

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

AUGUST 31, 2016

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair (arrived 5:45 p.m.), Councillors Bill Horan and Esther Clarke

ALSO

PRESENT Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Mike Walsh, Finance Director
Patrick Keough, Lamar Advertising
Attorney John P. McHugh, Cranmore, Fitzgerald & Meaney

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Horan called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 16, 2016 Meeting

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Bill Horan
to **approve** the February 16, 2016 Ordinance meeting minutes.
Motion carried 2/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Billboards Relocation: Lamar Advertising

The Chair provided an overview of the current situation. The Town Council had approved an agreement whereby Lamar Advertising would remove the billboards at 361 Main Street and two of the four billboards at 1179 Burnside Avenue. Lamar encountered problems with the ownership of 1179 Burnside Avenue and now entered into an agreement with the owner of 1252-1256 Main Street. Lamar maintains an agreement with Goodwin College to remove the 361 Main Street billboards. So the agreement being currently reviewed by the Town

Council would entail removing the billboards at 361 Main Street and all the billboards at 1252-1256 Main Street in return for the erection of the billboard at 9 Roberts Street under the same conditions as was established by the Town Council in its motions on October 6, 2015 and May 3, 2016. Lamar does have an agreement with the owners of both properties and is confident that we can move forward with that transaction. There is one lien that needs to be satisfied on the 1252-1256 Main Street property which may entail some legal questions but hopefully can be resolved quickly. The Committee members felt the transaction is close to being finalized and recommends the Town Council move forward with a public hearing on Tuesday September 6th noting that under the ordinance the Town Council could not take action until its next regularly scheduled Council meeting on September 20th absent the calling of a special meeting. [It was subsequently determined that a public hearing could not be held on September 6th because the ordinances require public notice of the hearing which could not be placed in a newspaper prior to Tuesday.]

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to recommend the Town Council hold a public hearing and take appropriate
 action on the proposed billboard transaction.
 Motion carried 3/0.

Section 10-47 - \$5 Surcharge on Delinquent Motor Vehicle Payments

Chair Kehoe provided a review of the original rationale for the \$5 surcharge that is assessed to delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers because the state of Connecticut charged the town for submitting delinquent taxpayers to the Department of Motor Vehicles which then withheld a person's registration from being renewed until the taxes are paid. This is a very effective tool for ensuring that towns get paid for delinquent car taxes. However, the state no longer charges towns for that service and therefore the recommendation is to simply maintain the surcharge but eliminate the explanation in the ordinance for the surcharge as follows: "...pay five dollars to the Town of East Hartford ~~to help defray the fee that the State of Connecticut is charging its cities and towns, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 14-33, to use the Department of Motor Vehicles' registry for tracking taxpayers ...~~".

The Committee established the language contained in the April 26th memo to Mayor Leclerc from Director Walsh regarding a suggested change to §10-47 of the Town Ordinances and designated that language as the August 31, 2016 draft. See below

DRAFT

(AUGUST 31, 2016)

Sec. 10-47. \$5.00 Surcharge on Delinquent Motor Vehicle Payments.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-146, any person who owes past due motor vehicle property taxes to the Town of East Hartford, shall, in addition to the past due taxes, interest and penalties on each such motor vehicle, pay five dollars to the Town of East Hartford [to help defray the fee that the State of Connecticut is charging its cities and towns, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 14-33], to use the Department of Motor Vehicles' registry for tracking taxpayers who owe motor vehicle property taxes if the Town

of East Hartford notified the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such delinquency pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 14-33.

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to send the August 31, 2016 draft of the revisions to §10-47 of the Town of
 East Hartford's Code of Ordinances entitled, "\$5 Surcharge on Delinquent
 Motor Vehicle Payments" to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a
 public hearing date.
 Motion carried 3/0.

Off-street Parking: Motor Vehicles, Boats and RVs

Assistant Corporation Counsel Rich Gentile provided the Committee with an overview of the concerns with regard to parking of motor vehicles, boats and RVs on residential property in the town of East Hartford and the concerns that there is not adequate regulation of those motor vehicles. As such the Committee requested that Corporation Counsel's office gather sample ordinances from other towns, both in Connecticut and possibly out-of-state if they are comprehensive. The Committee would review those ordinances and highlight the issues that those ordinances try to address in its effort to come up with a comprehensive, yet flexible regulatory scheme for these vehicles.

Attorney Gentile will inform the Committee when that information has been received and the Committee will then call another meeting to review those documents.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (6:46 p.m.)
 Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Mike Walsh, Finance Director