SANITATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 210
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

Members Present:	Chair Seb Santacroce John Uccello Thomas Goglia
Staff Present:	William Russo, Public Works Director Kori Wisneski, Deputy General Council Kimberly O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator
Absent:	Bobbye Knoll Peterson Tony Marino

Chair Seb Santacroce opened the Sanitation Commission Meeting at 4:00 p.m. He stated that since he was absent at the last meeting, he cannot make a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made among the other members present to approve the November 26, 2013 minutes. Motioned was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Russo explained to the commission that trash cans not being removed from the street after their regular date of pick up is an ongoing problem. He asked the city attorney to come and help with the ordinance with making any changes to the language. It will then go to ordinance study and from there it will go to the common council.

a. Trash Can Removal Ordinance – Deputy City Attorney, Kori Wisneski, stated that she looked into other ordinances from around the state regarding the storage of solid waste. The best of each ordinance was then placed together into one ordinance. Kori stated that Recycling Coordinator, Kimberly O'Rourke recommended to her that a fine should be charged to residents of the district that do not put their recycling and solid waste containers away after a 24 hour period. The reason for this is because simply requesting that this action take place is not enough. In order to make this work, a violation of $25.00 per day, that the trash container is left out needs to be charged. Flyers will need to be mailed with the resident's bills so that this issue can be enforced moving forward.

   Director Russo asked if the department should get stiffer as far as the $25.00 fee that will be charged.

Kori informed Director Russo that the final fee can be steep depending on how long a trash barrel is left out for, considering it is charged per day.

It was asked if the ordinance applies for garbage containers left out applies outside the district as well. Kori stated that it could apply outside the district if it was agreed upon. It would couple with the Health Department and code enforcement can also get involved to help reduce the amount of abusers of the ordinance.

Kori stated that she would like to make a change to the title of 253-24. Currently it states "Solid Waste Containers" when it should say "Solid Waste or Recycling Containers".

It was asked how the ordinance and fines are comparable to other towns. Recycling Coordinator, Kimberly O'Rourke verified that the ordinance being used is from another town.

Kori suggested that the language should remain broad and kept at "any owner and occupant" keeping in mind that it can be changed in the future.

Director Russo wanted to know what to do if the fees are not paid for. Kori reassured him that it can be taken to collections and that the landlord and/or the tenant are responsible for payment.

John Uccello stated that the definition of solid waste is too broad in the ordinance and that he wants to continue to provide good service to the Middletown tax payers. Kori stated that solid waste is a defined term within the ordinances in article I. 253-1 contains definitions where solid waste is defined in Connecticut's general statutes 22A-207.

Kori went over some more of the ordinances with the commission. The ordinance for storing solid waste is to ensure that garbage will not be placed to the curb without the necessary container. 253-23B states that garbage cannot be thrown on the street. This piggybacks on the code enforcement so it was recommended by Kori that it remains in the ordinance. The placement of containers is also very important to keep in the ordinance.

Director Russo commented that this is not an ordinance that is intended to make the city money. It is a cleanliness ordinance to help keep the streets clean. There are stickers that are placed on the containers reminding residents to remove their containers from the street after pick up.

A motion was made to approve the trash can removal ordinance with the suggested amendment on 253-24. Motion was seconded and approved.

b. Sanitation Refund for 213 Court Street – Director Russo stated that the bill at 213 Court Street was $586.39 more than it should have been because of the interest that was charged during the transition of ownerships. The Sanitation Clerk sent out a bill in the amount of $13,617.29 which was paid in full, which is what they were asked to do. The bill will then be adjusted for the next billing cycle and they will be reimbursed the correct amount upon the Sanitation Commission.

Motion was made to approve the refund. Motion was seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Tonnage - Director Russo stated that the tonnage report currently consists of the last six months. If the total number shown is doubled it would equal 6,470 tons this year. The year before, the tonnage was 6,747 tons. The work of Recycling Coordinator: Kim O'Rourke, Sanitation Foreman: Sebastian Gurciullo and the Sanitation Truck Drivers are doing a great job at making sure the job gets done correctly as far as minimizing the tonnage fees even while more restaurants are in business. The city pays $71.85 to burn the garbage and $28.94 to transfer it which totals $100.79 to bring it to Lisbon and burn it.

OTHER:

As there was no other business, the Sanitation Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:43 P.M.