

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2019 5:00 P.M.
First Floor Meeting Room, Bristol City Hall

ATTENDEES: David Preleski, David Mills, Greg Hahn

ABSENT: - - -

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Conlin, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Richard Lacey, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Noelle Bates, Corporation Counsel office

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

Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019 as corrected (date). Council Member Mills seconded the motion. Members Mills and Preleski voted in favor, Council Member Hahn abstained, and the minutes were approved.

3. Public Participation

Richard Lacey and Noelle Bates from the City's Corporation Counsel office provided information regarding the violation citation program and would like to make some suggested changes that would make this program run smoother. This program began in 2013 (Chapter 23) and Mrs. Bates keeps a tally of the tickets issued from various departments. Most of them are from Code Enforcement and from the last 3 years. Currently the tickets total \$80,245 and they have collected \$99,000 with the penalties that have been added. When a citation is given the person has 10 days to appeal the ticket, and if they do not then after 15 days the amount doubles and after 30 days it triples. Corporation Counsel receives the tickets only if they are uncollectable. They are proposing a change to make the system more uniform. Richard Lacey reviewed how the program works today and the fee system which varies according to what the citation is for. Most of them are around \$90. What is unclear is the doubling and tripling which appears on the ticket book. Alarms, housing code violations and shopping cart violations double and triple. They are proposing that all violations double and triple after 15 and 30 days. You have 10 days to appeal.

They would like the fees that they collect to be uniform. The administrative fee should be uniform throughout the code. They would like to insert language to make it clear that if not otherwise specified the tickets shall be \$90. Therefore, suggested changes to be addressed are:

- To make uniform throughout the whole code
- To add an administrative fee throughout the whole code
- The system for doubling and tripling

Questions were answered. Attorney Conlin will provide proposed language for a future meeting.

4. Old Business

- a. Sec. 17-18 Use of Streets – Report from public hearing

Council Member Preleski reported there was no public participation at the public hearing.
Council Member Mills made a motion to adopt the language change. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion was passed.

5. New Business

a. Review of Sec. 16-1 motor vehicles on Memorial Boulevard

Attorney Conlin reviewed this agenda item. The Parks Board would like an amendment that would allow buses to traverse the entire length of the boulevard from Main Street all the way to Downs Street. The Parks Board will be looking at this tonight. Attorney Conlin answered questions. This will be an agenda item that will be sent to the committee from Parks.

b. Review of Citation penalties and administrative fees

Attorney Conlin reported that as mentioned there are more funds on blight and zoning enforcement as that effort has increased and it makes sense to standardize so that there can be guidance to the personnel. It would be simpler if it was uniform.

6. Committee Member Comments

There was no Committee Member comments.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Mills made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. seconded by Council Member Hahn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary