

**MINUTES**  
**ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**City Hall – Room 215**  
**April 5, 2021**

**Vol. 26, Page 984**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the City Council was held on Monday, April 5, 2021. Attendance was by phone and in-person. Chairman Frank Rubino, Councilwoman Anne Ruwet, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell and Police Sgt. Dustin Baldis were present. Councilman Paul Cavagnero joined by telephone at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Discussion Regarding Possible Changes to the Code of Ordinances**

Chairman Rubino recapped the discussion and findings from the previous meeting of the Ordinance Subcommittee which was held on February 16, 2021. Sgt. Baldis described some of the shortfalls and disadvantages of the current state infractions system which the Torrington Police Department utilizes to enforce the City's ordinances. Sgt. Baldis explained some of the efficiencies that could be achieved through a ticketing system administered by the City, including more efficient enforcement of the ordinances, increased profits for the City, and a less time consuming appeals process for the accused. Atty. Muschell explained the process by which an individual accused of violating the City's ordinances would be able to appeal their citation(s) by scheduling a hearing with a designated hearing officer.

Councilor Cavagnero joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Sgt. Baldis further described the ticketing process and emphasized the importance of identifying the individuals that violate the ordinances. Atty. Muschell recommended that the Ordinance Subcommittee hold off on scheduling a public hearing until the proposed changes are more clearly defined. Councilor Cavagnero questioned whether other cities utilize a similar process and Atty. Muschell confirmed that some other cities had clearly defined policies for issuing tickets for ordinance violations and hearing appeals. Councilor Cavagnero also requested clarification regarding the proposed appeals process. Atty. Muschell clarified that a hearing officer would be appointed and the accused, as well as the officer who issued the citation, would be able to testify. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his support, but stated that he had concerns about the high volume of appeals that could result from the proposed changes. Sgt. Baldis suggested that it was unlikely that the City would become inundated with requests for appeals, noting that officer discretion would keep the amount of violations in check and the body cameras worn by police officers would be useful for determining whether a violation occurred.

**Discussion Tabled**


On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to table the discussion on possible changes to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Torrington.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Cavagnero, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK