

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 5, 2009**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public session on Monday, January 5, 2009. Chairman Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Chairman Patterson read the public notice as it appeared in the New Haven Register on December 31, 2008.

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Patterson, Chairman
J. Blacketter, Vice Chairman
N. Veccharelli
V. Ditchkus
A. Gianattasio

Chairman Patterson opened the public session of the Ordinance Committee at 7:12 p.m. regarding the following Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance Amending an Chapter 16, Sections 16.1-35, 16.1-39, 16.1-49, 16.1-55, 16.1-57, 16.1-58, 16.1-60, 16.1-61, 16.1-62, 16.1-65, 16.1-67, 16.1-68 and 16.1-71 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Harbor Management Plan).

Chairman Pattersonr stated he would entertain a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blacketter made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Speakers in Favor – None.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Patterson closed the Public Session at 7:13 p.m.

Ald. Blacketter and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board with a favorable recommendation an Ordinance Amending an Chapter 16, Sections 16.1-35, 16.1-39, 16.1-49, 16.1-55, 16.1-57, 16.1-58, 16.1-60, 16.1-61, 16.1-62, 16.1-65, 16.1-67, 16.1-68 and 16.1-71 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Harbor Management Plan).

Ald. Veccharelli spoke at length as to the parking issues down there and stated he wished to make changes to the current motion.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Blacketter made and seconded a motion to amend the motion and change current paragraph (b) to read “The Milford Board of Police Commissioners shall designate up to three (3) parking spaces which are not restricted to vehicles with the registration plates required in paragraph a) but which are

subject to a sixty (60) minute time limit restriction. Said vehicle must have a current resident parking permit decal permanently attached". He stated this would be the new paragraph 1a.

Ald. Giannattasio commented section "b" was deleted originally.

Mayor Richetelli suggested since the change proposed affects the operation of the marina and boat ramp, that the Committee recognize Ray Swift, Harbor Master.

Ald. Giannattasio directed his question to Mr. Swift asking his feeling as to the new proposal.

Mr. Swift concurred with Ald. Veccharelli there is a parking problem at the landing and that he has discussed this with Ald. Veccharelli. Mr. Swift stated he explained to Ald. Veccharelli that he could put in two parking spots for people who wish to spend time at the parking ramp, but he would have to run those two spaces by the Police Commission. Mr. Swift also reported a decision had been made to bring back the refreshment stand, so they would actually lose those two spaces noting the refreshment stand would bring in traffic without trailers. Mr. Swift reiterated parking has issue at the landing and spoke to some of the occurrences. He stated he and his staff make every attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. He stated his request to the Committee was to let him do this administratively instead of by Ordinance.

Ald. Blacketter commented the new language states up to three spots. She stated the intent of the Ordinance is codified and if it were handled administratively it could be taken away at any time. She stated her question is with the latitude to change where it would be noting it does not specify a location.

Mr. Swift replied the way the language is proposed the Police Commission would come in and decide where the spaces would be. He stated he was looking for some latitude and the he is the person who can decide the best location since he understands the operation. He also spoke as to the ramp and parking there. He reiterated he is here to ask the Committee for some latitude.

Ald. Blacketter asked if there is a problem with the current Ordinance and if this is ongoing.

Mr. Swift responded there are not designated spots for parking without ramp stickers.

Ald. Blacketter stated she was puzzled by the response of the Harbor Master that this is some kind of a radical recommendation.

Mr. Swift stated he and his staff have done everything they can to accommodate as many as possible. He stated he was hearing this Committee does not have faith in him that he is getting the job done.

Mayor Richetelli interjected stating his office has had residents come by his office who have stated they cannot stop by the landing just to watch the boats, have coffee, etc. He noted there is no problem during the off-season. He reiterated there are times when it is just difficult for people to come down and enjoy the harbor. He explained when his office receives these type of complaints he turns them over to Mr. Swift and he handles them. He also explained Mr. Swift has a parking attendant on hand on the weekends during the summer to help with the traffic. He stated they do a great job at the landing and he too would ask the Ordinance Committee to give Mr. Swift the leeway he is asking for.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he wished to clarify the people who currently use the boat ramp pay a fee.

Mr. Swift responded yes, residents pay \$30 and non-residents pay \$120. He stated he believes the people who come down there should have a reasonable expectation that they will be able to find a parking spot.

Ald. Ditchkus as a follow-up noted the “thirty (30) day” change was changed from three (3) days to thirty (30). He also asked the harbormaster if he expected more people would be using Milford this summer with the closure of the Housatonic.

Mr. Swift responded it was possible. He commented by Ordinance this would work, but it could also work with the latitude he was asking for and if in the future the Committee thought it was not working they could revisit this.

Ald. Blacketter stated she would imagine the Police Commission would work with the Harbor Master as well if it were by Ordinance.

Mr. Swift pointed out his secretary works seven (7) days a week from May through Columbus Day as well as a student staff he hires for those months. He stated they are there because they care about the people and about Milford. He pleaded with the Committee to give him the latitude to handle this and let his staff designate the spaces.

Ald. Ditchkus stated it was his understanding if the Police Commission comes in those spaces would become permanent. He suggested this Committee leave the Police Commission out of this at this time and sit down with the Harbor Commission if needed. He also pointed out this has already been to the Harbor Commission one time.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he would be in favor of having Mr. Swift have the flexibility to run the harbor and that this Committee should show him that respect.

The amendment carried 3 yes (Veccharelli, Patterson, Blacketter) and 2 no (Ditchkus, Giannattasio).

Ald. Ditchkus stated he wished to make his intentions know at this time that he could not support this. He stated this is a change they were not made aware of and also with the word “shall” in it he just could not support the main motion.

The main motion carried 3 yes (Veccharelli, Patterson, Blacketter) and 2 no (Ditchkus, Giannattasio).

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blacketter moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary