

WELLING CONFERENCE ROOM

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

CORRECTED 02-21-17

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair (arrived 5:55 p.m.), Councillors Bill Horan (via telephone) and Esther Clarke

ALSO Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
PRESENT Robert Pasek, Town Clerk
Vincent Parys, Awet Tsegai, Eugene Pushefski, Susan Kniep, Donald Sugalski, Rosalie Tavigian, Patricia Sirois, Marie Beaulieu, Dolores Kehoe, Gloria Visgilio-Lupi, Richard Domler, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Joanne Sullivan, Richard Rivera, Donald Currey, Frank Collins, Jr., Melodie Wilson, and Micah London

Due to the large number of attendees, the meeting – originally scheduled for the Town Council's Majority Office – was moved to the Welling Conference Room. A notice of relocation was posted on the Town Council's office door.

CALL TO ORDER

~~Chair Kehoe~~ **Councillor Clarke** called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 25, 2017 Meeting

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the January 25, 2017 meeting minutes.
Motion carried 2/0.

OLD BUSINESS

Boards/Commissions Review

The Committee began its second review of Boards and Commissions offering an additional opportunity for Board and Commission members to provide to Committee members their feedback on (1) how the Boards and Commissions operate; (2) whether the clerical needs of the Boards or Commissions are being currently met; (3) if it's clear to the Board and Commission members what their specific role is; and (4) whether they are having a problem with quorums.

There were representatives from the following Commissions at this meeting: Economic Development Commission, Inland/Wetlands Commission, Beautification Commission, Veterans Affairs Commission, Patriotic Commission, Public Building Commission, Hockanum River Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities, Library Commission and Pension & Retiree Benefit Board.

In general, the comments related to the need for a review of the number of members on the Commissions. As an example, both the Library Commission and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities are made up of nine members but each has several vacancies. The high vacancy leads some members of those Commissions to question if the size of the Commission could be reduced to seven.

There was a clear need for training of individuals as to their role on the Boards and Commissions under state statute and, also, consistent with the Boards' or Commissions' charge under the town ordinances. A number of attendees indicated that having a paid person to file agendas and minutes and ensuring that the particular Board or Commission was compliant with state statutes would be extremely helpful, as many of the Boards and Commission do not have members who could handle that task on a meeting to meeting basis. There was a question raised by members of the Library Commission and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities as to the scope of their duties and whether they need to be better defined within the ordinances.

Finally, there was a question raised with regard to town employees who are members of Boards and Commissions because town ordinances state that a town employee cannot be a member of a Board or Commission even if that employee lives in the town of East Hartford.

The Committee will review the feedback from the January 25th and the February 14th meetings and produce a list of recommendations that will be presented at an Ordinance Committee meeting after the 2017-2018 town budget has been finalized.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (6:51p.m.)
 Motion carried 3/0.

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