**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING and**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

## AUGUST 2, 2021

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held meeting and public hearing on Monday, August 2, 2021. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. He stated tonight’s meeting was being held in accordance with the legal notice posted in the New Haven Register on July 28, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT ALSO PRESENT

F. Smith, Chairman Mayor Ben Blake

A. Giannattasio J. Berchem, City Attorney

G. Harla K. Mello, Police Chief

A. Sutton Ald. P. Vetro

R. Vitali

Chairman Smith announced the Committee would defer items 1, 3 and 4 on tonight’s agenda. He stated the Committee would consider items 2, 5, and 6 on the agenda.

Chairman Smith stated four (4) of the Ordinances concern the recent Cannabis legislation adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly. He stated the intention of this Ordinance is to put the City of Milford in line with that legislation. Chairman Smith stated there have been several questions within our city government regarding precedent. He continued with a brief history of the culture of marijuana. He acknowledged he did vote in favor of the legislation but did so with the hope that municipalities would be able to opt out of having a dedicated area. He stated unfortunately that language was not included in the statute.

2. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation, Article 1, In General Section 16-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Prohibited Activities in Public Recreation Areas).

Chairman Smith stated this Ordinance requires prompt attention from the Board of Aldermen and provides the police department and EMS responders with the tools they need to preform their jobs. He stated with one of the city’s major events upcoming, the Oyster Festival, it was important to have this Ordinance on the books. Chairman Smith asked for a motion to waive the reading the Ordinance in its entirety.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

Speakers in Favor – None.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public portion of the hearing on this matter at 6:50 p.m. He asked if the Board members had questions/comments.

Ald. Vitali commented regarding the amount of the fine, a mere $50. He stated you could do other things that break the law, and the amount was significantly higher and stated he objected to the $50 fine. He also questioned the new legislation noting it is in direct opposition with federal law. Ald. Vitali also expressed his concerns with what happens when a person leaves a designated area and drives home. He also expressed his concern with the position this legislation puts on the municipality, its departments such as police, health, and fire.

Chairman Smith stated all the remarks made by Ald. Vitali were debated for a long time in Hartford.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is in support of this Ordinance pointing to Section 16-2 that provides the police with the tools to do their job. He spoke of the importance of making sure the books our clear so the police know how to proceed. Ald. Giannatasio questioned the “designated area” portion of the Statute. He stated this is sensitive police issues and stated he wanted to be sure the Board of Aldermen are included in the discussions and how important it is to the residents of Milford, the constituents of the members of this Board. He urged the mayor and city attorney to include the Board of Aldermen in all discussions.

Ald. Sutton asked if the $50 fine was capped at that amount due to the statute. He stated Section 84 appears to regulate the specified amount.

Chairman Smith deferred to Chief Mello regarding police enforcement.

Chief Mello commented regarding the number of complaints the department has received at the beached concerning lewd behavior, noise and alcohol complaints that resulted in more police coverage at the beaches. Chief Mello stated considering the number of complaints received the department has a zero-tolerance policy. He also expressed great concern for the quality of life for our children who could be subjected to secondhand marijuana use.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation, Article 1, In General Section 16-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Prohibited Activities in Public Recreation Areas). Motion carried unanimously.

5. An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford, article II, Public Safety Employees, Schedule R.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Speakers in Favor – None.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing on this Ordinance at 7:12 p.m.

He explained this Ordinance is regarding compensation for the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Chief.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford, Article II, Public Safety Employees. Motion carried unanimously.

6. An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford (Mayor, City Clerk).

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Speakers in Favor – None.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

He stated this Ordinance is similar to the previous Ordinance.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford (Mayor, City Clerk). Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Committee adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy

Recording Secretary