



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Roqueta, Strain, Summerville, Walston and Weinberg; City Attorneys Chris Dellaselva, Dana Lee, Burt Rosenberg, and Mike Toma; Chief of Staff Bridget Fox; Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action; and Sam Sjoberg, Senior Associate, Related Affordable Companies; and members of the public.

Chair Berns called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. LR31.091	<p>¹ORDINANCE for discussion; on banning the sale, provision, and distribution of single use plastic products in food and beverage establishments.</p> <p>01/06/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Sherwood, and Ley</p> <p>01/28/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0</p> <p>02/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering</p> <p>03/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0</p>	RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 9-0-0

Attorney Lee reviewed the updated redline draft of ordinance with committee. Rep. Camporeale presented additional item updates to the committee, speaking about the City's test with some compostable single use materials. Chair Berns then opened floor to Ms. Schmidt, who gave additional information about single use items and various public education and legislation in other municipalities. Brief discussion between committee members and presenters ensued. It was determined that language in the most recent redline draft of ordinance regarding chemical composition of certain plastics versus a blanket ban on plastic products of a certain color may require additional editing, and this would best be done outside of committee.

A motion to recommit Item #5 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

2. [LR31.092](#) ²RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving an Amended and Restated Lease for the Smith House Skilled Nursing Facility and Scofield Manor The Residential Care Home at 88 Rock Rimmon Road and 614 Scofieldtown Road, City of Stamford, State of Connecticut.
01/09/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
01/28/25 – Approved by the Planning Board 5-0-0
02/13/25 – To be Considered by the Board of Finance
02/13/25 – Board of Finance Held item 6-0-0
02/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
03/17/25 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0
03/25/25 – Failed by committee 3-5-1
- FAILED 3-5-1**

The public hearing session for this item opened at 8:28 p.m. There were no members of the public signed up to speak, nor were there any members of the public present who raised their hand to ask to speak. There was 1 written testimony email of support for this item submitted to the Board by Mr. Kieran Edmondson, read into the record and added to the legislative file. The public hearing session for this item was closed at 8:31 p.m.

Chief of Staff Fox presented the item briefly, speaking about the changes to the original lease that were supported by documents submitted to the committee previously for their reference. After the presentation, Attorney Dellaselva and Chief of Staff Fox were available for any questions from the committee members. Brief discussion ensued.

A motion to approve Item #2 was made, seconded, and failed by a vote of 3-5-1 (Reps. Blank, Fedeli, and Vandervoort in favor; Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, and Sherwood against. Chair Berns abstained).

3. [LR31.093](#) ⁴ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; Concerning a Tax Abatement Agreement with Augustus Manor Associates Limited Partnership and Augustus Manor Preservation, L.P., for 101 Main Street, Stamford, CT.
01/27/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
02/24/25 – Approved for Publication 8-0-0
03/25/25 – Approved by committee 9-0-0
- APPROVED 9-0-0**

The public hearing session for this item opened at 10:25 p.m. There were no members of the public signed up to speak, nor were there any members of the public present who raised their hand to ask to speak. The public hearing session for this item was closed at 10:27 p.m.

Attorney Rosenberg and Mr. Sjoberg presented the item briefly and were available for any questions from the committee members.

A motion to approve Item #3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

4. [LR31.094](#) ³RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a proposed contract for sale and First (only) amendment for the purchase and renovation of the YMCA at 10 Bell Street, Stamford, CT for use as a recreation center.
01/22/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Simmons
02/11/25 – To be considered by the Planning Board
02/13/25 – To be Considered by the Board of Finance
02/13/25 – Board of Finance Held item 6-0-0
03/17/25 – Board of Finance failed item 2-3-1
03/25/25 – No action taken **NO ACTION TAKEN**

The item failed at the Board of Finance meeting on 3/17/25. Therefore, the committee took no action on this item. There was 1 written testimony email in support of this item received by the Board of Representatives and added to the legislative file for this item.

5. [LR31.072](#) ⁵ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; Regulating the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores
02/07/24 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood and Camporeale
02/27/24 – Held by Committee
04/30/24 – Held by Committee
05/13/24 – Moved to Pending
02/24/25 – Approved for Publication 8-0-0
03/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0 **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 9-0-0**

The public hearing session for this item opened at 10:33 p.m. Two members of the public, Ms. Annie Hornish and Ms. Mary Amon, spoke in support of this item and its potential positive impact on the conditions for dogs and cats in the City of Stamford. There were also 3 written testimony emails of support for this item submitted to the Board and added to the legislative file. The public hearing session for this item was closed at 10:41 p.m.

Reps. Sherwood and Camporeale and Attorney Toma were available for questions. Rep. Sherwood stated the pending status the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) currently has House Bill No. 6832, AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS IN PET SHOPS, in front of their Planning and Development Committee. Attorney Toma stated the Ordinance could not move forward for the committee or the full Board of Representatives to vote on until HB No. 6832 is passed and recommended it be held until the State assembly votes on their bill.

A motion to recommit Item #5 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

6. [LR31.095](#) ⁶RESOLUTION; Urging the State of Connecticut to Pass Bill No. 6832 an Act Authorizing Municipalities to Prohibit the sale of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in Pet Shops.
03/04/25- Submitted by Sherwood and Camporeale
03/25/25 – Approved by committee 9-0-0 **APPROVED 9-0-0**

Reps. Sherwood and Camporeale and Attorney Toma were available for questions. The item is directly related to item LR31.072 and is to show Stamford's support of H.B. No. 6832 to the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA).

A motion to pass Item #6 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

7. LR31.096	7RESOLUTION; Requiring members of the Board of Representatives attend a Cultural Diversity Training workshop at the beginning of every new board term and a refresher course at midterm to ensure continuous awareness and understanding of diversity and inclusion principles. 2/5/2025 - Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis, and Cottrell 03/21/25 – Held by committee 03/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0	RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 9-0-0
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Brief discussion about status of item being held upon request of one of the submitters due to unplanned delay in meeting between item submitters and invited presenters from Human Resources.

A motion to recommit Item #7 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:03:33

² Video Time Stamp 01:27:24

³ Video Time Stamp 03:21:23

⁴ Video Time Stamp 03:23:00

⁵ Video Time Stamp 03:32:46

⁶ Video Time Stamp 03:43:39

⁷ Video Time Stamp 03:47:18