



Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee – Board of Representatives

Bradley Bewkes, Chair

Nina Sherwood, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

Chair Bewkes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Chair Bewkes, Vice Chair Sherwood, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Campbell, Garst, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville, and Tomas. Rep. de la Cruz was absent. Also present was Rep. Stella; Susan Halpern, South End Historic District Study Committee; Burt Rosenberg, Law Department; and members of the public.

Chair Bewkes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LU31.029	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Adopting a New Fee Schedule for Land Use Applications. 03/17/23 – Submitted by Director Blessing 04/19/23 – Recommitted to Steering 10-1-0 06/12/23 – Held at Steering 07/10/23 – Held at Steering 08/14/23 – Held at Steering	Held 10-0-0
4. LU31.019	REVIEW; Status of Property at 21 Pulaski Street. 07/06/22 – Submitted by Rep. Adams 07/28/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 10-0-0 09/01/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0 11/03/22 – Held by Committee 11-0-0 02/22/23 – Held by Committee 7-1-0 04/19/23 – Recommitted to Steering 11-0-0 06/12/23 – Held at Steering 07/10/23 – Held at Steering 08/14/23 – Held at Steering	Held 10-0-0
5. LU31.026	REVIEW; Smoke Shop Signage - Violations by Current Retail Locations and Possibility for Additional Regulations. 01/04/23– Submitted by Rep. Gilbride 02/22/23 –Report Made & Recommitted to Steering by Committee 8-0-0 04/19/23 – Held 06/12/23 – Held at Steering 07/10/23 – Held at Steering 08/14/23 – Held at Steering	Held 10-0-0

A motion to hold Item Nos. 1, 4, and 5 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Bewkes, Sherwood, Adams, Campbell, Garst, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville, and Tomas in favor).

12. [LU31.031](#) RESOLUTION; Amending Resolution No. 4085, as Amended by Resolution Nos. 4101, 4128, And 4204 Concerning the Appointment of a South End Historic District Study Committee. **Approved 8-0-2**
08/09/23 – Submitted by Rep. Bewkes
08/14/23 – Held at Steering

Ms. Halpern stated the reason for this resolution is because Committee Member Renee Kahn has retired from the South End Historic District Study Committee due to health reasons, and Dillon Zaro expressed the desire to join the Committee. She thanked Ms. Kahn for all of her work and noted that Mr. Zaro lives in an historic home within the district.

The original resolution has been amended before for similar reasons, such as when Rep. Tomas took his position on the Board of Representatives.

Rep. Adams said he was appreciative of Ms. Kahn's work on the Committee.

Rep. Mays stated that he finds the lack of progress of the South End Historic District Study Committee to be very disappointing. The committee was formed in February of 2021 and there is still no final report.

Chair Bewkes said that another item can be submitted to Steering in order to have larger review and discussion of the South End Historic District Study Committee at a future meeting.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 8-0-2 (Reps. Bewkes, Sherwood, Adams, Campbell, Garst, Grunberger, Matheny, and Summerville in favor; Reps. Mays and Tomas abstained).

23. [LU31.032](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with AT&T/Verizon re Placement of 5G Equipment on City-Owned Utility Poles in Municipal Right-of-Way. **Recommended to Steering 10-0-0**
09/05/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Chair Bewkes gave an overview of the item. He has let the City Legal Department know that 5G installation is a topic that has had a lot of discussion in Stamford. In addition to hearing about this contract, other elected officials and members of the public have expressed interest in hearing from experts on this matter. The plan is to hold this item after hearing from the Legal Department.

A motion to hold this item was made and seconded. Attorney Rosenberg came onto the meeting during this time before the vote and said that it was important he talks to the Committee about the item. The motion and second were rescinded.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:02:38

² Video Time Stamp: 00:10:15

Attorney Rosenberg reviewed the [agreement summary](#) and there was discussion.

The mediation has lasted two years with AT&T, Verizon, and the five major cities: Stamford, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury. Large corporations want the capabilities of 5G. The Governor's office pressed the five cities and two telecom companies for this mediation. A commitment was made to the mediator, Judge Robert Holzberg, that this issue would move along vigorously.

This contract grants the telecom carriers the right to be on city utility poles on municipal right of ways.

The Federal Telecommunications Act gives states and cities very little authority in this. It bars state and local regulations in telecommunications services.

There has been much concern over health issues related to 5G. There have been many studies. Some studies say 5G is harmful, some studies say it is not. The statute is very clear that municipalities have no regulation over health issues regarding 5G and cannot impede installation.

The carriers will submit to Stamford a map of all poles involved in installation. On a yearly basis Stamford can request an update of the plans.

After several sessions about equity, the carriers have agreed to place 5G equipment on poles in depressed areas of the cities to increase wireless capabilities.

The equipment installation must comply with Stamford building and engineering regulations, ADA regulations, safety standards, and aesthetic standards.

Stamford's poles are quite old. Telecom carriers will be required to replace poles at their cost.

This is a five year agreement, with extensions allowed. Permits issued are valid for 10 years. The carriers must maintain the equipment.

Stamford will gain revenue from equipment installation fees:

- \$500 for batch of five or fewer collocations or facilities mounted on an existing pole.
- \$100 for each additional facility.
- \$1,000 per pole for new pole placement.
- \$270 per year per pole annual fee.
- Property taxes will be paid on the equipment.

Reps. Grunberger, Sherwood, and Campbell said there are many unknowns regarding health issues with 5G and more information is needed before this is installed in Stamford. Just because it is a Federal law does not mean the BOR should automatically go along with this. The Committee needs to hear from experts on both sides before making a decision on this item.

Rep. Mays stated that 5G is critically important to safety. Most calls made to 9-1-1 are from cell phones and if there is no coverage this can be dangerous.

Chair Bewkes requested that if any Representatives have people they would like to invite to speak at the next meeting to email the information to the Board Office and copy him. Attorney Rosenberg has asked that we inform the judge who will be speaking and when.

A motion to recommit Item No. 3 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 10-0-0 (Reps. Bewkes, Sherwood, Adams, Campbell, Garst, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville, and Tomas in favor).

Chair Bewkes adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Bewkes, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)