

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 25, 2017

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair and Councillor Esther Clarke

ABSENT Councillor Bill Horan

ALSO Mayor Marcia Leclerc

PRESENT Jessica Carrero, Assistant to the Mayor

Robert Pasek, Town Clerk

Joe Carlson, Councillor

Marie Fredrickson, Susan Tukey, Steve Watkins, Todney Harris,

Paul Sousa, Jeff Cummings, Susan Skowronek, Mary Mourey,

John Morrison, Timothy Siggia, Jacqueline Pencz, Val Povinelli,

Dan DePietro, Bruce Jokubaitis, Stacy Smith, Ellen McCreery,

Hank Pawlowski, Joanne Covey, Deb Arrieta, Judy Beeman

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 12, 2016 Meeting

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Rich Kehoe
to **approve** the December 12, 2016 meeting minutes.
Motion carried 2/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

OLD BUSINESS

Boards/Commissions Review

The Chair explained that the Ordinance Committee was reviewing ways in which the Boards and Commissions can be more effective, including clarifying their charge so that members understand the role and duties of the Boards and Commissions, and streamlining and making more uniform the calling of meetings, the transcribing of minutes and the filing of minutes for each of these Commissions.

The Ordinance Committee invited members of East Hartford's Boards and Commissions to attend this meeting or the meeting to be held on February 14th to give their perspective on this topic. The goal of having two meetings was to allow for more members to attend one or the other, so that if there was a conflict with the January 25th date they could attend the February 14th meeting.

There were representatives from the following Commissions at this meeting: Economic Development Commission, Historic District Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals, Fine Arts Commission, Commission on Aging, Inland/Wetlands Commission, Beautification Commission, Veterans Affairs Commission, Patriotic Commission, Public Building Commission, Hockanum River Commission, Insurance Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities, Library Commission and Emergency Medical Services Commission.

The attendance represents a broad cross-section of the existing Boards and Commissions. With the discussion it was clear from all members present that it would be a great benefit to have a streamlined clerk process. Many members were confused by what was required by state law and, in many cases, the burden on the Board or Commission member to take the minutes and then file them appropriately with the town without proper training was resulting in a lack of consistent compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. One consistent concern was lack of quorum for meetings and lack of people who are willing to join a Board or Commission. It was recognized that perhaps the membership of some Boards or Commissions could be reduced. Further the town should publicize what these Boards and Commissions do in order to stimulate interest in serving on a Board and Commission. A number of the Board and Commission members raised issues about whether in fact there was a need for the Commission or what the Commission really should be doing. Participants acknowledged the fact that times have changed and perhaps some of these Boards' and Commissions' charges were no longer relevant and as such, may make it more difficult to get members to attend if they do not feel that they are making any kind of difference.

The Committee thanked the participants for taking the time to attend this meeting and provide their input. The Committee will take all of these comments into consideration in determining the next steps once it holds its February 14th meeting and receives additional comments from those who attend that meeting.

The Committee agreed to hold any further action on this issue pending the February 14th meeting.

Outdoor Wood-burning Furnaces

The Committee received the January 19th draft ordinance from Corporation Counsel's office which would prohibit the use or installation of an outdoor wood-burning furnace (furnace). Such furnaces are significant air polluters and when there isn't sufficient room between the placement of the furnace and a next door neighbor, it could create lung irritants for those neighbors. It is important to note that the definition of an outdoor wood-burning furnace does not include chimineas and other small wood-burning fireplaces. These furnaces are fairly significant pieces of equipment that are used to heat an entire house and, as a result, raise concerns about the level of pollution for these mechanisms. At this date no one is

aware that any outdoor wood-burning furnaces currently are located in East Hartford but the intent of the ordinance is to prohibit any problem from occurring.

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Rich Kehoe
 to send the January 19th draft of the Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace
 ordinance to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public
 hearing date. (see below)
 Motion carried 2/0.

Outdoor Wood-burning Furnace
(Draft 01-19-17)

Article 8. Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace

Section 13-31

No person shall use or install an outdoor wood -burning furnace. As used in this section, outdoor wood- burning furnace shall have the same definition as contained in section 22a-174k of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended from time to time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Rich Kehoe
 to **adjourn** (7:21 p.m.)
 Motion carried 2/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel