



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: This meeting was held remotely.

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee, Vice Chair Coleman and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky . Also present were Reps. Curtis and Sherwood; Kathryn Emmett and Burt Rosenberg, Law Department; Ellen Bromley, Social Services Director; Christina Crain, Stamford Senior Center; Jon Gottlieb, Rippowam Corporation; and Mayor Martin.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LR30.070	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Concerning Polystyrene and Retail Vendors. 06/05/19 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson, de la Cruz, Kolenberg, Lion, Cottrell and Zelinsky 06/18/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 07/23/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 08/20/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 09/17/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 10/22/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 11/12/19 – Held at Steering 12/09/19 – Held at Steering 01/13/20 – Held at Steering 02/18/20 – Held by Committee 7-0-0 03/30/20 – Held by Committee 7-0-0 04/14/20 – Held at Steering 05/11/20 – Held at Steering 06/08/20 – Held at Steering 07/13/20 – Held at Steering 08/18/20 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 7-0-1	Approved 9-0-0

Mayor Martin spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. He suggested a review of the enforcement provisions after the ordinance has been in effect for a few months.

Chair Lee opened the public hearing. Mike Papa and Jack Egan of Surfrider spoke in support of the ordinance. There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Committee Members proceeded to discuss the proposed ordinance. Items discussed included the following:

- The business community has been invited to present comments, but has not expressed any objections
- Egg cartons would not fall under the ordinance, since the stores receive the eggs in the cartons
- The Administration will be responsible for notifying retailers of the ordinance
- Whether the effective date for the schools should be changed

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Coleman, Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

2. [LR30.098](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Concerning a Tax Abatement Agreement Among the City of Stamford and LHT4 Limited Partnership and the Housing Authority of the City of Stamford for 34 Below Market Units Located at 31-97 Custer Street (Odd Numbers Only), Stamford, CT. **Approved 8-1-0**
09/09/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Mr. Gottlieb explained that this is the 4th and final phase of the Lawn Hill Terrace Redevelopment and follows the same format as other developments. It uses the “shelter rent formula” under which the developer pays 10% of tenant rent as tax to the City. The City is no longer receiving PILOT payments and so is not receiving revenue from this property. The property is being converted to a Low Income Housing Tax Credit property and all of the LHT4 revenue will come from tenant rent. The City will receive approximately \$45,700 in rent. The affordability of the development will be maintained permanently due to the fee-in-lieu payments. The current residents will get first priority to return at current rents.

Committee members discussed this item with Mr. Gottlieb. Items discussed included the following:

- The City generates the tax bill, based upon the audit
- LHT4 will also pay 10% of net cash flow if it gets to the point where all the loans are paid off
- The rents are currently \$950 for a 2 bedroom and \$1010 for a 3 bedroom unit
- 10% shelter rent is standard in the tax abatement agreements, as is the 30 year term

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-1-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed).

3. [LR30.097](#) REVIEW; Possible Ordinance Creating Stamford Senior Commission. **Held 9-0-0**
09/01/20 – Submitted by Reps. Coleman, Pratt, Sherwood, Stella, Curtis, Zelinsky and Quinones

Committee members discussed this item with Ms. Bromley and Ms. Crain. Items discussed included the following:

- Seniors have a hard time getting services and need advocates
- There is a need to coordinate among local partners and non-profits
- Seniors need to be identified
- The Senior Center has been redefining how services are delivered since Covids – there has been meal and grocery delivery and online classes

- During the pandemic, United Way partnered with local agencies to contact 8,000 seniors
- Stamford has more than 20,000 older adults and services are fragmented
- Seniors need to be informed about available services
- The Commission on Aging had been merged with the Social Services Commission and then separated out again; the ordinance may need to be revisited and the Commission may need to be revived
- Outreach is important
- Every town has different social services
- Seniors have a wide range of needs
- There needs to be communication among agencies
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A motion to hold Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Coleman, Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

4. LR30.099 REVIEW; Process and Timeline for Legal Opinion **Report Made**
 requests from BOR to Corporation Counsel.
 09/09/20 – Submitted by Pres. Quinones

Ms. Emmett explained that the process for legal opinion requests is spelled out in Charter §C5-20-5. Opinions may be requested only by the President of the Board of Representatives, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader and the Chairs of the Standing Committees. If there is a time deadline, an opinion will be prioritized based on the deadline. A formal opinion will be reviewed, discussed and revised prior to being presented.

This inquiry prompted Ms. Emmett to review for outstanding opinions. One was in draft form prior the pandemic and then was not finalized. It has now been provided. The other noted outstanding opinions are not really outstanding because informal responses were provided.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ben Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).