibeault stated that she would have voted no, but was going on the pretense that we took it out in the above paragraph.] Motion passed.

Section 13-127. Approval Process.

The Committee felt that it would make more sense to combine Sections 13-126 and 13-127.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to revote. Susan Tyler vote in favor. Motion passed.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to revote to start with Section 13-127 language. Cheryl Thibeault seconded. Motion passed.

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to strike out Section 13-126. Jackie Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

Section 13-128. Changes to an Approved Retailer, Hybrid Retailer or Micro-Cultivator.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to change this section to read “Changes to an Approved Cannabis Establishments”. Should an approved Cannabis Establishment change its location after approval by the City Council, or substantially change its approved site plan, such Cannabis Establishment must again seek approval from the City Council as described in section 13-126. If a Cannabis Establishment has its license suspended or revoked, said Cannabis Establishment shall notify the Mayor’s Office within 24 hours of such action and provide a copy of any notice received from the State. Seconded by Susan Tyler. Motion passed.

Section 13-129. Prohibited Conduct.

Jackie Olsen made a motion for Section 13-129 to remain as is. Seconded by Cheryl Thibeault. Motion passed.

Section 13-130. Fine for Prohibited Conduct.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to add Section 23-2 of the Code of Ordinances within the language. Seconded by Cheryl Thibeault. Motion passed.

Section 13-131. Savings clause.

Cheryl Thibeault made a motion to accept the language as presented. Seconded by Jackie Olsen. Motion passed.

Section 13-122. Purpose.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to amend Section 13-122 to add the language “of the citizens of Bristol.” Susan Tyler seconded. Motion passed.

Section 13-124. Establishment Limitation.

Jackie Olsen made a motion to add the following language after micro-cultivator, “producer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager delivery service or transporter.” Seconded by Cheryl Thibeault for discussion purposes. Susan Tyler voted in favor. Cheryl Thibeault voted against. Motion passed.

Attorney Thomas Conlin reread the entire sections 13-122 through 13-131 as rewritten (a copy of which is attached).

Jackie Olsen made a motion to accept all changes as rewritten. Seconded by Cheryl Thibeault to push the motion through but voted against. Susan Tyler voted in favor. Motion passed.

(Cheryl Thibeault left the meeting at 5:49 to attend a Public Works meeting.)

2. Public Participation.

Attorney Bart Halloran of 791 Prospect Avenue, West Hartford spoke of behalf of Trulieve as their attorney. He stated that the last Public Hearing was on an entirely different matter and the Committee has just created a new Ordinance. He stated that his client is at a competitive disadvantage if they cannot go to hybrid and won't be able to compete. Trulieve has been acting in good faith and if they can't go to hybrid, they will have to go somewhere else. This will have an economic impact on Trulieve's patients. They have no objection to retail but he asked the Committee to put hybrid back in at the next City Council meeting.

Jamison Clegg, Prospect Place, spoke in favor of recreational marijuana.

5. New Business

6. Committee member comments

7. Adjournment

Jackie Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. seconded by Susan Tyler. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary