

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
JUNE 7, 2016**

1. Mayor N. Warren “Pete” Hess called the public hearing to order at **7:16 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

R. Neth	L. Jackson
R. Burns	P. Scully, Sr.
K. Donovan	R. Vitale
C. Herb	D. Wisniewski
D. Hoff	

PRESS:

L. Marshall
P. Singley

RESIDENTS:

Twelve

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

F. Dambowsky, Emergency Management Director
J. Stewart, Public Works Director
H. Frydman, Senior Center Director

R. Butler, Jr., Controller
E. Murray, Fire Chief

OTHERS:

R. Pugliese, Naugatuck Economic Development Corp.
K. Green, Elderly Commission
WFSB Channel 3 News
S. Ribeiro, Assistant to the DPW Director
K. Mabrouk, Naugatuck Youth Services Directory

E. Fitzpatrick, Attorney
D. Sheridan, Finance Board
J. Taf, Former Mayor
E. Carter, Mayoral Aide

2. Deputy Mayor Robert Neth led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Mayor Hess announced that the Public Hearing is for the purpose of considering the proposed amendment to **Ordinance #122, Chapter 10, Article V, Blight and Nuisances, §§10-65 – 10-82.** Legal Notice of this hearing has been published in the Republican American Newspaper on June 5, 2016.

Mayor Hess stated there will be a recording of the public hearing and everyone will be given an opportunity to speak after stating their name and address for the record.

4. Attorney Edward Fitzpatrick said there are four significant changes in the amendment to the Blight and Nuisances Ordinance. Currently the ordinance allows thirty days to remediate blight. The proposed amendment allows five days to remediate. The language expands the definition of what blight contains. It creates a criminal penalty that would go to Waterbury Housing Court in the event there is a blight citation issue. The Police Department would serve a ticket and the violator would then remediate the situation or go to housing court. There are two options the borough can go, criminal or civil, which is determined by the blight officer.

Mayoral Aide Edward Carter has been the temporary blight officer for five years. He has not been compensated for the additional duties. He receives complaint calls on overgrown grass, pools, fences, unregistered vehicles, debris, tires and couches. He

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receives foreclosure paperwork from the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Carter has to find out who actually owns the property. Banks are selling properties to one another and it becomes very difficult tracking down the rightful owner to contact. He said the board should consider having someone officially in the role.

Mayor Hess said Mayoral Aide Ed Carter will be remaining in his interim position as blight officer but will be receiving a lot of help now. The mayor established a Blight Task Force comprised of himself, the borough attorneys, Mr. Carter, Building Inspector Bill Herzman, Zoning Enforcement Officer Sue Goggin and employees from the Public Works Department. Evaluations will be on a case by case basis. The intent is to have a better ordinance where the borough can go to housing court and foreclose super liens.

Burgess Rocky Vitale has serious concerns about the criminal offense aspect of the amendment and who is going to make the decision to enforce it. He feels five days is unrealistic for someone to call for a dumpster, receive it and then clean the property within five days.

Former Mayor Joan Taf said there was bulk trash pickup several years ago and while she knows it costs money, could we possibly implement it again.

DPW Assistant Sandy Ribeiro said the biggest issue with trash on the side of the road is computers, televisions and mattresses. The borough no longer charges for those items at the transfer station. She doesn't believe a bulk pickup would eliminate blight issues.

Burgess Dorothy Hoff asked if this would be as enforceable if we didn't go to five days and kept it at thirty days.

Burgess Kathleen Donovan has the same concern as Burgess Hoff. She thinks fifteen days is better than thirty days and longer than five days.

Other burgesses agreed that five days was not reasonable and want to change it to fifteen days.

Burgess Carl Herb asked if fines are assessed both civilly and criminally.

6. Mayor Hess declared the public hearing closed at **7:58 p.m.**

A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.

Attest:

Nancy K. DiMeo
Borough Clerk