

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 1, 2010- Monday

Present: Michael Smart, Chairperson
Brian McDonald
Kenneth DiFazio
Ed Harrington
Arthur Mathews

Also Present: James Wilson, CFO
George Lane, Town Solicitor
Michael Molisse
Sgt. John Concannon, WPD
Richard Grimes, Chief, WPD

Recording Secretary: Mary Briggs

Chairman Michael Smart called the Ordinance Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He reported most of the items on the agenda have been in committee and information has been provided.

09 140 – Parking Fines Ordinance Amendment

Sgt. Concannon reviewed the present fine schedule and the recommendations for changes, based on a letter from Chief Grimes to the Mayor dated November 3, 2009 and included with the measure. The fines have not been updated in several years, and the department would like to address any changes in the schedule before the new ticket books are ordered. Proposal will increase \$15 fines to \$25, \$25 fines to \$50. It will also add fines for an unregistered motor vehicle in a public way, a vehicle without a HP plate or placard parked in a HP designated spot, and a vehicle parked in a designated bus stop each in the \$100 fine category. The latter two violation fines are state mandated.

There was a brief discussion. Councilor Harrington asked how a determination is made when the ticket is written whether the fine is for 2nd or subsequent offenses. Sgt. Concannon responded that once the citation has been issued, the vendor bills out the ticket and would have the information on offense history. Councilor Mathews asked how soon the new ticket books are due to be ordered; Sgt. Concannon responded that the department has about one month before they need to reorder. During this discussion, Chief Grimes arrived.

President Smart reported no action needs to be taken at this time. There is a Public Hearing scheduled for this matter on February 16, 2010.

09 124 – Designation of Conservation Commission Member as Special Employee

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on November 9, 2009 and continued on November 16, 2009. Solicitor Lane has provided the committee with an opinion and his comments.

Councilor Mathews noted he will not support this item. A motion was made by Councilor McDonald to forward item 09 124 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Harrington. Vote passed 4/1 with Councilor Mathews voting nay.

09 191 – Proposed Ordinance Change-Peer Review Process

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on February 9, 2009 and was reviewed on April 21, 2009, September 21, 2009 and continued on December 21, 2009.

Councilor Mathews noted he met with Jim Clarke and George Lane since the last committee meeting and is of the understanding that this proposal would be considered a reorganization plan and therefore could not be introduced by the Council. He made the point with Mr. Clarke that the citizens should have more of an input as relates to the peer review process. He is hoping that administration will put something forward.

Jim Clarke addressed the committee. He reiterated that as part of the discussion with Solicitor Lane regarding the reorganization issue, that his intent is to issue a memorandum within the next 30-45 days to the Boards and Commissions in the peer review process. The memorandum would inform them as to how that should be used and some procedures for it.

Councilor Harrington asked if there will be a guideline created outlining the job description or duties of a peer review member. Mr. Clarke responded that will be the intent; to have a governing document for the use of Boards/Commissions during a peer review. Councilor Harrington asked if open meeting will be a part of that. Mr. Clarke responded that it would not, as meetings with staff would not necessarily be posted. Councilor Harrington asked if there will be limitations in the guidelines determining to what extent a review might go. Mr. Clarke will take that into consideration in the draft.

Councilor Mathews made a motion for no action on item 09 091 and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. Unanimously voted.

09 038 – Proposed Ordinance “Neighborhood Property Preservation”

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on April 21, 2009 and the committee reviewed on June 1, 2009 and continued on September 21, 2009. Councilors Harrington and Molisse are working on this.

Councilor Harrington reported that they are making progress. There was some concern that this issue may also revolved around the reorganization area. The administration has been very responsive to the subject. Councilor Harrington met again today with the Mayor and there is some groundwork to be considered on enforcement and fines, and a teamwork approach to enforcing. He expects to provide an outline in the next 4-6 weeks

with a recommendation as to how to proceed. Councilor Molisse noted he has been updated by Councilor Harrington and has nothing further to add at this time.

At 6:15 PM, there being no further business, Councilor DiFazio made a MOTION to ADJOURN the meeting and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Sumbitted:

Mary Briggs/Recording Secretary

Chairman Michael Smart