



Waltham City Council
Public Works and Public Safety Committee
Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2019

Hoover Committee Room
City Hall, 610 Main Street
Waltham, Massachusetts

Chairman Randy Leblanc called them meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Present:

Randall J. LeBlanc
Cathyann Harris
Diane P. LeBlanc
Kristine A. Mackin
Joseph P. LaCava
Absent: none

Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved approval of minutes from 4/6/2019. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Resolution Protecting Youth from the Dangers of Using Tobacco & Vaping Resolution

Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved to hear from off committee members. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Diane LeBlanc reviewed the history of the resolution and work done by the Partnership for Youth. The Health Director introduced members of the Board of Health that were present: Mr. Mullin, Ms. Piantedosi, Dr. Learner, Mr. Hanley, and Assistant Director Creonte. DJ Wilson from the MAPC also introduced himself. Director Feeley said that there were 67 tobacco licenses in Waltham. There have been 45 MOHA sting operations and only one has sold to an underage customer. There is a test at every location every year. Councillor Diane LeBlanc asked if the Board has looked at limiting the sale of tobacco. Dr. Lerner reviewed the regulatory process that occurred when the smoking age was raised to 21. Mr. Wilson reviewed the work of the MAPC tobacco control program. Mr. Wilson reviewed possible regulations as outlined in a document titled 2018 Sales Regulations. Councillor LeBlanc asked how many towns have banned flavored tobacco. Mr. Wilson identified the surrounding communities that restrict the sale of these products. Councillor Diane LeBlanc mentioned that City Parks are not smoke free yet. Mr. Wilson reviewed possible regulations that could cover this. Councillor Harris asked how Waltham gets started in enacting more regulations. Mr. Wilson said requiring a sensation sign is a simple thing requiring check of if taxes are owed is simple. Capping the number of licenses, no new retailers within 500 feet of a school banning blunt wraps ban vending machines ban the sale at colleges are simple fixes. Adopting a flavor policy and minimum pricing for cigars are two more resource intensive policies. Councillor Harris asked how can we build synergistic partnerships to address this issue. Councillor Harris asked about internet sales. Mr. Wilson said that the Attorney General has recently cited 4 companies. Councillor Harris asked questions about stings. Chairman LeBlanc asked about the regulations adopted by the Board of Health. Chairman LeBlanc asked Mr. Wilson how kids are getting them. Mr. Wilson said the internet and a child that knows someone at the store are the two most common ways. Councillor LaCava asked about the cost of cigarettes compared to vape products. Councillor LaCava asked if tobacco would become illegal. Mr. Wilson said no.

Councillor LaCava asked why we are imposing so many regulations on business for something that is legal. Councillor Diane LeBlanc made follow-up statement on the need to have regulations enacted. Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

17-25 Paving Resolution

Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Councillor LeBlanc moved to discharge the 17-25 Resolution, draft ordinance, and the law opinion and all materials to the Ordinances and Rules Committee.

Councillor Diane LeBlanc moved to adjourn at 6:24pm. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph W. Vizard
Assistant City Clerk