

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 5:00 P.M.
First Floor Meeting Room, Bristol City Hall

ATTENDEES: David Preleski, David Mills
ABSENT: - -
STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Conlin, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Diane Waldron, Comptroller
Ray Rogozinski, Director of Public Works

1. The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Preleski.
2. Minutes

Council Member Mills made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2019. Council Member Preleski seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Old Business

- a. City pension – Veteran's time buy back Sec. 2-66

Council Member Mills made a motion to table this item, seconded by Council Member Preleski. All voted in favor. Item tabled.

- b. Massage/Spa ordinance proposal (NEW)

Attorney Conlin has met with the Bristol-Burlington Health District and feels that we could have an ordinance similar to the one currently in the Town of Southington. That would mean that all massage establishment operators would have a license and pay a licensing fee. The Health District felt that this was fair and should not cause any problems. He also felt that the Health District is well positioned and has enough personnel for any enforcement that would be required.

He felt that this would be like many of the ordinances and would be complaint driven. When a complaint is received it would be investigated. This would be for the establishment, not outcall services. The cost of the license would be determined by the ordinance committee. There would be a yearly licensing fee. They would be inspected initially and then have spot checks or complain driven checks. All massage therapists have to be licensed with the State of Connecticut but it is only lightly enforced or enforced in conjunction with criminal matters. More work will have to be done on this proposal.

5. New Business

- a. Merger of Water & Sewer

This was referred by Superintendent Longo – to review and update ordinances. This request will be handled at a later meeting.

b. OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust Oversight

Diane Waldron reviewed this item. The Treasurer is now the sole trustee of the Trust. The Treasurer indicated to Diane that he was concerned and felt that he should not be the sole trustee of these investments. They brought this issue to the Retirement Board who has referred this to the Ordinance Committee to look at other options.

The Comptroller and Retirement Board were added for oversight. There are two funds and overall it's about a 10 million dollar fund. The Comptroller and Treasurer would be the trustees but the Retirement Board would oversee and give advice on the investments themselves. The Treasurer was comfortable with this and he said he would add this to his report as part of the Retirement Board agenda.

Council Member Preleski reviewed who is on this board.

Council Member Mills made a motion to refer to City Council to set a Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Preleski. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

c. Sec. 21-49 Sidewalk Waiver requests

This item was reviewed by Ray Rogozinski.

This comes up when an applicant comes for site plan approval. Currently if they come in with a site plan where the sidewalks are unprovided the applicant has a requirement to get a waiver from the City Council. For subdivisions, the Planning Commission has the ability to waive sidewalks, but under site plans, which are processed either through the Zoning Commission or the Planning Commission, that item has to go to City Council.

When City Council gets it, they ultimately refer it to the Board of Public Works and then it is reviewed by the technical staff in Engineering which supports the Land Use Board. It is the Public Works recommendation to make this more efficient if the Zoning Commission or the Planning Commission or whatever board is processing the site plan had the ability to waive sidewalks when appropriate.

Council Member Preleski suggested to delete City Council from the Ordinance and add Planning and Zoning Commission to the Ordinance.

Ray explained further and explained the criteria looked at when making the decision.

Council Member Mills made a motion to refer this item to City Council to set a Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Preleski. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Ray provided an example.

d. Alarms – Sec. 2.5

Information was provided on this. Attorney Conlin reviewed this request. This was referred by Code Enforcement because there is no appeals process. Corporation Counsel processes a lot of these false alarm charges that are referred by the Police Department. This is something to look at as Corporation Council office will be looking at it. If the alarm is registered with the Police Department then after three (3) false alarms there would be a fine. There are some instances where there will be a bona fide reason why the alarm malfunctioned but there is currently no appeals process. There will be more on this is an upcoming meeting.

6. Committee Member Comments

There was no Committee Member comments.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Mills made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m. seconded by Council Member Preleski. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary