

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**Town of Montville Town Council**  
**Monday, March 12, 2012**  
**6:45 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Buebendorf called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Caron, Longton, Jones (6:50 p.m.), McFee, Tanner and Buebendorf. Absent was Councilor Murphy. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel.

4. Public Hearing

Chairperson Buebendorf read the following into the record;

The following Ordinance, copies of which may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk during office hours, was introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Council held February 13, 2012 and a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Town Council will be held at Town Hall Council Chambers, March 12, 2012 at 6:45 P.M.

**ORDINANCE REGARDING POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS**

**THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:**

That individuals and groups of individuals serving on any Town Board or Commission shall not submit any letters to the editor or make other public political statements endorsing any political candidate on behalf of the Board or Commission. Individuals may express such political endorsements as private citizens. Violations shall be subject to the provisions in the Town Charter, Section C410.

This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its adoption.

Dated at Montville Connecticut this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012.

Lisa Terry, Montville Town Clerk

Chairperson Buebendorf read the ordinance into the record and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Mary Clark Wilson, 6 Richard Lane, Uncasville spoke in favor of the ordinance, stating Boards and Commissions should remain neutral and a whole committee endorsing a certain candidate for political office is not proper and she stated she is in favor of passing the ordinance.

Mr. David Jetmore, 70 Velgous Lane, Oakdale, spoke in opposition to the ordinance, stating it has the potential to cause problems, he stated the individual boards and commissions should express the need to keep opinions to themselves.

Mr. Daniel Dunn spoke in opposition to the ordinance, stating the ordinance is based on one word that was misinterpreted. He stated the opinion of the Town Attorney is not clear and the ordinance is a moot point. He stated censorship is not legal or fair and does not allow freedom of speech, stating this is a slippery slope and he stated it is a shame the grey areas of the ordinance were not clarified and need to be clarified. He quoted the attorney's opinion regarding removal of a person from a Board or Commission. He urged the Council to do the right thing and not to vote on this issue at this time.

Mr. Richard Gladue, Cook Drive, spoke against the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Mary Clark Wilson, 6 Richard Lane, stated she understands people are against the ordinance, and hopes that a policy is put in place if an ordinance is not to keep Boards and Commissions politically neutral.

Chairperson Buebendorf asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

## 5. Adjournment

Chairperson Buebenodorf closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.