

AD HOC COMMITTEE
AMMENDMENTS-CODE OF ORDINANCE SECT. 12-33 (SHOPPING CARTS)
January 19, 2010

Chairman Phil Curran called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. on January 19, 2010. In attendance were committee members Fred Visconti and Bob Arconti, ex-officios Gregg Seabury; Paul Rotello and Colleen Stanley; Les Pinter, Corporation Counsel; Wayne Sheppard, Chief of Staff; Sean Stillman and Larry Miguel of the U.N.I.T.

Chairman Curran asked Mr. Sheppard to give an overview of the change in the ordinance. Mr. Sheppard explained the concerns about wayward shopping carts being found all over Danbury. Issues include the unsightly abandoned carts and the cost to recover and dispose of collected carts. The proposal calls for fines for the store and the person found in possession of the carts.

Chairman Curran asked what happens when carts are found. Mr. Stillman said the Highway Dept. collects the carts and they're brought to Public Works, the stores are called to pick up the carts and if not picked up, they are crushed and disposed of. Mr. Miguel said the stores should pay a fee to get the carts back. Mr. Arconti asked how many carts they collect. Mr. Miguel said on average its 2-3 per day. Mr. Arconti asked if stores have proper signage to keep the carts in their lots. Mr. Miguel said no. Mr. Arconti said those stores are in violation of the existing ordinance and asked if they've ever been fined. Mr. Miguel said no. Discussion followed.

Mr. Visconti wanted input from the stores, as the carts are their property and their problem, too. Mr. Visconti said if the homeless are found with a cart they cannot pay the fine. Mr. Arconti would like to see enforcement of the present ordinance-sign posting. Mrs. Stanley said there is a problem with ordinances that cannot be enforced. She can't see fining a store whose property has been stolen. Mr. Rotello said it seems counterproductive to fine the victim and stores may start calling the police each time a cart goes down the street. Mr. Visconti said we don't want the police looking for shopping carts and this issue needs to go to public hearing.

Mr. Arconti moved to approve the amendments to Ordinance 12-33 and to have it proceed to the City Council and Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr.Visconti. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Visconti moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Arconti. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Curran, Chairman
Fred Visconti
Bob Arconti