



**Cost Savings & Revenue Enhancement
Committee –
Board of Representatives**

Frank Cerasoli, Co-Chair Keith Silver, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, August 28, 2017
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Cost Savings & Revenue Enhancement Committee met at the above date and time. In attendance were Co-Chairs Cerasoli and Silver and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Liebson, Okun, Quinones and Zelinsky. Absent or excused was Rep. Mitchell. Also present were Reps. Coppola, McMullen and Ryan; Mayor Martin; Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; and Brian Jay.

Co-Chair Cerasoli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. CS29.020	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Revising Land Use and Zoning fees. 7/12/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin and Rep. Zelinsky 7/27/17 – No Action Taken	Approved, as amended, 6-1-0

Secondary Committee: *Land Use/Urban Redevelopment*

Mr. Blessing explained that since the fees were adjusted last year, the City has reviewed how other jurisdictions charge and have considered the EPB fees. He reviewed the attached [power point presentation](#) with the Committee.

Mayor Martin stated that it is costly and time consuming to increase fees, and that he would like a process to do cost-of-living fee increases. He urged approval of the CPI provision in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Blessing noted that the presentation includes a comparison to NYC because some of the development in Stamford is more comparable to NYC.

Committee members discussed the 60 day cost-of-living provision:

- given the requirement for input from the public, the process might take longer than 60 days
- the administration does not always provide the information requested
- raising fees is a legislative function

- 60 days might not be enough notice for the public
- This is a rejection of fees, not an establishment of fees
- This mechanism would be in place in a business
- The process could be subject to abuse

Mr. Blessing explained the two proposed new fees:

Planning	Assignment of a Vanity Address	\$1,000
Planning	Street name Change	\$1,000 + public hearing fee (\$1,000)

He noted that a street name change requires review by the Engineering Department and the Fire Department and that vanity addresses need to be included in the Fire Department's 911 database. Therefore the City wants to establish a process for this. Neither of these will impact honorary street naming.

A motion amend the proposed ordinance to delete Section 1-20(b) was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Cerasoli, Fedeli, Liebson, Okun, Quinones and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Silver abstaining).

A motion to amend the proposed ordinance to include the two new planning fees above was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Cerasoli, Silver, Fedeli, Liebson, Okun, Quinones and Zelinsky in favor).

Committee members discussed whether these increases were too soon after the increases approved less than a year ago and that these increases shifted the burden to larger developments.

A motion to amend the proposed ordinance for publication, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Silver, Fedeli, Liebson, Okun, Quinones and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Cerasoli opposed).

Co-Chair Cerasoli adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Cerasoli, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).