



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 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, committee member Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Committee Rep. Blank was absent/excused.

Ex-officio Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Ley, Morson, Stella, Walston and Weinberg were also present.

Also present were:

- City attorney Dana Lee
- Leah Kagan, Director, Economic Development
- Matt Quiñones, Director of Operations
- Melanie Hollas, Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee;
- Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action
- And members of the public.

Vice Chair Boeger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. LR31.091	<p>ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; 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, Ley and Berns</p> <p>01/28/25 – Recommitted to Steering</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> <p>04/07/25 – Approved for Public Hearing</p> <p>04/29/25 – Public Hearing held and Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0</p> <p>05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0</p> <p>06/24/25 – Amended by committee 7-0-0</p> <p>06/24/25 – Approved for Public Hearing as Amended 7-0-0</p> <p>07/29/25 – Amended by committee 7-0-0</p> <p>07/29/25 – Approved as Amended 7-0-0</p>	APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0-0

The public hearing session on the proposed ordinance was opened at 7:04 p.m. Speakers were each given three (3) minutes to present their views; nine (9) members of the public spoke and an additional submission of written testimony was read into the record by Rep. Cottrell. The public was advised that any additional written testimony could be emailed to the Board office and would be added to the legislative file and that the written testimony would be available for review on the Board website under ‘written testimony’. Speakers spoke in regards to:

- Public Health benefits of the proposed ordinances
- Environmental impact of the proposed ordinances
- Sustainable practices
- Environmental benefits
- Climate activism/plastic waste problem
- The notion of a more holistic approach
- Subsidies for small businesses
- Economic impact
- Educational programming to help businesses understand and implement the changes required by the ordinance

The public hearing session was closed at 7:33 p.m.

After the public portion of the meeting was closed, there was discussion on the item in light of the public testimony given.

A motion to amend Sec. 209-2. Definitions A.(1) as follows: remove “serves” and replace with “prepares” and add “on-premises” after “beverages” in the proposed ordinance was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0 (Vice Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

A motion to approve Item 1 as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0 (Vice Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

2. [LR31.099](#) RESOLUTION; Urging The Connecticut General Assembly To Adopt Statewide Measures Aligned With Stamford's Sustainable Waste Ordinance. **APPROVED 7-0-0**
03/31/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale and Berns
04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
06/24/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0
07/29/25 – Approved by Committee 7-0-0

Item 2 was briefly explained as a supporting resolution to Item 1 that would be sent to the State General Assembly if passed. There was no further discussion.

A motion to approve Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0 (Vice Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

3. [LR31.100](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Requiring a Citywide Transition to Electric Landscaping Equipment in the City of Stamford **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 6-0-2**
04/08/25 – Submitted by Rep. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Weinberg and Berns **(Berns and Boeger abstained)**
04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
06/24/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0
07/29/2025 – Recommitted to Steering 6-0-2

Rep. Weinberg gave a presentation to the committee (this presentation is available for review in the legislative file summary page for Item 3) The presentation included the benefits, concerns and experiences of other municipalities on similar legislation. Rep. Weinberg reviewed key elements of the proposed ordinance, including bans, grace periods and penalties. He discussed the expected outcomes of the ordinance if enacted, such as reductions in air and noise pollution and improved health and quality of life for Stamford residents. Other municipalities with similar ordinances were mentioned and sourced for anyone interested in further research or reading on the matter. Feedback from mayors whose cities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers was quoted, and six (6) main concerns about the proposed ordinance were each introduced and discussed in the presentation. They are:

- 1) Cost to residents
- 2) Cost to landscapers
- 3) Loss of revenue for small-engine repair shops
- 4) Electric leaf blowers are underpowered
- 5) Battery production is highly polluting
- 6) Lithium-ion batteries create fire and disposal hazards (including testimony from two (2) battery experts)

After the presentation, Rep. de la Cruz presented on four (4) The Stamford Advocate articles regarding local air quality and climate change concerns in addition to images with information on lithium-ion battery recycling programs and locations.

Rep. Stella presented the eight (8) websites he submitted, including news video clips regarding lithium-ion battery fires and FEMA's page regarding Risks and Response Strategies for lithium-ion batteries.

During discussion, Reps. Vandervoort, Matheny and Stella raised concerns not only about the issues in the presentations but in the cost, feasibility and impact of the ordinance on small businesses and residents, including potential solutions and compromises (such as pilot programs, grant opportunities, vendor partnerships, and rebate programs)

Director Quiñones provided insights on the potential impact of the ordinance on city operations, emphasizing the need for a realistic implementation timeline and the importance of flexibility.

Rep. Camporeale addressed concerns raised by other representatives, highlighting the health and environmental benefits of transitioning to electric landscape equipment and the support from city officials.

A motion to recommit Item 3 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-2 (Chair Berns and Vice Chair Boeger abstained; Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 4. <u>LR31.104</u> | ORDINANCE for publication; amending §111-6 Dogs (C-1) <i>Control of dangerous/vicious dogs of the Code of Ordinances</i>
07/09/2025 – Submitted by Rep. Adams
07/29/2025 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0 | RECOMMITTED
TO STEERING
7-0-0 |
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Rep. Adams and Attorney Lee spoke about the reason for the requested amendment of this section of the ordinance regarding dangerous/vicious dogs. The suggested changes are to better clarify the enforcement of citations for nuisance dogs due to excessive barking, as the original language is vague. The amended language also clearly defines who enforces complaints against dogs as being Animal Control. At present, complaints regarding dogs are coming in to the Police, Health Department and Animal Control.

During discussion, concern and questions arose regarding guard and attack dogs in the proposed amendment language in (d) and in the Connecticut General Statutes 22-363 in relation to the \$100 tickets allowed to be issued. Concerns that the language in the proposed amendment still being too vague in relation to guard and attack dogs, with noted concern about police dogs trained to perform bite or guard work, brought discussion of possible amendments to the language in (d), which led to the conclusion that more work on possible amendment language needed to be done.

A motion to recommit Item 4 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0 (Vice Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

5. LR31.105	APPROVAL; of MRV Forfeiture Notice form, per Ordinance 231-67.2. 07/12/2025 – Submitted by Rep. Boeger 07/29/2025 – Approved by Committee 6-0-1	APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 6-0-1 (Sherwood abstained)
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Vice Chair Boeger gave a brief explanation for Item 5 stating why the forfeiture notice form drafted by Attorney Lee was needed by the Stamford Police Department. This form is required for enforcing motorized recreational vehicles seized when they violate Ordinance No. 1310 To Amend Chapter 231, Article VI, Concerning Motorized Recreational Vehicles and Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices. It will be sent to the registered owner of the seized vehicle per the ordinance. There was no discussion.

A motion to approve Item LR31.105 was made, seconded and approved via unanimous voice vote, with Rep. Sherwood abstaining.

Vice Chair Boeger adjourned the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is also available on Video [Pt. 1](#) & [Pt.2](#)