

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT  
January 18, 2023**

**Public Hearing Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Jeffrey Capeci, Phil Carroll, William DeRosa, Charles Gardner, Chris Gardner, Dan Honan, Lisa Kessler, Tom Long, Ryan Knapp, Michelle Embree Ku, Matthew Mihalcik

**ABSENT:** Angela Curi

**ALSO PRESENT:** press and public

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Capeci called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 pm.

Mr Capeci explained that the three items were going to be done separately. He requested the speakers to write their name and address on the pad and to turn on the microphone.

**Repeal of code Book Ch 144 – Fracking**

Kathy Quinn, 17 Scudder Rd – Chair of the Sustainable Energy Commission

Originally the state had no guidelines so communities had to make their own. At first the state passed a watered down version then they came around and passed the current version.

Ms Quinn would like to leave the ordinance in case the state changes their mind and reduces the guidelines. She pointed out that no other town is repealing their ordinance.

Betsy Litt, 86 Greaat Hhill Rd

There is no reason to repeal and several not to. Newtown has stronger restrictions to protect our wells.

Ed Randall, 86 Great Hill Rd

Does not want ordinance repealed we deserve stronger protection.

Randy Walker, 11 North Branch – President of Newtown Watershed

The Aquifer is the primary water source for Newtown. It takes twenty years for salt to leave the water if nothing else is added. As the water level drops the water is poorer quality.

**Repeal of Code Book Ch 124 – Elections**

No public spoke

## **Repeal of Code Book Ch 183 – Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative**

Jon Marc Jagush, 45 Lakeview Terrace

Referenced the Lorax by Seuss he was speaking for the trees. We cannot go back to plastic. Plastic kills creatures. We need to save our natural world. We can't stop everything but should control what we can. We need to move forward.

Vanessa Villamil, 11 Antler Pine

She was a big part in the push for a really strong ban. The fee for paper bags is a big deterrent. The council asked Why ban plastic bags when paper bags are just as bad, during the original push for a ban. People are using the reusable bags, it is easy and it is working.

Jack Thatcher, 14 Antler Pine – Environmentalist

Why are we doing this? We have a new level of responsibility. The bag change is nothing compared to the changes due to covid. We have adapted to the change. Every decision affects the climate. Visualize the planet being left to our families. Plastic bags are not more valuable than their lives.

Mr Capeci called for a recess at 7:30 to begin the Council meeting.

Mr Capeci reconvened the public hearing at 7:33pm

Lynn Hungaski, 29 Valley View

The difference is the 10 cent charge for paper bags. This ordinance was worked on for 2 years. The paper bag piece encourages the reusable bags. Paper bags are worse for the environment. Trees are cut which reduce the oxygen and chemicals are used to make them. We want convenience so it will go backwards and paper bags will be used if they are free.

Jennifer Killin, 71 Sugar Lane

Newtown's ban was a model for others. It was researched thoroughly and is good for the environment and our town. The Newtown ban is stronger and is working because of the charge for paper. The only reason to repeal is to score political points.

Ed Randall, 86 Great Hill Rd

He is an avid walker and appreciates that the amount of plastic bags he encounters has been greatly reduced and hopes it continues that way.

Betsy Litt, 86 Great Hill

Strongly opposed to the repeal She is worried about the environmental impact. The 10 cent fee helps defray the cost to businesses.

Jordana Bloom, 34 Main Street

As a former Council member she worked on the ban. The science is irrefutable. This was a grass roots effort that made progress. It is very positive and good. She is proudest of this ban during her tenure on the Council.

Dylan Thomas, 15 Butterfield Rd

Plastic bags are better for the environment than paper bags. This ban makes us pay for the privilege of using inferior product. This is basically a duplicate of the state – repeal the ban.

With no one else wishing to address the Council, Mr Capeci closed the hearing at 7:45.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*LeReine Frampton, Clerk*

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE NEXT MEETING. ANY EDITS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING**