

**DRAFT MINUTES  
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2019**

Present: Councilwoman and Chair Bartolotta, Councilman Daley, and Councilwoman Salafia.  
Staff: Deputy General Counsel Kori Wisneski

Public: Duffy White, Elisabeth Holder, Jane Harris, Patsy Mylchreest, Sally Cornish, Christina Wasch, Jeff Myjak, Chris Holden, DPW, Kim O'Rourke, DPW,

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Jane Harris – Jane is a resident who resides at 161 Ridgewood Road. She is also a member of the Middletown Garden Club. She spoke in support of the plastic bag ban and stated that there is an outrageous amount of plastic bags produced in this county with harmful chemicals. She believes that people can be retrained to bring reusable bags to the stores.

Christina Wasch – Christina is part of the Middletown Garden Club, is the Conservation Co-Chair and resides at 190 Coleman Road. Christina spoke in support of the plastic bag ban ordinance.

Chris Holden – Chris is the Deputy Director of Public Works. He spoke in support of the plastic bag ban. He also brought up the issue of plastic bags being put in residents recycling bins, however the recycling center can't handle the plastic bags.

Jeff Myjak – Jeff is a resident of 24 West Mount Drive. Jeff supports this ban but doesn't think it goes far enough. He spoke on the issue of newspaper bags being ok but questioned why they are not banned as well. He also question why the City would be charging 10 cents per bag when stores have been giving them out for free.

Elisabeth Holder – Elisabeth is the Chair of the Conservation & Agriculture Commission. Elisabeth spoke in support of the plastic bag ordinance. She pointed out that the plastic bags are a hazard to animals and they clog storm drains.

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilwoman Salafia moved approval of the minutes from the February 14, 2019 regular meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Daley. The MOTION passed unanimously.

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**New Business:**

**A. Ordinance – Plastic Bag Ban (Chapter 253 Article IV)**

Attorney Wisneski introduced the ordinance. She explained that Kim O'Rourke and Maria Holzberg brought this to her attention. Kori called several towns and talked to numerous attorneys regarding this issue. Westport seems to be leading the way and approximately 7 towns in Connecticut have banned plastic bags. Councilwoman Salafia had a question regarding the time frame that the fee would go into effect. Kori explained that the ordinance would go into effect 6 months after the date of its adoption to give stores enough time to go through their inventory of bags and for Kim, the Public Works Department, and others to do community outreach on this topic. More discussion ensued and Mary suggested that we possibly look into offering reusable bags made from recycled materials.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve the ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. The MOTION passed unanimously.

**Other**

- A. **Vacancy Report** – Kori explained that Justin was not at the meeting and she could only answer questions based off what she knows about certain positions. A brief discussion ensued.
  
- B. **Legal Bills** – None to report.

**Adjournment:**

MOTION to Adjourn by Councilman Daley. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. Motion was unanimous and meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.