

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARINGS  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** Marcus Brown, Co-chair; Rosalina Roman-Christy, Co-chair;  
M. Evette Brantley, Michelle Lyons, Ernest Newton, Avelino Silva  
Maria Valle

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Brown called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.98 –  
Historic District Commission. [188-19]**

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak about Agenda Item 188-19.

Ms. Susan Tabachnick, the Chairman of the Stratfield Historic District, came forward and said that both Commissions were struggling to assemble a quorum. This change will assist with finding more residents for the Commissions.

Ms. Tabachnick said that she had received a note that the ordinance reads that one resident should be from the District and this should be changed to “shall be”.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak.

Council Member Pereira said she was in favor of this but was concerned about the amendments that were made at the last meeting, including the removal of the line outs instead of the use of brackets. She noted that the link in the minutes were to a version that had not been updated. This is wrong. Council Member Pereira said she was adamant about the City Charter.

Council Member Newton said that at the meeting, Council Member Pereira had mentioned the issues with the brackets. Council Member Newton said Council Member Brown had stated that the changes were made. Council Member Brown said that this was so and he had sent the updated document to the Assistant City Clerk and to Ms. Pettway.

Ms. Tabachnick repeated that it was critical to have the new Commission in place before abandoning the previous Commissions. She said that an announcement had been sent out about the new Commission and pointed out that they could not merge the old Commissions into the new Commission. The administration cannot just move people into the new Commission without having a process.

Council Member Newton said that if the Council voted on this, it would be creating a new Commission. He suggested the City Attorney should be asked if there could be a waiver for the old Commissioner to move onto the new Commission.

Council Member Cruz said that he was in favor of Agenda Items 188-19 and 189-19.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak about this issue. He repeated the call again. Hearing none, he closed the hearing on Agenda Item 188-19.

**Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 12.32 – Historic Districts.**

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against Agenda Item 189-19.

Council Member Pereira said she was in favor of this but was concerned about the amendments that were made at the last meeting, including the removal of the line outs instead of the use of brackets. She said that she did not know if the changes had been made in the document. She said that the language indicated the language should be changed because this was legislation and noted that the reference to the minutes were to a version that had not been updated. This is wrong and Council Member Pereira was adamant about the City Charter.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she was in support of this item and it would bring about change.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against the item. He repeated his request. Hearing none, he closed the hearing on Agenda Item 189-19.

**Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.32 – The Operation or Use of Dirt Bikes, All-Terrain Vehicles, Snowmobiles, Motor-Driven Cycles or Mini-Cycles, amend Section 10.32.010 – Definitions. [193-19]**

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against Agenda Item 193-19.

Council Member Pereira said that she was not opposed to the item but once again, the documents on the City website did not reflect the amendments and corrections. The definitions should be amended.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked if the item included the shared mobility scooters. Council Member Brown said that it did. Council Member Roman-Christy said that she did not see it mentioned.

Council Member Newton said that the legal opinions were sent to the Council Members on their phones earlier also.

Council Member Brown said he strongly supports these scooters. It is a way to commute to and from work and those over 18 years old allows the residents to ride around. He added that he would like to see some revenue from the rentals. There should be some competition.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against. He repeated his request. Hearing none, he closed the hearing on 193-19.

**Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Section(s) 12.16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for the Shared Mobility Pilot Program and 12.16.250 – Miscellaneous Acts Prohibited.**

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against Agenda Item 194-19.

Council Member Pereira said she was opposed to the item. This is the item that would deal with the City receiving revenue. She then said that there were 39,000 rides during the PILOT program. The company made money but the City did not. Now the company is asking for a 13 month extension. A staff member said that he was going to contact the company about several of Council Member Pereira's concerns but she did not hear back from the staff member. She was opposed to allowing them to ride on the sidewalks. There is no signed agreement and this leaves the City not indemnified.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or against.

Council Member Newton said that there was a City staff member on the call. He asked for clarification on why they were asking for a 13 month extension.

Ms. Haig, the OPED Planning Director, explained that the original pilot was scheduled to start in early spring and run through 2021. Due to many unforeseen circumstances, they were not able to start the program until June, which was in the middle of the quarantine. Many people were not working on site and the colleges were closed. This is why they are requesting to extend the program for 13 months.

Council Member Brown reminded everyone that this was a public hearing, not a Q&A.

Council Member Herron said that the scooters started out at UB and she had been very critical of the risk for liability. She said that she was told that the company was liable, not the City. Since they are in the middle of COVID, getting accurate numbers is impossible. She is fully in favor of this program.

Council Member Cruz said that he was in support of this program. He reminded everyone that the staff had been asked to provide the amount of revenue the company received, but they had not received any information. He said the City received \$1,500 dollars. The company earned \$1.00/per unlock and .35¢ per minute. He hoped that down the road, the door would be open to other competitors. .35¢ a minute is a lot for many of the residents.

Council Member Lyons said that at the meeting, the information was to be provided to them, but they have not received any information. She said that she was not sure about this issue and hoped that they would get the information for the meeting.

Council Member Silva said that he was in favor of the program but that the City needs to get more than \$1,500 for the program.

Council Member Roman-Christy said she was in favor of the program but had not seen the documentation regarding the fact that the City would be held harmless. She said it would be helpful to see the documentation about this before voting on it.

Council Member Cruz said he wanted to follow up on Council Member Roman-Christy's comments. The City is providing the insurance if anyone gets hurt. Council Member Brown said that the company has a document that they will be responsible.

Council Member Brown repeated his request. Hearing none, he closed the hearing on 6:06 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Co-chair Brown adjourned the Public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services