



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Gloria DePina, Chair

Matthew Quinones, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair DePina, Vice-Chair Quinones and Committee Member Reps. Caterbone, Kolenberg and Zelinsky. Also present were President Skigen; Reps. Coleman, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Franzetti, Mahoney, McMullen, Miller, Savage, Wallace and Watkins; Kathryn Emmett and Dana Lee, Law Department; Chief Wuennemann, Stamford Police Department; and several members of the public (see the [public hearing sign-in sheet](#), attached)

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PS29.062	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Process For Food Truck Vendors To Request And Obtain Permission To Sell Food and Beverages in Stamford, and the Enforcement Procedures. 03/28/16 – Submitted by Reps. Quinones and DePina 04/11/16 – Held at Steering 06/13/16 – Held at Steering 07/21/16 – Held by Committee 08/18/16 – Held by Committee 10/19/16 – Held in Committee 01/19/17 – Held in Committee 03/02/17 – Approved by Committee for publication 03/29/17 – Public Hearing Held and Held in Committee 04/25/17 – Approved by Committee, as amended, for republication	Approved 5-0-0

Mr. Lee explained the history of this proposed ordinance:

- The ordinance has been in the pipeline for more than one year and started with an ad hoc committee of members of the food truck industry, brick & mortar restaurants, the Police Department, the Law Department, the DSSD and the Board of Representatives before being presented to this committee
- It provides a mechanism for the City to regulate food trucks beyond just requiring a permit and a license

- Food trucks create unique problems regarding safety, garbage, noise, etc. and this gives the police tools to enforce restrictions
- They did not want to create an overly restrictive ordinance, as food trucks are popular and therefore decided to create a Food Truck Committee (“FTC”) to address unique issues as they arise
- The permitting, rules and regulations will go through the FTC

Chair DePina opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Sheila McGinty spoke in support of the ordinance, noting problems caused by food trucks by taking up parking spaces, garbage, security issues and taking business away from brick & mortar restaurants

Mr. Mike Merenda spoke in support of the ordinance, also noting parking issues and food trucks interrupting lunch business

Mr. Ruzi spoke in favor of the ordinance but questioned whether the ordinance would apply on private property and commented that BLT would like food trucks to be permitted within 100 feet of roadways in the SRD district as food trucks have become restaurants in that district.

Ms. Leyla Dam spoke in support of the ordinance, noting problems caused by parking, garbage and fights

Mr. Russ Hollander spoke in support of the ordinance, also noting garbage problems and suggested moving the trucks off of the main corridor.

Mr. Giuseppe Castagna spoke in support of the ordinance.

Ms. Sandy Goldstein spoke in support of the ordinance, noting the taxes paid by property owners which are passed down to restaurant owners and stating that it is important to get the ordinance in place for this summer.

There being no other members of the public present wishing to speak, Chair DePina closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Lee discussed the ordinance with the committee:

- The ordinance applies to private property if it abuts public roads and public sidewalks, this is how the State statute is drafted; the point is to address food trucks on private property where people then mill onto public roads and sidewalks and can be addressed by the FTC
- The FTC can address concerns in specific areas of the City
- The \$200 fee is set by State statute
- The criminal background check is mandatory
- The idling restrictions would apply to food trucks as would parking restrictions
- None of the food trucks vend alcoholic beverages or have permits to serve alcohol
- There are no representatives of the food truck community on the FTC because there is no body from which to pick a representative
- There is no process for an appeal from the FTC to the Board of Representatives

A motion to approve this ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. DePina, Quinones, Caterbone, Kolenberg and Zelinsky in favor).

Possibly in Executive Session:

2. PS29.077 REVIEW; Shippan Fire Settlement. **Report Made**
05/03/17 – Submitted by Pres. Skigen and Rep. Fedeli
Secondary Committee: Committee of the Whole

President Skigen called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order as secondary on this item at 7:58 p.m.

Ms. Emmett requested that this item be discussed in executive session because there is ongoing litigation, the case is not dismissed and the settlement is still being negotiated.

In response to questions from Board members, Ms. Emmett described the City's insurance policies generally: the City has a self-insured policy of \$1 million and two excess policies of \$15 million each. The City's insurance does contemplate litigation expenses.

A motion to go into executive session was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0-2 (Reps. DePina, Quinones and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone and Kolenberg abstaining).

The Committee went into executive session at 8:08 p.m.

President Skigen noted that the Committee came out of executive session at 8:43 p.m. and that there were no votes taken in executive session other than a vote to come out of executive session.

Chair DePina adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Quinones, Vice-Chair

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt. 2](#))