



Committee on Ordinances

April 14, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, asking that the City Council Committee on Ordinances meet with the Chief of Police, representatives from the Lang Administration and Treasurer's Office to discuss the creation and enforcement of an Ordinance that would allow for the reporting of out-of-State registered vehicles being utilized by City residents past the RMV 30 day requirement of registering a vehicle within the Commonwealth; M.G.L. Chapter 90, Sections 3 and 3 ½ require all individuals residing in the State to transfer their auto registration no later than 30 days after moving into the State, and it is this Councillor's opinion that not enforcing the State requirement is resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of lost uncollected excise revenue, which the City is allowed to keep for betterment and improvement projects throughout New Bedford. (Ref'd 9/11/08, 3/16/09 - tabled)

- 1a. INFORMATION/PACKET, submitted by Councillor Coelho, regarding the Safe Neighborhood Initiative. (Ref'd 9/25/08, 3/16/09 - tabled)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

2. Written Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Committee on Ordinances review the City of New Bedford Zoning Code, with regard to modifying the off-street parking requirements for new and/or expanding businesses in existing Commercial-use Districts. (Ref'd 9/11/08, 10/20/08 - tabled until JANUARY, 2/23/09 – tabled to March 16th meeting, 3/16/09 – tabled, Letter to DK expressing disappointment that he did not furnish the Committee with pertinent paperwork regarding this item)

INVITEES: Commissioner Danny Romanowicz; City Planner David Kennedy; Zoning Board Chairman Barry Sylvia; City Solicitor Irene Schall; Attorney David Gerwatowski

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the Ordinance Committee review the attached "UNRULY GATHERINGS" Ordinance, from the Town of Narragansett, RI Code of Ordinances, to see if said Ordinance can be enacted in the City of New Bedford to address the continuing problems caused by the presence of college students living in the City's residential neighborhoods. (Ref'd 11/8/07, 4/17/08 – tabled for 60 days (JUNE), 9/29/08 tabled to next meeting, 10/27/08 RFT and referred to Legal Counsel)

- 3a. Communication, Councillor Gonsalves, submitting copy of Chapter 891, Ordinance in Amendment of Article II of Chapter 46 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island, titled "Unruly Gatherings." (Ref'd 11/8/07, 4/17/08 - tabled for 60 days (JUNE), 9/29/08 tabled to next meeting, 10/27/08 RFT and referred to Legal Counsel)

- 3b. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting the Committee on Public Safety recommend to the Ordinance Committee that they consider adding language or creating an Ordinance to hold landlords responsible for renting to more than two unrelated people and/or to keeping a "Boarding House", and that, that matter be heard at the same time that the pending item regarding "UNRULY GATHERINGS" Ordinance from the Town of Narragansett is heard. (Ref'd 2/26/08, 4/17/08 - tabled for 60 days (JUNE); 9/29/08 tabled to next meeting, 10/27/08 RFT and referred to legal Counsel for drafting)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; City Solicitor Irene Schall; Attorney David Gerwatowski

4. Written Motion, Council President Gonsalves, requesting, on behalf of concerned residents, that the Committee on Ordinances consider instituting an Ordinance that would require notification process whenever the Sheriff is going to send an inmate crew to work in the City of New Bedford, so that neighbors are not surprised by their presence; and further, that neighbors be invited to said meeting to voice their concerns. (Ref'd 2/28/08, 3/16/09 - tabled)

INVITEES: Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson; Bristol County Sheriff's Office Work Crew Administrator Naomi Carney; Tiffany Larginho; Gilbert Simmons; City Solicitor Irene Schall; Attorney David Gerwatowski

5. Related Motion, City Council President, Jane L. Gonsalves, asking that the Ordinance Committee meet with the Chief of Police or any designee, for example, the Officer(s) in charge of the Traffic Division, to find out what is preventing the Police from issuing traffic tickets more than once a day for timed parking spaces; and further, that we work to amend any Ordinance(s) necessary in order to achieve the desired results of having people park the limited time in limited timed spaces. (Ref'd 8/21/08)

INVITEES: New Bedford Police Department/Traffic Division Sergeant Michael Martin; Traffic Commission Executive Secretary Scott Downing

6. Communication, Anthony A. Kamara, Council I, submitting AN ORDINANCE, Amending Chapter 22, Article V. Excavation and Trench Safety, Section 22-107. Lowering Certificate of Insurance/Liability Fees indemnifying the City, from one million dollars to \$100,000 to \$300,000, and stipulating mailing procedures for the City to be notified of such Insurance Policies, or changes thereto, for excavations on public ways/property as well as privately-owned land, as stipulated in M.G.L, Chapter 82A, Section 2 (Excavation and Trench Safety;) also submitting back-up information regarding the same. (Ref'd 2/26/09, 3/16/09 – tabled to next meeting, invite Ron Labelle)

- 6a. AN ORDINANCE, (Ref'd 2/26/09, 3/16/09 – tabled to next meeting, invite Ron Labelle)

INVITEES: DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle; City Solicitor Irene B. Schall; Attorney David Gerwatowski

Chairman suggests taking “No Further Action”, on the following items:

7. Written Motion, Council President Alves, asking that the Committee on Ordinances review the current Responsible Employees Act to evaluate the addition of MGL Chapter 30, Section 39, UNIFORM PROCUREMENT ACT, in an effort to expand and ensure that local residents are given the primary opportunity for employment in the City of New Bedford-sponsored projects. (Ref'd 9/14/06, tabled 6/20/07, tabled 11/27/07)
8. Written Motion, Councillors Lawrence and Morad, requesting, that the New Bedford City Council find that certain Senior Citizens of the City are in need of relief from ever increasing Real Estate property taxes, consequently, the New Bedford City Council shall adopt a Senior Citizen Tax Deferment Program to ease the financial strain placed upon certain Citizens. (Ref'd 10/11/07)
9. Written Motion, Councillor Saunders, asking that the Council's Legislative Counsel meet with the City Council in the Committee on Ordinances regarding the City Code and the issue of Special Permits. (Ref'd 5/23/06, referred to City Solicitor and Legal Counsel to be heard at next meeting - 6/28/06 (memo written to Councillor Saunders re: Special Permits) 5/16/07 referred to Legal Counsel for drafting, Response from Solicitors Office 7/18/06)
10. Written Motion, Councillor Saunders, asking that the Committee on Ordinances review and re-examine Chapter 19, Section 19-25, of our City Code with respect to residency/residency waivers and requirements for City employees and members of the City's Boards and Commissions. (Ref'd 9/14/06, Referred to Legal Counsel for review with Councillor Saunders - 11/8/06, 5/16/07 - referred to Legal Counsel for drafting)