

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Town of Montville Town Council
Monday, April 9, 2012
6:30 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Buebendorf called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Absent was Councilor Caron. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel.

4. Public Hearing

Chairperson Buebendorf opened the public hearing and read the following summary 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 March 12, 2012 and a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Town Council will be held at Town Hall Council Chambers, April 9, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide additional property tax exemption for veterans as provided for in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81f.

SECTION 2 - EXEMPTION. Any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81(19) shall be entitled to an additional exemption of \$10,000 of such assessed value applied to the assessed value of an eligible veteran's property, provided such veteran's qualifying income does not exceed the applicable maximum amount as provided under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81f and provided such veteran complies with the claim and application procedures set forth in subsections (4) and (5) of this ordinance.

SECTION 3 - EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE. Any veteran's surviving spouse entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81(22) shall be entitled to an additional exemption of \$10,000 of such assessed value applied to the assessed value of an eligible surviving spouse's property, provided such surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed the applicable maximum amount as provided under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81f and provided such surviving spouse complies with the claim and application procedures set forth in subsections (4) and (5) of this ordinance.

SECTION 4 - APPLICATION PROCESS. Any such veteran or surviving spouse submitting a claim for such additional exemption shall be required to file an application on a form prepared for such purpose by the Town Assessor, no later than the assessment date which such additional exemption is claimed, provided when an applicant has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such applicant shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of subsection (5) of this ordinance. Each such application shall include a copy of such veteran's or surviving spouse's federal income tax return, or in the

event such return is not filed, such evidence related to income as may be required by the Town assessor for the tax year ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is claimed. For purposes of this ordinance income is defined as income from all sources, including tax-exempt interest and Social Security payments.

SECTION 5 - APPLICATION RENEWAL. Any person who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the additional exemption under subsection (2) or (3) of this ordinance shall, in any year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the Town assessor shall notify, in writing, each person presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. If any such person has qualifying income in excess of the maximum amount allowed under said subsection (2) or (3), such person shall notify the Town assessor on or before the next filing date for such exemption and shall be denied such exemption for the assessment year immediately following and any subsequent year until such person has reapplied and again qualified for such exemption. Any person who fails to notify the Town assessor of such disqualification shall make payment to the town in the amount of the property tax loss related to the exemption improperly taken.

SECTION 6 – SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ADOPTION. Upon the adoption of this ordinance, a summary of the ordinance shall be published in lieu of the complete text of the ordinance.

SECTION 7 - SAVINGS CLAUSE. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance, or if any regulation established pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance, shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect or impair any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance or of any regulation established pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8 - EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption.

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

Dated at Montville Connecticut this 13th day of March 2012.

Lisa Terry, Montville Town Clerk

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

Councilor Dana McFee, 27 Crestview Drive, Uncasville stated he has respect for all the veterans and all they have done for the citizens of the United States and he listed the members of his family who are or have served in the military over the years. He stated the proposal for the exemptions comes at a bad time for the Town of Montville with revenues lost from business closings and loss of revenue could result in the loss of a school teacher if cuts are proposed. He proposed the Council vote in favor of the ordinance but to consider phasing in the total amount of the exemptions over the next four years in increments to lessen the impact to the town.

Mr. Wills Pike, 21 Pheasant Hill, stated he is a veteran and members of his family are veterans who have served their country over the years. He stated this proposal is essential and should get passed by this Council. The impact to the Town is minimal according to the Finance Director and should be passed for the benefit of the veterans in town. He stated he is in support of the ordinance and it is a small debt for the service the veterans have provided this country.

Councilor Jones, 61 Old Colchester Road Ext. stated her father is a veteran who served his country proudly with little or no recognition. It is a sacrifice that many make today with all the world conflicts that are ongoing. She stated she supports the ordinance but suggested the town start off with a five thousand dollar exemption to determine what impact the exemption will have on the town budget. She discussed spousal benefits and requested a time frame for eligibility be established for the exemption benefits. She stated she supports the ordinance but asked the Council to take into consideration her proposed changes.

Mr. Joseph Catillo, Uncasville, stated he is on a fixed income and is a veteran and he stated any benefit would be appreciated for those veterans who are in need.

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

5. Adjournment

There being no further comment the public hearing was closed at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.