

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING and
PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public hearing on Monday, February 5, 2018. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

F. Smith Chairman
A. Giannattasio
E. Beatty
A. Sutton
R. Vitali

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
S. Fournier, Mayor's Assistant

Chairman Smith stated the Committee was here tonight to consider six (6) Ordinances. He stated the meeting was being held in accordance with the legal notice posted in the New Haven Register on January 31, 2018. He stated this is the February meeting where traditionally the bonding Ordinances come before this Committee. Chairman Smith stated he would entertain a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinances in their entirety.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinances in their entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

1. An Ordinance Appropriating \$6,875,000 for Various Public Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,875,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.

Speakers in Favor - None
Speakers Opposed - None

2. An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,828,000 for Various School Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,828,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriations and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.

Speakers in Favor – Chairman Smith stated he received a letter (attached) in support of this Ordinance from Kathleen Kennedy.

Speakers Opposed – None.

3. An Ordinance Appropriating \$2,600,000 for the Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Waste Water Facilities and authorizing the Issuance of \$2,600,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance There of the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.

Speakers in Favor – None.
Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing on the first three Ordinances at 6:51 p.m.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Appropriating \$6,875,000 for Various Public Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,875,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,828,000 for Various School Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,828,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriations and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Appropriating \$2,600,000 for the Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Waste Water Facilities and authorizing the Issuance of \$2,600,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance There of the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing for the following Ordinances at 6:54 p.m.

4. An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 20.5, Taxation, Section 20.5-15 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Property Tax Abatement – Surviving Spouses of Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians).

Chairman Smith stated this Ordinance came out of previous tax abatements for families of veterans and other people who have lost their lives in the line of duty such as military service. He stated this is specific to police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

Speakers in Favor – None.
Speakers Opposed – None.

5. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Planning, Article XXI, Historic Preservation Commission, Sections 18-221, 18-226 and 18-227 of the Milford Code of Ordinances.

Speakers in Favor – None.
Speakers Opposed – None.

6. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Employment Conditions and Benefits, Article II, Public Safety Employees, Section 19-13 (e), Employee Benefits (Longevity).

Speakers in Favor – None.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 20.5, Taxation, Section 20.5-15 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Property Tax Abatement – Surviving Spouses of Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians).

Chairman Smith pointed out the definition of firefighter included volunteer.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for clarification of the Ordinance proposed if it allows first responders only if the first responder lives in Milford and are on active duty in Milford.

Ms. Fortunati explained the Ordinance benefits the surviving spouse if they have a primary residence in Milford and work in the State of Connecticut. She stated they do not have to be employed in Milford.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this Ordinance is in parity to other municipalities.

Ms. Fortunati stated it is a mix from various municipalities. She stated that half of the cities restricted it to their own city personnel. She stated in Trumbull and West Haven they open it up to any personnel throughout Connecticut, however in Bridgeport it is limited to their own personnel.

Attorney Berchem stated in terms of his research, the towns of Berlin and Newtown are most similar to the Ordinance before you, were it is defined as someone who has served in a municipality or as a State officer. He stated the Trumbull and West Haven language is slightly different.

Ald. Giannattasio stated for clarification there is no cap.

Attorney Berchem replied yes.

Ald. Vitali asked about the volunteer firefighter language, noting Milford no longer has volunteer firefighter.

Attorney Berchem stated if a person who is a volunteer in another town perishes in a fire, they would benefit from this Ordinance.

Ald. Vitali asked the number individuals that fit into this category.

Mayor Blake stated there are approximately four families.

Ald. Beatty stated it was her understanding there are levels and questioned the volunteers. She stated her objection would be to volunteers and that the language was specific to a family. It would seem fair that it was for those employed by the City of Milford.

Mayor Blake stated it is simply a policy decision and that the aldermen could change the Ordinance as they see fit. He explained the Ordinance was based on policies adopted by other municipalities. He added at one point in Milford history it was a volunteer force.

Ald. Beatty asked if this Ordinance would be retroactive to former volunteers.

Mayor Blake stated it would include those spouses of firefighters who perished in the line of duty.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the cap in place in Trumbull.

Attorney Berchem explained you have to look at the definition of firefighter or officer. He read the definition in this particular Ordinance, adding it is broader.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is favor of the spirit of the ordinance, but would like to discuss it further during full Board of Aldermen meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Planning, Article XXI, Historic Preservation Commission, Sections 18-221, 18-226 and 18-227 of the Milford Code of Ordinances.

Chairman Smith stated this amendment was to make some minor clarification to the Ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Employment Conditions and Benefits, Article II, Public Safety Employees, Section 19-13 (e), Employee Benefits (Longevity).

Chairman Smith stated since the agenda was drawn and opposed, he stated there was a Scribner's error. He stated Article III, the date should read on or after February 1, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Vitali 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