



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Coleman, Miller and Pia. Also present were Rep. Sherwood; Edward Fox and George Sessa, Stamford Federal Credit Union; Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; and Michael Johnson, Sullivan & LeShane.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LR30.080	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Approving a Lease Agreement between the City of Stamford and the Stamford Federal Credit Union for Office Space on the 6th Floor and ATM space in the Lobby of the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. 09/25/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/08/19 – Approved by Planning Board 10/10/19 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 5-0-1

Chair Lee opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Committee members discussed this item with Mr. McGrath and Mr. Dellaselva. Items discussed included:

- This lease is for the Credit Union's space on the 6th floor and a ground floor ATM
- The Credit Union has been a tenant for several years
- This lease is similar to leases for other Government Center tenants
- This is a 5 year lease with 2 possibly 5 year extensions
- The Credit Union current lease is significantly below the target rent of \$18/ft²; they are currently paying \$11.71 ft²
- Under the lease, the rent will be \$18/ft² at the end of the term; the rent increases 57% over the course of the lease
- The rent will be renegotiated for each lease extension at the time of the extension if the option is exercised; both parties must agree; the BOR does not have approval of the rent for the lease extensions
- There is no ability to calculate utility usage per room in the Government Center

A motion to hold this item was made and did not receive a second.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion and Nabel in favor; Rep. Zelinsky abstaining).

The Committee next took up Item No. 4

4. [LR30.082](#) RESOLUTION; Urging the Connecticut General Assembly to Enact Legislation Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores or Enabling Municipalities to Prohibit the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores. Approved, as amended, 5-1-0
10/08/19 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Jacobson and Stella

Rep. Sherwood stated that the Board has spent a great deal of time discussing the ban of the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, and many constituents had come out in support of the proposal. However, the Law Department had concluded that the regulation of the sale of dogs and cats is not within the authority of a municipality in Connecticut. She has therefore proposed a resolution to the State asking the legislature to either ban the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores or to give municipalities the ability to regulate the sale of dogs and cats.

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to change the words “either enact” in the last sentence to “enact either” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

A motion to approve the resolution, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Lion opposed).

2. [LR30.065](#) ORDINANCE for publication, Concerning the Use of Single-Use Plastic Straws and Stirrers by Food or Beverage Establishments. Held 6-0-0
04/22/19 – Submitted by Reps. Jacobson, de la Cruz, Kolenberg, Stella, Cottrell and Zelinsky
05/21/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
06/18/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
07/23/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
08/20/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
09/17/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0

Members of the Committee discussed the proposed ordinance. Items discussed included:

- Hardships created by the ordinance for the disabled community, including plastic as the only viable alternative and the burden of explaining why a straw may be needed
- People will still be able to purchase straws
- What type of stores this should apply to
- Using the [Norwalk ordinance](#) as a model

Rep. Jacobson stated he would work on redrafting the ordinance in light of the discussion.

A motion to hold this item was made seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

3. [LR30.070](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Concerning Polystyrene and Retail Vendors. Held 6-0-0
 06/05/19 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson de la Cruz, Kolenberg, Lion, Cottrell and Zelinsky
 06/18/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
 07/23/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
 08/20/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
09/17/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0

Members of the Committee discussed the proposed ordinance. Items discussed included:

- Whether the exception for raw seafood is necessary; one concern may be seafood allergies; is there an adequate substitute; would this encourage the use of plastic bags
- Should fresh meat also be excluded
- Would adding the word unfilled, as recommended by Tekni Plex then apply to the sale of boxes of cups in party stores, grocery stores, etc.
- One goal is to stop coffee bars from using Styrofoam cups
- The current version of the ordinance is very complicated and will be difficult for the public to understand
- The effective date should be set so that the school district can budget for and make any necessary changes

A motion to hold this item was made seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

5. [LR30.083](#) APPROVAL; Amendment of the [Rules of the Board](#) Section IV.E.2 to require Unanimous Approval of Honorary Resolutions at Steering Committee prior to being Placed on Agenda. Approved, as amended, 6-0-0
 10/09/19 – Submitted by Reps. Fedeli, Nabel and Watkins

Members of the Committee discussed changing the Board rules to require approval of honorary resolutions be approved unanimously at the Steering Committee as follows:

- Honorary resolutions not approved unanimously will then result in dissent on the floor of the Board meeting
- The scope of honorary resolutions should be within the purview of the Board of Representatives
- Honorary resolutions should be used to honor someone or deal with the work of the City; they should be non-controversial celebrations
- Sense of the Board resolutions that are not honorary should probably go to a committee, such as State & Commerce

A motion to amend the language of Section IV.E.2 of the Rules of the Board as follows was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

Honorary Resolutions submitted to the Steering Committee **shall, if approved unanimously, be and** placed on the Board Meeting Agenda **shall to** be moved as consent agenda items without debate ~~unless any Board member objects~~. Honorary Resolutions not on the Board Meeting Agenda but submitted to the Clerk of the Board in writing at least three

days prior to the Board meeting may be taken up under Honorary Resolutions at the discretion of the President, but shall be moved as consent agenda items without debate. The Rules shall not be suspended to consider an Honorary Resolution not on the Agenda in order to allow discussion on such resolution.

A motion to approve the amended language of Section IV.E.2 of the Rules of the Board made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

6. LR30.084	APPROVAL; Amendment of the Rules of the Board Section IV.E.2 to Clarify that All Honorary Resolutions must be approved as Consent Items. 10/10/19 – Submitted by President Quinones	NO ACTION TAKEN
-------------	--	--------------------

The Committee did not take action on this item, as it was resolved by Item 5.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).