

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 23, 2017

Robert J. Boak

2017 MAY 30 A 8:46

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair, Councillors Bill Horan (arrived 6:30pm) and Esther Clarke

ALSO Mary Mourey, Republican Registrar of Voters

PRESENT Stephen Watkins, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Chuck Clarke, Republican Deputy Registrar of Voters
Mike Abbate, Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters
Kevin Kickery, 38 Bancroft Road
Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street
Donald Sugalski, 1736 Main Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 3, 2017 Meeting

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Rich Kehoe
to **approve** the May 3, 2017 meeting minutes.
Motion carried 2/0.

The Chair indicated that any agenda items requiring action would be held until Councillor Horan had arrived.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Kevin Kickery, 38 Bancroft Road, addressed the Committee on the need for better enforcement of vehicles being parked on lawns. He indicated that there are a number of instances in town where people are parking their vehicles on front lawns, which is a violation of the current ordinance. The Committee agreed that part of what the Ordinance Committee would be tasked with is making these laws easier to enforce and create a process for better review of how our enforcement system is operating.

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, provided the Committee with her Freedom of Information request regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and further pointed out that the ZBA was overturned by the Superior Court in a decision regarding the ZBA's approval of a liquor permit for Mt. Carmel Hall. Ms. Kniep questioned whether one of the members of the ZBA was qualified to serve on that Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor's Salary Review and Registrars/Deputy Registrars Salary Review

The Committee reviewed the May 21st draft ordinance entitled "Salary of Mayor and Registrars of Voters". Chair Kehoe noted that in the biennial review of elected officials salaries the Ordinance Committee requested a survey of similarly elected officials' salaries in towns of similar size to East Hartford. The survey results showed that only two towns out of the nine towns surveyed – which included Fairfield, Greenwich, West Haven, Milford, Wallingford, Middletown, East Hartford, Bristol and Hamden – had set the Mayor's salary less than our current salary. The Committee also reviewed the Consumer Price Index for 2015 and 2016 and noted that the CPI was relatively flat in 2015 and increased by a little over 1% in 2016. The recommendation was to create a 2% increase to the Mayor's salary starting November 2017 and additional 2% increase in November 2018 leading to a Mayor's salary of \$95,392 by November 2018. The Chair noted that the 2% increase is roughly what many municipal employees are receiving and is less than the private wage increase for Connecticut over the past two years.

Section 2 of the May 21st draft ordinance deals with the salary for the Registrars of Voters. A similar survey was conducted (by ace Council Clerk Angela Attenello) for Registrars and Deputy Registrars salaries, or stipends, in the same towns that were surveyed for the Mayor's salary in addition to surrounding towns such as Glastonbury, South Windsor and Manchester. The survey showed that the level of compensation varied dramatically from town-to-town as did whether Registrars received health insurance coverage or an additional stipend for each election that they had to conduct. Also, some towns provided professional staff for the Registrars – others did not. It was noted that the salary for our Registrars was on the low end of the survey, but was also one of the few towns that did not provide a stipend, health insurance coverage or a staff person. A similar survey was conducted (again by Council Clerk extraordinaire Attenello) for the Deputy Registrars which also showed a significant spectrum of salary and job expectations from town-to-town but was noted that the Deputy Registrars' salary of \$8,000 annually is in the middle to high-end of the surveyed towns. The May 21st draft would increase the Registrars' salaries by \$2,000 which would give the Registrars an annual salary of \$25,000 and would maintain the Deputy Registrars' salaries of \$8,000 annually.

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Rich Kehoe
to **send** the May 21st draft entitled "Salary of Mayor and Registrars of Voters"
to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.
Motion carried 2/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

Salary of Mayor and Registrars of Voters ordinance (5/21/17)

Sec. 1 Section 2-3 of the ordinances of the town of East Hartford is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Beginning November 14, 2007, the Mayor's salary shall be \$78,723, which is a zero increase and beginning on November 14, 2008, the Mayor's salary shall be \$81,400 which is an increase of 3.4%, representing the increase in the consumer price index for 2005. Beginning November 11, 2014 and annually thereafter, the Mayor's salary shall increase by fifty percent of the increase in the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the preceding calendar year, provided that the Mayor's salary for November 11, 2013 shall be increased by fifty percent of the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the calendar years 2006 through 2012 inclusive. Effective November 2015, the Mayor's salary will be \$90,067 which is based on the increase in the 2013 consumer price index. Effective November 2016, the Mayor's salary will be \$91,688 which is based on the increase in the 2014

consumer price index. Effective November 13, 2017, the Mayor's salary shall be \$93,522 which is an increase of 2% and effective November 1, 2018, the Mayor's salary shall be \$95,392 which is an increase of 2%.

Sec. 2 Section 2-3b of the ordinances of the town of East Hartford is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Beginning on January 1, [2015] 2018, the salary for each registrar of voters shall be [\$23,000] \$25,000 and the salary for each of the deputy registrar of voters shall be \$8,000 provided: (1) the registrar of voters office shall be open to the public no less than twenty-four hours per week; (2) the registrar of voters and deputy registrar of voters shall conduct no less than four voter outreach session in locations outside of town hall annually; (3) the registrars of voters and deputy registrars of voters shall take state mandated training for such offices; (4) the registrar of voters and the deputy registrar of voters shall comply with all state election law requirements; and (5) the registrars of voters shall provide an annual written report to the mayor and town council within two months after each election which shall consist of an overview of the office's activities for the year, an appraisal of the conduct of voting process for the previous election including any primary or special elections and recommendations for improving the election process. The Town Council may reduce the salary of a registrar of voters or a deputy registrar of voters if it determines that such person violated any provision of this section.

Off-street Parking, Boats, MVs and RVs

The review of the May 22nd draft entitled "RV's and Motor Vehicle Parking on Residential Property" clarifies the provisions and should assist in the subsequent review of this issue. The Mayor, who could not attend this meeting, is in discussion with various departments on the best method of enforcing these provisions and will have some recommendations at the next Ordinance Committee meeting. The Committee noted the issues that still remain with regard to improving on our current ordinances concerning motor vehicle parking in residential property are the following:

- (1) Enforceability – Should the Police Department or Inspections/Permits be the primary enforcement department?
- (2) Fines – Are the current fine structures –whether criminal or civil – sufficient in its deterrent value?
- (3) Monitoring Complaints – what is the status of establishing a data base so that there is better oversight when complaints come in and creating a case file so there is a constant enforcement review process by the town?
- (4) Scope – the Committee will review the scope of these provisions to ensure that we are covering all of the situations that we consider to be a problem and also whether they create any undue hardship and therefore should have some exception to the rule. In particular, the definition of 'driveway' will need to be clarified.

The Committee agreed to hold this item until the next meeting for additional input.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Contracts: Vendor Services to the Public

The Committee reviewed the May 21st draft entitled "Vendor Services on Town Owned Property". The goal is to establish a clear process for the Mayor and Town Council oversight of contracts where private vendors are selling services on town-owned property. Assistant Corporation Counsel Rich Gentile had suggested changes to the draft. After

additional discussion with regard to the scope of these contracts, it was agreed that the May 21st draft would be amended to make clear that the Mayor and the Town Council shall approve these contracts and that no person shall charge a fee for a service that involves the town without such approval. There should be an exception to this approval requirement such as when there's a hot dog vendor on town-owned property or a vendor as part of an amusement permit event; such things would not need to necessarily go through the proposed process. Attorney Gentile will review this draft to determine what other exceptions should be made to the broad requirement of Mayor and Town Council approval.

The Committee will hold this item pending further information from Corporation Counsel.

Sale/Lease of Town-owned Property

The Committee reviewed the May 21st draft which is designed to consolidate in one section the sale and the lease of town-owned property – essentially treating long-term leases with the same process as the sale of town-owned property. Any lease of twenty years or more would go through the same process that is currently established for the sale of town-owned real estate. The Town Council would retain authority to review and set any terms for leases of less than twenty years. There was further discussion that the provisions of Section 10-31 should be added to subsection (d) of the May 21st draft.

Pending receipt of a revision from Corporation Counsel's office, the Committee will hold this item.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (7:00 p.m.)
 Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Mary Mourey, Republican Registrar of Voters
Stephen Watkins, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Chuck Clarke, Republican Deputy Registrar of Voters
Mike Abbate, Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters
Kevin Kickery, 38 Bancroft Road
Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street
Donald Sugalski, 1736 Main Street