

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
and PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 1, 2011**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public hearing on Monday, August 1, 2011. Chairman Giannattasio called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. stating the meeting was duly noticed in the New Haven Register on July 27, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT

A. Giannattasio, Chairman
P. Smith
J. Patterson
N. Veccharelli
P. Staneski

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Winthrop S. Smith, Jr., City Attorney
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Giannattasio opened the public session of the Ordinance Committee at 7:19 p.m. regarding the following Ordinances:

- 1) An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 and 2-91 and Substituting Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 through 2-92.5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Milford.

Speakers in favor:

J. Marini – 101 Paschal Drive – stated she is the owner of Edo Construction, a local concrete company. Reading from a prepared statement she stated her company has lost out on jobs that have gone to out of town contractors. She also stated her company uses all local city contractors. She stated she felt Milford she support local businesses as “we” support the City with “our” taxes.

R. Vitali – 48 Founders Way – stated he is also an Aldermen with the Fifth District. He stated this Ordinance comes on the footsteps of his conversations with the Mayor. He stated he was disheartened to see only one person in favor of the proposed Ordinance. He stated through his research through CCM, there are 11 municipalities that favor local bidder preference and went on to cite those towns. He also stated the purpose of the Ordinance is to promote our city, which promotes our people and our businesses that are the fabric of our community. Mr. Vitali stated once communities are attuned to this they will sharpen their pencils to be as competitive as possible. He stated he hoped this Committee would see that as well.

Speakers in opposition – none.

Chairman Giannattasio closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to table An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 and 2-91 and Substituting Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 through 2-92.5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Milford.

Ald. Staneski stated there have been questions that have not been answered and that more time was needed. She also expressed concern the bidding would not be competitive.

Ald. P. Smith stated she agreed with Ald. Staneski expressing concern about unintended consequences when tackling an Ordinance such as this one. She stated she would like to see data as well as have the opportunity to speak with other towns that have this Ordinance. Ald. P. Smith stated although there are 11 towns that may have this, it doesn't say how it is working. She also stated she had concerns with the language of Section 2-91 and 2-92 and possible consequences.

Chairman Giannattasio commented he feels there is a need to have competitive bidding, but if this Committee feels more research is needed he would be fine with that, that he is in favor of this Ordinance.

The motion to table failed 2 yes (Staneski, P. Smith) and 3 no (Veccharelli, Patterson, Giannattasio).

Ald. Staneski stated she would like to make a motion to forward this Ordinance to the full Board for discussion purposes only.

Ald. Patterson raised a point of order stating this Committee could not do that. He stated this Committee needed to forward it to the full with a favorable recommendation.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 and 2-91 and Substituting Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2, Section 2-90 through 2-92.5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Milford.

Ald. P. Smith renewed her concern of there being unintended consequences. She stated she would like to hear from the Chamber and other towns who have this ordinance in place. She stated she felt this could be problematic and could reduce competition. She stated she understood the thought of sharpening the pencil, but that it could also foil the process. Ald. P. Smith stated she would like to see the history in bidding as well as data from the other towns. She stated to restrict the bidding is short-sided and she could not vote for it.

Ald. Staneski commented many of Milford's taxpayers work outside of the city where their business is located. She stated those people would be restricted. She also stated she feels all businesses should be providing a "drug-free certification" and that Milford should expect that of all bidders.

Ald. Patterson stated he is in favor of this and pointed out the State of Connecticut just implemented this. He also corrected a comment made by Ald. Staneski in that all bidders are given the opportunity to match. He also stated anyone receiving a bid would have to be drug free. Ald. Patterson also pointed out there is language regarding proof of being a city based business and suggested that language be sharpened.

Chairman Giannattasio stated if this Committee could agree upon this and get it to the full Board where possibly it could be tweaked.

Ald. Veccharelli stated they are splitting at this point. He also everyone is in favor of a drug-free workplace and that he would think everyone would want to see Milford people getting work. He stated with this Ordinance it is an

opportunity to give those people a chance that are marginally within the bid. He stated he is in favor of this Ordinance and if there are things about it that are not perfect; it could be addressed down the road. He stated he would be in favor of forwarding this to the full Board to see what they want.

The motion carried 3 yes (Giannattasio, Veccharelli, Patterson) and 2 no (Staneski, P. Smith).

Being no further business, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Staneski made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary