

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the City Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Present at City Hall were Chairman Anne Ruwet, Councilor Armand Maniccia, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Police Sergeant Dustin Baldis, and Public Works Director Ray Drew. Councilor Paul Cavagnero was absent.

Chairman Ruwet called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Ordinance Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from October 17, 2022.

#### **Discussion: Restricted Parking on Residential Streets**

Sergeant Baldis explained to the committee that this Ordinance is for oversized vehicles, car haulers, duly trucks, unattached trailers, and tractor-trailers that are being parked on residential streets. He used Kinney Street as an example of how trucks have started using this street to park overnight. The Police department has received a lot of complaints about truckers parking in residential areas. They investigated using City property for these truckers to park the vehicles in downtime, however, there is no space available in the City. He went on to say that the overnight parking ban has helped with the trucks being parked on the residential streets. Councilor Ruwet asked if this was a brand-new Ordinance, and Sergeant Baldis told her that it was. Councilor Maniccia asked where this Ordinance information came from, Sergeant Baldis told him that he had pulled three or four different towns throughout the state that have enacted the same type of Ordinance and pieced this together altering it to fit Torrington. Sergeant Baldis explained that the issue with these vehicles parking on the streets is sightline issues and leaking fluids into the roadways. Councilor Ruwet suggested taking the list away that gave examples of types of plates that would be restricted for parking in residential areas. Atty. Muschell suggested narrowing the list down to what may pertain to Torrington. Councilor Ruwet said to revise the Ordinance and then it will be revisited at the next Ordinance meeting.

#### **Discussion: Snow Removal**

Sergeant Baldis explained to the committee that this Ordinance establishes sidewalks to be cleared within 36 hours of a snowstorm. The Traffic division will try reaching out to the owner of the property, then they will send mailings to the property address. If those attempts aren't successful in getting the sidewalks cleared the Traffic Department will go clear the area and send a bill to the owners, and if the bill goes unpaid the City has the right to put a lien on the property. The committee made some suggestions to revise some wording in the Ordinance, it will be brought back at the next meeting.

#### **Discussion: Parking Penalties and Authority to remove, penalties and exceptions**

Sergeant Baldis explained that the fees have been updated to go along with the Restricted Parking on Residential streets. At this point, it isn't necessary to go over the fees until the Ordinance is ready for Public Hearing.

#### **Discussion: Solid Waste**

Public Works Director Ray Drew went over the Executive Summary of the Changes made to Chapter 128: Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse. He said the last time this Ordinance was amended was on July 21, 2003, and since then many things have changed. Councilor Ruwet suggested finding language that doesn't discourage scavenging for items that are left on the side of the road. Mr. Drew explained that it is more for individuals to not be disposing of hazardous materials in the environment. Councilor Ruwet also asked to review the fees, Mr. Drew said that the fees will be set before the new fiscal year by City Council if any changes are needed. Councilor Maniccia agrees that the residents should be paying for the cost of services if extra cans are needed. Councilor Ruwet suggested instead of bringing this Ordinance to a Public Hearing do a presentation to City Council to gather their feedback. The Committee agreed and this will be presented to City Council on January 17, 2023.

#### **Discussion: Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vegetation**

Public Works Director Ray Drew said that the purpose of this Ordinance is to provide clarity to the residents as to who is responsible for what trees and shrubs. It further explains who's responsible for a right of way and that the City has no authority over private property. Councilor Ruwet also suggested doing a presentation of the Trees Ordinance along with an Executive Summary to City Council for their suggestions especially with this being a new Ordinance for the City. The Committee agreed and this will also be presented to City Council on January 17, 2023.

**Business by Committee Members**

**Councilor Ruwet** asked to add the two Ordinance presentations to the City Council meeting on January 17, 2023. She also asked to schedule another Ordinance meeting on February 6, 2023, to go over the updates from today, and to bring any new Ordinances to review.

**Sergeant Baldis** would like to establish some sort of grocery cart Ordinance that would make stores responsible for their carriages.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Ordinance Subcommittee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:26 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:

  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK