

Ryan Knapp, Chair
Phil Carroll, Vice Chair
Neil Chaudhary
Joe Girgasky
Mary Ann Jacob
Eva Bermudez



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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting

The Ordinance Committee met on Thursday February 26th, 2015 in Meeting Room 1 of the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Committee Chairman Ryan Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: Ms Jacob, Mr. Chaudhary, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Girgasky and Mr. Knapp. Ms. Bermudez arrived late (8:00) due to a work commitment.

Also in attendance: None.

MINUTES: Mr. Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of 9/3/2014. Ms. Jacob seconded. Mr. Girgasky abstained. All in favor (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

New Business (discussion only)

Review and recommendation regarding a possible new alarm ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp discussed the charge from the Legislative Council to Ordinance and the documents provided at the LC meeting. He asked that someone volunteer to take point on this subject and research it and report back so that the Ordinance Committee may make an informed decision on if we should move forward, and if so, how best to proceed. Specifically what drove the need for this to be brought up, what our options are and what other communities do about the issue.

Mr. Chaudhary volunteered to research this topic.

Ms. Jacob suggested he look at the Police Commission minutes and work done by a consultant.

Mr. Chaudhary pulled up the existing ordinance and discussed it as currently written.

Mr. Girgasky suggested Mr. Chaudhary look at CASIA.org.

Mr. Knapp thanked Mr. Chaudhary and suggested we would be looking for information on all three new business items sometime after the budget process.

Review and recommendation regarding a possible modification of the existing firearms ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp discussed the charge from the Legislative Council to Ordinance and the documents provided at the LC meeting. He asked that someone volunteer to take point on this subject and research it and report back so that the Ordinance Committee may make an informed decision on if we should move forward, and if so, how best to proceed. Specifically what drove the need for this to be brought up, what our options are and what other communities do about the issue.

Ms. Jacob volunteered to research the topic as she worked on that ordinance two years prior and still has much of her research.

Mr. Girgasky would like to know more about the background of this charge.

Mr. Chaudhary cited an example from a Florida town.

Mr. Knapp questioned if this would be enforceable and effective. Does not want to become a community with metal detectors in buildings.

Ms. Jacob feels most citizens are respectful and law abiding and will follow the ordinance.

Mr. Knapp noted some situations such as Police carrying out their duties and statute driven circumstances such as surrendering or disposal under the new state law.

Ms. Jacob referenced her previous experience and suggested simple language differing to state statutes.

Review and recommendation regarding a possible unsolicited mail ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp discussed the charge from the Legislative Council to Ordinance and the documents provided at the LC meeting. He asked that someone volunteer to take point on this subject and research it and report back so that the Ordinance Committee may make an informed decision on if we should move forward, and if so, how best to proceed. Specifically what drove the need for this to be brought up, what our options are and what other communities do about the issue.

Ms. Bermudez volunteered to research this topic.

Mr. Knapp offered to support her if she has any questions.

Ms. Jacob explained CCM as a resource to the Ordinance Committee.

The group discussed their experiences, to varying degrees, with unsolicited mail. Experiences ranging from once a month to two or three times a year.

Mr. Carroll suggested she look at the existing litter ordinance.

Mr. Knapp had concerns about language from legal regarding challenges to other community's laws and constitutionality concerns.

Old Business

Mr Knapp opened for discussion on the agenda item: An amendment enabling the municipal option of Public Act No. 13-224, providing a tax exemption for One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans as referred to the Ordinance Committee by the Legislative Council during the regular meeting of January 8th, 2014.

Mr. Knapp presented enabling language provided by the Town Attorney based off the language from another town, the only other town to have implemented this. He noted that the statute lists "referendum years" meaning the process is to be figured out before the grand list is developed to account for revenue differences. He would like to see it on the books for the upcoming fiscal year, especially since the revenue is reimbursed.

Ms. Jacob noted the next council agenda needs to go out the next day. Suggested adding this to the agenda and we may meet quickly before the LC meeting if we want to send time sensitive language forward. If not, we may hold off and this may move forward along with the other agenda items.

Mr. Knapp will reach out to legal for advice.

All agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Mr. Chaudhary motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm. Mr Carroll seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan W. Knapp
Ordinance Committee Chairman