

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

JULY 28, 2015

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair, Councillors Bill Horan and Esther Clarke

ALSO Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
PRESENT Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Beau Thurnauer, Deputy Police Chief
Tim McConville, Deputy Police Chief
Mike DeMaine, Police Sergeant
Iris Laurenza, Tax Collector
Jim Cordier, Health Department Director
Mike O'Connell, Health Department Supervisor
Michelle DeDominicis, 56 Hills Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 23, 2015 Meeting

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Bill Horan
to **approve** the April 23, 2015 Ordinance meeting minutes.
Motion carried 3/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

Section 6-5, Swine and Poultry

The Chair discussed the interest of individuals in the community to keep poultry on their property solely for the purpose of producing eggs for personal consumption only. The Ordinance Committee had requested ordinances from various towns in Connecticut to best determine how to move forward with this request. The Committee looked at a draft dated July 28, 2015 which was drafted with the purpose of engendering discussion on the issue. After much discussion and input by those present from the Health Department, it was agreed that the ordinance should limit no more than six chickens to property greater than

one-half acre but less than two acres and would allow property of two acres or more to have up to twelve chickens. There would also be requirements with regard to:

1. keeping the property area sanitary;
2. keep it fenced in;
3. provide for an enclosed structure for the chickens so that they are protected from the elements;
4. provide for an enclosed structure to capture and contain the manure;
5. keep the structure and the chickens visually screened from the street;
6. keep the structure and the chickens in the backyard of the property;
7. the chicken coop must be an enclosed structure that has screening below grade to prevent rodents and other animals from entering into the coop; and
8. anyone wishing to keep chickens on their property must register with the Health Department.

These provisions, along with a general nuisance provision, would seem to ensure that any chickens kept for this purpose would be kept in a sanitary and safe place with limited impact on any neighbors. The Committee agreed to have a draft of the new ordinance reviewed by the Health Department and Corporation Counsel and take up that new draft at the next Ordinance Committee meeting.

Massage Therapy Establishments

The Police Department and Corporation Counsel reviewed the increasing number of massage/spa retail establishments that have been established in East Hartford in which there seems take place illegal activity. There are concerns about the sanitary nature of these facilities and in general a need to provide better regulation to protect public health and safety.

The Committee reviewed the existing massage establishments regulation and recognized that there is an exemption from the regulation if you have a license as a massage therapist. It was noted that that should not limit the town's concerns for public health and safety and that a regulatory scheme that would require registration of these facilities, along with certain requirements to protect public health and safety, would be appropriate. The Police and Health Departments would review the existing ordinance and determine, based on their experience, what would be the criteria that should be established for these businesses in order to properly operate within the town of East Hartford.

The Police and Health Departments will confer with Corporation Counsel and a draft of a revised massage regulation ordinance will be reviewed by the Committee at its next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Parking Ticket Procedures – Section 21-6a

Corporation Counsel explained the need to streamline the appeals process for parking tickets so that individuals have the option of filing an appeal "on the papers", meaning that they do not request a hearing but explain their reasons for the appeal of the parking ticket in

writing and have that appeal considered solely on the written submission, without the need for the recipient of the parking ticket and the hearing officer to meet.

The committee reviewed the July 28th draft and approved a draft that will be dated July 29th which will include technical changes to the July 28th draft and will incorporate a recommendation from Corporation Counsel for making the appeal either 14 days or 10 days depending on what is allowed under state statutes for the time period for taking an appeal from a parking ticket citation. It is noted that the Fees Committee required a doubling of the parking ticket fine after 10 days and any doubling of the fine should be after the same number of days provided to file an appeal.

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to send the July 29th draft of the parking ticket procedures to the Town
 Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.
 Motion carried 3/0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Rich Kehoe
 to **adjourn** (7:03 p.m.)
 Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Beau Thurnauer, Deputy Police Chief
Tim McConville, Deputy Police Chief
Mike DeMaine, Police Sergeant
Iris Laurenza, Tax Collector
Jim Cordier, Health Department Director
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