

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public hearing on Monday, September 8, 2014. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

F. Smith, Chairman
S. Shaw
A. Giannattasio
B. Anderson
M. Casey

ALSO PRESENT

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

Chairman F. Smith stated the legal notice for tonight's meeting was posted in the New Haven Register on September 3, 2014. Chairman Smith stated there were two Ordinances for the Committee to consider. Regarding the first Ordinance, Chairman Smith stated he has been working with the Fire Marshal on this Ordinance. He explained the language further extends the current open burning requirements. Chairman Smith stated the stated Ordinance is an additional property tax for disabled veterans who are 100% disabled.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson 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 7:05 p.m.

1. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Fire Prevention and Protections, Article V, Open Burning, Section 7-82 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Conditions on Open Burning Requiring a Permit).

Speakers in favor - none.

Speakers opposed - none.

2. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20.5, Taxation, Section 20.5-7 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Property Tax Exemption – Veterans).

Speakers in favor – none.

Speakers opposed – none.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Fire Prevention and Protections, Article V, Open Burning 7-82 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Conditions on Open Burning Requiring a Permit).

Ald. Giannattasio asked for a definition of a permitted situation where a permit would be needed, and if the Chairman could elaborate on the reason for the permit.

Chairman Smith stated in his district there were three instances. He stated in these instances he was referring to camp fires that were ignited very close to a structure and also there was a smoke condition as a result of the fire. He stated the conditions are not for a bar-b-que. He went on to read the clause that has been added to the Ordinance, pointing out it really was more of a housekeeping matter. Chairman Smith stated it was the opinion of the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal that this language strengthened the Ordinance.

Ald. Giannattasio expressed concern as to how someone would know whether or not they needed a permit. He stated he was in favor of the 10' restriction, but questioned how the public could be educated.

Chairman Smith agreed it was a good point, but that it does not negate that there is an open burning ordinance already in place. He stated the language in the full Ordinance which is quite clear.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he would be in favor, but in the future he would like to see the Committee work closely with the City Attorney to have a better understanding of the Ordinance and the changes, as well as the public.

Chairman Smith stated there are a number of neighboring towns that have a dimensional requirement in their burning Ordinance. He also stated the Fire Chief was in full support of this Ordinance.

Ald. Casey stated he wished to be clear, without this language the chief would be unable to deny a permit.

Chairman Smith stated the reality is that the Fire Marshal will not be driving around town looking for these types of fires, but it would be enforceable if any complaints are received.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20.5, Taxation, Section 20.5-7 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Property Tax Exemption – Veterans).

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the Mayor could elaborate more. Also, along with the exception, it was his understanding the state would be reimbursed 60%.

Mayor Blake stated that was the initial figure, but he recently learned it will actually be more, as much as 90%. He also stated more veterans would be eligible under this. He explained this was introduced by Milford's State delegation and the wait has certainly been worth it. Mayor Blake reiterated there could be as much as 75% more would be eligible

Mr. Thomas, City Assessor stated in order to receive the property tax exemption they must be 100% disabled.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Committee adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary