



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## **MINUTES NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING BLIGHT ORDINANCE**

**HELEN NELSON ROOM – TOWN HALL  
6:55P.M.  
JULY 24, 2012**

Mayor Woods called the Public Hearing to order to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to express their views regarding the proposed amendments to Newington Code of Ordinances Chapter 182, Blighted Premises Code.

### **I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II ROLL CALL – Councilors Present**

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DeIBuono

Councilor Klett  
Councilor McBride  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

### **III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She thanked her neighbors from Dowd Street for attending the meeting and stated she knew of several complaints placed against the property and the problem of having the resident comply with the law. Mrs. Lyons said the ordinance was great but enforcement would be hard since many times homeowners found a way around the law.

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She thanked everyone who worked on the Blight Ordinance but had a concern about Town responsibilities regarding Town properties since she felt the Town should be held accountable for those properties.

Karen Brecher, 120 Stagecoach Lane: She came as a representative from the Commission on Aging and had an additional suggestion to the July 11 draft. In Section 8 B2 the Commission's proposal was for the creation of a list which the Town Manager would distribute to all department heads to ensure no residents slipped through the cracks. Mrs. Brecher felt this would close the loop. She stated she had done home care as a physical therapist where residents did not turn on lights or use hot water and either did not know or were too stubborn to ask for the Town's help. Mrs. Brecher stated it would be nice for the Town to help the residents take care of their property before it became blighted.

Joseph Egan, 408 Main Street: Mr. Egan stated several concerns he had with the ordinance and the terms used in it as being too vague. 1) community standards to be enforced by one person 2) provided ten day response period to any violation notice 3) The ordinance stated it was "for the health, safety and welfare of the public" and elsewhere stated it was to "preserve the beauty of the neighbors" which Mr. Egan concluded should be clarified. There were two different standards under which people would be measured. 4) Who would be the person to make the judgment on a property? Would it be an employee or an appointment position? 5) Definitions used in the ordinance were a concern i.e. abandoned vehicles on premises. He stated what would happen if it had wheels on it, a battery, under maintenance, or used in the last 100 days, etc. 6) definitions being too broad such as "any other exterior condition." 6) conditions described in the

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ordinance: ragged screens on a window, etc. 7) enforcement: how could the Town enforce such vague statements? He stated the ordinance was being done at the wrong time and agreed with Councilor Cohen's statement that the ordinance was a real stretch.

#### **IV ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bottalico motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**SECONDED BY:** Councilor DelBuono

**VOTE:** 9 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council

Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk