

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
City Hall – Meeting Room 1-1
111 North Main Street, Second Floor Bristol, CT

ATTENDEES: Sebastian Panioto, Jacqueline Olsen, Cheryl Thibeault,

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jeffrey R. Steeg, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Noelle Bates, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Panioto. There was no flag in the meeting room so no pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. January 2, 2023

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

b. January 2, 2023 Public Hearing

Councilwoman Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2023 Public Hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Thibeault. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Old Business

Discussion was had by the Committee members about where Covanta stood with their low frequency noise analysis. The Committee would like to obtain a copy of the report when it is concluded.

It was stated that the BOE Policy Committee is going to be making a recommendation to the full Board of Education regarding the sale of alcohol at Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Magnet School. This should be on the Board of Education's agenda in April.

5. New Business

Street Takeovers, ATV's and Dirt Bikes

Chairman Panioto stated that the Mayor attended a CCM (Connecticut Conferences of Municipalities) regarding street takeovers and what other towns are experiencing and what their

recommendations are. i.e. modifying laws, impounding vehicles, imposing fines up to \$1,000.00 per incident.

Deputy Chief Moskowitz stated that recently there was a street takeover/dirt bikes on Stafford Avenue at Route 6. Through investigation by the Patrol Division, they were able to identify the person and impounded the dirt bikes.

Deputy Chief Moskowitz explained that this issue is a criminal matter. He has done some research on what other towns are doing and provided some material for the Committee members. He cited an OLR Report where towns are designating a Hearing Officer to hear these cases. The Hearing Officer would impose fines of \$1,000 for the 1st offense, \$1,500 for the 2nd offense and \$2,000 for the 3rd offense. There would also be towing fees and storage fees involved that the person would have to pay in order to get back their impounded vehicle.

Councilwoman Olsen asked if the City has the capability to house these vehicles. DC Moskowitz stated it was hard to predict how much space to reserve. It was kind of like the issue they have at the dog pound. You never know how many animals you're going to get.

Chairman Panioto asked what is the violations are for these incidents? DC Moskowitz stated that it depended on the action. Examples would be operating an unregistered vehicle, reckless driving or operating a vehicle within 100 feet of a property line, to name a few. But, every case is different. What happens is that the police seize the vehicle and take it in as evidence until the court proceedings are concluded. The vehicles are held in the basement of the police department. This is currently the process and it has been working.

DC Moskowitz stated that since all the officers now wear body cameras which are recording all the time, it is allowing them to take down license plates and they are able to build a case to identify individuals and obtain arrest warrants.

Attorney Thomas Conlin state that through the criminal process, we have a record of the arrest and we can dispose of evidence appropriately by Court order. If we went through the municipal process and go through a hearing officer, there won't be a criminal record for the offender, which is sometimes a deterrent.

6. Additional Public Participation

None.

7. Committee Member Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Councilwoman Thibeault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Olsen. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary