



## **Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives**

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Coleman and Pia. Also present were Reps. Sherwood and Stella; Andy George, Board of Education and Mike Toma, Law Department.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">LR30.057</a>	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Lease agreement between the City of Stamford and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 01/11/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 01/29/19 – Approved by <a href="#">Planning Board</a> 02/19/19 – Approved by Board of Finance <b>02/19/19 – Held by Committee 8-0-0</b>	Approved 5-0-0

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 the proposed amendment with Mr. Toma as follows:

- The current lease expires at the end of October, and the government has asked for the option to remain, but is not sure if they are going to stay
- The rent received for the space is higher than other rents in the building

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

2. <a href="#">LR30.058</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Creating a Special Revenue Fund (“Lockbox”) for School Building Projects. 01/25/19 – Submitted by Pres. Quinones and Reps. Lee, Jacobson, Fedeli, Pia, Kolenberg, Di Costanzo, Stella, de la Cruz, Cottrell and Nabel <b>02/19/19 – Held by Committee 8-0-0</b>	Held, as amended, 7-0-0
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The Committee discussed the proposed ordinance with Mr. Toma and Mr. George:

- Sec. 23-34(a) would need to be deleted in order to satisfy the concerns of the legal opinion and could not be replaced with a similar direction that certain revenues be included
- The ordinance would apply to all future mayors
- Under the budgetary structure of the Charter, the Mayor determines where revenue goes
- The purpose of the ordinance is to permit funds to be set aside for school maintenance
- The lockbox will provide the Mayor with a tool, although there are no funds in it
- This differs from TIF revenue, which is dedicated to a specific function as authorized by State statute
- The triggers and authorization for the use of funds should be clarified
- The School Building Committee may not be the correct entity to approve the use of the funds
- The restrictions on approval of use of the Rainy Day Fund might be a standard to apply to these funds
- The ordinance would not affect the BOE Capital Budget
- The Committee needs to a) consider the process to allocate the funds (with input from OPM/Administration); b) clarify the meaning of the 10% floor; and c) specify that the funds are to be used solely for long term capital projects
- The ordinance creates a vehicle for the Mayor to use

A motion was made and seconded to amend the first sentence of §23-34 of the ordinance to read: "Such funds as are appropriated in accordance with the requirements of the City of Stamford Charter and applicable statutes and ordinances shall be deposited into the School-Related Capital Projects Fund." This motion passed by a vote of 5-0-2 (Reps. Lee, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Nabel in favor; Reps. Fedeli and Zelinsky abstaining).

A motion to hold the ordinance, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

3. LR30.053      REVIEW; Possibility of Amending [Chapter 111 of the Code of Ordinances](#) to prohibit wildlife trafficking.      Held 7-0-0  
 12/05/18 - Submitted by Rep. Kolenberg  
**12/10/18 – Moved to Pending**

A motion to hold Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

4. [LR30.062](#)      REVIEW; Establishing a Rule Managing Receipt of Documents Provided to Board of Representatives.      **REPORT MADE**  
 03/06/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt and Zelinsky

Committee members discussed the difficulties of receiving information at the last minute and then being required to make a decision.

- Items can be held if information is not received on a timely basis
- If this were to be codified, it should be a rule of the Board, rather than a resolution
- There should be uniformity among committees
- Not everyone on the Board is on the same page electronically, so some members have an easier time accessing information than others; all members would have to have access if a rule is create

- A rule could provide for a committee vote on whether or not to take up an item if there is a last submission
- The materials that can't be submitted late would need to be specified
- The Board office could call members to alert them of late information
- A rule would need to apply to everyone, including members of the public and Board members
- A rule would need to specify what the timing is, how information is distributed, and what is covered.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).