

MINUTES
ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION: REMOTE (ZOOM)
February 16, 2021

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, participants attended the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. The meeting was attended by Chairman Frank Rubino, Councilwoman Anne Ruwet, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Public Works Director Ray Drew, Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers and City Engineer Paul Kundzins. Councilman Paul Cavagnero was absent.

Chairman Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Discussion Regarding Sidewalk Maintenance

Chief Baldwin presented his request to grant the Police Department the authority to issue fines related to snow removal from sidewalks through a ticketing system that would be administered by the City. He discussed some of the pitfalls of the State's infraction system which the TPD currently uses to enforce ordinance violations, including revenue lost to the State and the frequent dismissal of charges or reduction of fines when violators plead not guilty. Chief Baldwin also noted that the City could issue liens against blighted properties for failure to remove snow from sidewalks and he recommended increasing the allotted time for snow removal from 12 hours to 36 hours after a storm. In addition, the Chief suggested that tickets be issued to individuals who put snow back into the streets after they are cleared and he requested that a City-administered ticket system be considered for enforcement of other ordinances as well.

Atty. Muschell clarified that in order for the City to comply with State statutes, a hearing procedure would need to be established for individuals that are issued tickets for violating City ordinances to contest their charges.


Councilwomen Ruwet request clarification regarding Chief Baldwin's request and Chief Baldwin explained that the ability to issue municipal tickets would be in addition to the State's infraction system.

Streets Supt. Bill Mayers confirmed that 24 to 36 hours was an appropriate amount of time for property owners to remove snow from sidewalks and he emphasized the high cost to the City that results from people putting the snow from their sidewalks and driveways into the streets.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Chairman Rubino, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK