

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Ordinance Committee Meeting
and Public Hearing
MAY 3, 2010**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public hearing on Monday, May 3, 2010. Chairman Giannattasio called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and proceeded to read the public notice as it appeared in the New Haven Register on April 28, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT

A. Giannattasio, Chairman
P. Staneski, Vice Chairman
P. Smith
J. Patterson (6:50 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Winthrop S. Smith, Jr., City Attorney

Excused: N. Veccharelli

Chairman Giannattasio opened the public session of the Ordinance Committee at 6:41 p.m. regarding the following Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance Amending chapter 18, Article VI, Section 18-90 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Planning and Zoning Board Fees).

Speakers in Favor:

E. Harrigan, Assistant City Planner – stated she was present to answer any questions the Board may have.

Speakers in Opposition – none.

2. An Ordinance Repealing §§9-14(a) and (b) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford and substituting §§9-14(a) and (b) Rules and Regulations Generally.

Speakers in Favor – none.

Speakers in Opposition – none.

3. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Article IV and Adopting Section 14-53 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Prohibition on Blocking the Box).

Speakers in Favor – none.

Speakers in Opposition – none.

4. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20.5, Taxation and adopting Section 20.5-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Income & Expense Penalty Waiver).

Speakers in Favor – none.

Speakers in Opposition – none.

5. An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the service of the City of Milford.

Speakers in Favor:

A. Carey – stated they asked for this raise two years ago and they were denied. She stated they were putting this forward now because they cannot receive it while they are in office so it would go into affect the year following.

Speakers in Opposition – none.

Chairman Giannattasio declared the public session closed at 6:44 p.m. He noted the absence of representation from the Democratic Party and asked for an opinion from the City Attorney as to moving forward.

Attorney Smith stated he did not see anything in the Charter that would prohibit the Committee from moving forward. He also pointed out a quorum was present so they could proceed forward with the meeting.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending chapter 18, Article VI, Section 18-90 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Planning and Zoning Board Fees).

Ald. Staneski asked if the permit fees were being raised to be in line with where the State has raised their fees.

Ms. Harrigan explained as of October, 2009, the State unilaterally raised their fees for this portion. She pointed out the fee in front of the Ordinance Committee is only for the City.

Ald. P. Smith asked why these two particular fees were selected.

Ms. Harrigan replied they were an oversight from the first round. She stated when they saw it they corrected it. She stated with regard to the signage fee, they realized they were charging too little.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Repealing §§9-14(a) and (b) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford and substituting §§9-14(a) and (b) Rules and Regulations Generally.

Chairman Giannattasio noted City Attorney W. Smith was present for questions.

Ald. Staneski asked if the change was to clean up the verbiage and make the Ordinance more in line.

Attorney Smith replied as a general matter the Ordinance has not been updated since the 1980's. He stated there have been contractual changes since then. He also explained CCM made a recommendation to all municipalities to update their Ordinances. He stated the Ordinance in front of the Committee is an updated Ordinance, which brings the language current.

Ald. Staneski asked about item 4 and if those offenses were their previously.

Attorney Smith responded yes, stating it is existing language. He defined the change of definition really a "clean-up" of language, but not any substance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Article IV and Adopting Section 14-53 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Prohibition on Blocking the Box).

Chairman Giannattasio recognized Officer D. Sharoh of the Milford Police Department.

Ald. P. Smith asked Officer Sharoh to elaborate on the areas being targeted.

Officer Sharoh stated they looked at the Route 1 corridor, specifically three major intersections; at Cedarhurst Lane, at East Town Road and at Roses Mill Road/Red Bush Lane. He stated these areas have been targeted as very dense areas and explained.

Ald. Staneski stated she had concern with signage and making sure it is clear so people understand they can now receive an infraction if they block the box.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the management at Westfield Mall is aware of the Ordinance.

Officer Sharoh replied yes.

Ald. Patterson apologized for being late. He asked if other areas were being looked at as well.

Officer Sharoh stated there are many other intersections, which can be added in the future with amendments.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20.5, Taxation and adopting Section 20.5-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Income & Expense Penalty Waiver).

Chairman Gianattasio recognized the City Assessor, Dan Thomas.

Ald. Staneski asked Mr. Thomas if he could explain what this Ordinance is about.

Mr. Thomas explained how the Statutes have impacted the Assessor's Office. He went on to explain what happened at the January legislative session and how these penalties became mandatory. He also explained these don't usually occur at the same time. He stated this Ordinance would allow the Assessor avail the penalty during that session.

Ald. P. Smith noted this Ordinance is for commercial properties and asked if there is also such language for residential properties.

Mr. Thomas stated it is only for 4-family or greater.

Ald. Patterson stated he had concern this could toll the assessment time period.

Mr. Thomas stated it does not affect anyone's appeal rights. He stated this is a penalty after the fact and went on to explain the Statute which requires the information by June 1st of each year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the service of the City of Milford.

Ald. Staneski commented this Committee heard from the Democratic Registrar of Voters the reason this is being brought forward is that they were denied two years ago. She stated it is her further understanding when you are an elected official you cannot ask for it when you are in office.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary