

3 PRIMROSE STREET
NEWTOWN, CT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4201
FAX (203) 270-4205
www.newtown-ct.gov



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

PRESENT: Joe Girgasky, Eva Bermudez, Paul Lundquist, Bob Merola, Neil Chaudhary, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Tony Filiato, Phil Carroll

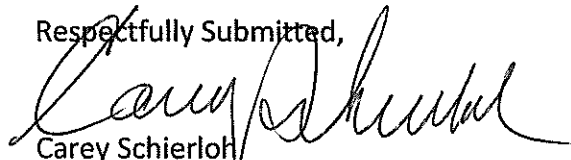
ABSENT: George Ferguson, Ryan Knapp, Dan Honan

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Newtown State Representative Mitch Bolinsky, Superintendent Joe Erardi, Board of Education members John Vouros, Laura Roche, Michele Ku and Keith Alexander, Director of Land Use George Benson, Public Works Director Fred Hurley, Attorney David Groggins, Charter Revision Commission members Jeff Capeci, Bob Hall, Eric Paradis, Deborra Zukowski, Dan Wiedemann, Kevin Burns and James Ritchie, 16 members of the public, 2 press.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Carroll called the hearing to order at 7:30pm. The ordinance committee is recommending an amendment enabling the municipal option of Public Act No 13-224, providing a tax exemption for One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans and recommending a change regarding term limits on the Sustainable Energy Commission, per the attached documents.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully Submitted,


Carey Schierloh
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Ordinance 100% Totally Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption
Ordinance Sustainable Energy Commission Term Limits

These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Legislative Council at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting at which they were corrected.

Rec'd. for Record 10-9-2015
Town Clerk of Newtown 1:12 PM
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

**An Ordinance Expanding the Additional Tax-Exemption
Available for Totally Disabled Veterans**

WHEREAS Public Act 13-224 authorized municipalities to implement an additional tax exemption for veterans who are 100% disabled and who meet certain income eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, C.G.S. § 12-81g(e) provides that, pursuant to the terms of that section, the State shall reimburse each town to the extent of the revenue loss represented by the additional exemptions provided for in C.G.S. § 12-81g(b); and

WHEREAS the implementation of this exemption will further recognize the Town of Newtown's veterans who are most in need of tax relief.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN THAT sections 208-16, 208-17, and 208-19 of the Town of Newtown Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

§ 208-16 Amount of Exemption; income limits

- A. Any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Subdivision 19 of § 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be entitled to an additional exemption, provided such veteran's qualifying income does not exceed \$41,200 for a single veteran or \$45,000 for a married veteran. The exemption, in the greater amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the assessed value of the property, shall be applied to the assessed value of an eligible veteran's property.
- B. Effective for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2015 and each assessment year thereafter, the additional exemption from property tax permitted by Connecticut General Statutes § 12-81g(b) for veterans and their spouses pursuant to the provisions of Subdivision 20 of Connecticut General Statutes § 12-81 is hereby authorized for those persons who meet the eligibility requirements of said sections.

§ 208-17 Exemption for surviving spouses

Any veteran's surviving spouse entitled to an exemption from property tax, in accordance with Subdivision 22 of § 12-81, shall be entitled to an additional exemption, provided such surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed \$41,200. The exemption, in the greater amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the assessed value of the property, shall be applied to the assessed value of an eligible surviving spouse's property.

§ 208-18 Administration

The Assessor of the Town of Newtown shall administer the veteran's tax exempt program as set forth in C.G.S. § 12-81(f) as amended by Public Act 03-44 and C.G.S. § 12-81g as amended by Public Act 13-224.

Chapter 20. Commissions and Committees

Article VIII. Sustainable Energy Commission

[Adopted by the Legislative Council 10-7-2009 (Ord. No. 93)]

§ 20-43. Establishment; membership.

A Sustainable Energy Commission is hereby established for the Town of Newtown. Said Commission shall consist of nine members appointed by the First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The term of office shall be three years, which shall expire at regularly staggered annual intervals. The Charter provisions on minority representation shall be observed.

~~A Sustainable Energy Commission is hereby established for the Town of Newtown. Said Commission shall consist of nine members appointed by the First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The term of office shall be three years, with the initial appointment staggered so that the terms of three such members shall expire on January 7, 2011, three on January 7, 2012, and three on January 7, 2013. The Charter provisions on minority representation shall be observed. No person shall be appointed to more than three consecutive full-year terms, nor appointed to fill a vacancy occurring within one year after the termination of the third term.~~

§ 20-44. Powers and duties.

The Sustainable Energy Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

A.

To identify, implement and support renewable energy use, energy efficiency and energy conservation programs in which the Town's residents, businesses, organizations and Town agencies can participate and that may result in cost savings to the Town or school district.

B.

To disseminate information relating to cost-effective and environmentally conscious renewable energy use, energy efficiency, and energy conservation programs.

C.

To support the efforts of Town officials and employees to identify and implement renewable energy use, energy efficiency and energy conservation programs.

D.

To make recommendations to and receive recommendations from appropriate local, regional, state and federal officials and agencies, boards and commissions regarding action to improve the Town's energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy use.

E.

To advertise and maintain a website and prepare, print and distribute books, charts and materials, and the Commission may collect, compile and disseminate information relative to the promotion of energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy use.

F.

To support, develop and organize such other programs or innovations as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

§ 20-45. Meetings and reports; rules and regulations.

A.

The Commission shall meet monthly, at least 10 times per year, and at such other times as the Commission may determine. A Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary shall be chosen, and the Commission is empowered to adopt rules and regulations for putting into effect the provisions of this article, which rules and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the provisions thereof. Such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Town Clerk.

B.

The Commission shall annually prepare and transmit to the Legislative Council and to the Board of Selectmen a report of its activities and of its recommendations for energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. Such report shall be due on the first day of October in each year. Other reports may be requested from time to time by the Board of Selectmen or by the Legislative Council.

§ 20-46. Receipt and disbursement of funds.

A.

All funds received by the Sustainable Energy Commission from any source other than a specific gift or bequest shall be placed in the custody of the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown to be held, administered and disbursed by the Financial Director as part of and through the General Fund of the Town of Newtown, subject to any limitations on the use of the funds. The Sustainable Energy Commission shall authorize the disbursement of all funds appropriated by the Town for the purposes of energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable energy.

B.

All funds received by the Sustainable Energy Commission from a specific gift or from a specific bequest shall be placed in the custody of the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown and shall be kept by the Financial Director in an account that shall be known as the "Sustainable Energy Commission Gift Fund," which account shall be separate and distinct from all other Town accounts. Disbursements from the Sustainable Energy Commission Gift Fund shall be made on order of the Sustainable Energy Commission only, in accordance with the terms of the specific gifts or bequests which make up the fund. With proper documentation, all checks drawn on the Gift Fund shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown. The funds referred to herein are for the exclusive use of the Sustainable Energy Commission and shall not be used for any purpose other than as authorized by the Commission.

§ 20-47. Member compensation; expenses.

Members of the Commission shall serve without pay. Necessary expenses of members incurred in the performance of their duties may be paid from funds appropriated for such purpose, if any.

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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2015
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

MOTIONS

MINUTES: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015. MOTION SECOND BY MR. GIRGASKY. APPROVED.

Charter Revision public hearing date: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF OCTOBER 21, 2015 FOR THE REVISED CHARTER. SECOND BY MR. LUNDQUIST. APPROVED.

NHS Band Truck: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,540 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE SANDY HOOK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR A N.H.S. BAND TRUCK TO BE OPERATED BY THE NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL BAND PARENTS CORPORATION (NHSBPC). SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE ENTIRE RESOLUTION. SECOND BY MR. LUNDQUIST. APPROVED. MOTION APPROVED. 2 NAYS – Mr. Chaudhary, Ms. Jacob

Alarm Ordinance: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ALARM ORDINANCE. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. APPROVED.

Purchasing Ordinance: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PURCHASING ORDINANCE. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. APPROVED.

Sustainable Energy Ordinance: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ORDINANCE. SECOND BY MR. LUNDQUIST. APPROVED.

Totally Disabled Veterans Ordinance: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO APPROVE TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS ORDINANCE. SECOND BY MR. GIRGASKY. APPROVED.

Tax Abatement for Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Underwater Rescue Personnel: MR CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO REFER TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE AND UNDERWATER RESCUE PERSONNEL TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE WITH THE CHARGE OF RESEARCHING, IF WARRANTED, DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ENTIRE COUNCIL. SECOND BY MR. LUNDQUIST. APPROVED.

Rec'd. for Record 10-9 2015
Town Clerk of Newtown 1:12 PM
Debbie Aurelie Halstead