

Town of Montville Town Council
Public Hearing Minutes for Wednesday, August 12, 2015
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
Chairman Jaskiewicz 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 Caron, Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz.
Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Public Hearing
Chairman Jaskiewicz opened the public hearing and introduced the following Ordinance:

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE HEARING

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 July 13, 2015 and a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Town Council will be held at Town Hall Council Chambers, August 12, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS
FROM CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS that:

No dogs or other domestic animals, whether leashed or unleashed, attended or unattended, shall be permitted on areas designated on a map entitled dog ordinance map, which map is expressly incorporated herein, and copies of which shall be available for inspection in the offices of the Town Clerk and of the Mayor during the Town's regular business hours. The areas designated on the map within which dogs and other domestic animals shall not be permitted are generally on publicly and privately-owned athletic fields and surrounding spectator areas, and/or playgrounds owned or maintained by the Town of Montville. This Ordinance shall not apply and shall not be enforced during such events as may be identified by the Mayor of the Town of Montville in advance. The Mayor will make reasonable efforts to post notice of such events on the Town of Montville website. The prohibitions of this Ordinance shall not apply at any time to "service," "guide," and /or "assistance" dogs as defined by law, including without limitation, General Statutes § 46a-44(d). A violator of this Ordinance shall be fined \$25.00 for each separate violation.

This ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) days after its adoption by the Town Council, or thirty (30) days after a Town Council override of a veto by the Mayor, if any.

Dated at Montville Connecticut this 16th day of July, 2015.

Lisa Terry, Town Clerk

Chairman Jaskiewicz asked if there was anyone present from the public who would like to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

Chris Zawada, 58 Leitao Drive, Oakdale, spoke in opposition to the Ordinance, stating the limitations of non-restricted areas available for pets and recommended revisiting the Ordinance following the completion of the Dog Park.

Michelle Lemiux, 32 Podurgiel Lane, Uncasville, a 41-year resident of Montville, supported the establishment of a Dog Park where dogs are able to exercise, run, and play freely, decreasing the roaming of dogs, aid in animal control, and increasing the safety of the dogs.

Colleen Rix, 74 Roselund Road, Uncasville, suggested tabling the Ordinance until the Town's Animal Control Officer (ACO) and the public is better informed on the issue. She added that there has been no notification or meeting with the Town's ACO or affected departments and questions the ability and worthiness of enforcing the Ordinance.

John Geary, 11 Depot Road, Uncasville, stated that he has often found himself zig-zagging on Palmer Field where he walks his dog and felt that dog owners should clean up their pet's messes and, should they not opt to do so, a serious penalty should be waged.

Scott LaVallie, 727 Old Colchester Road, Uncasville, a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission, spoke in favor of the Ordinance, stating that the purpose of the Ordinance is to keep animals off of the playing fields where children play. He felt that it is important to push the Ordinance forward for the health and safety of the children. In response to Chairman Jaskiewicz, he confirmed that the ACO was not involved in their discussions regarding the Ordinance, but Councilor May confirmed that, during the review of the Ordinance by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee, the Montville Police Lieutenant was requested to review and provide his thoughts regarding the Ordinance and its enforcement. Lt. Bunnell did not recall reviewing the Ordinance.

Joe Rogulski, 74 Roselund Hill Road, Uncasville, spoke in opposition to the Ordinance, stating that he has spoken with a lacrosse coach, who utilizes the field, is a dog owner, and opposes the Ordinance and felt that, sooner or later, one will encounter and experience stepping into animal droppings. He also believed that the Town currently does not have a leash law and felt that the Town should institute a leash law prior to adopting the Ordinance.

Councilor Tanner, spoke on behalf of Parks & Recreation Commissioner Karen Perkins, who felt that the Ordinance, as presented, appears that dogs are not allowed on any of the Town's fields. She proposed placing "Keep Dogs off Field" signs at the Camp Oakdale playing fields, which was, to her understanding, the primary goal of the Ordinance. Fair Oaks should be excluded from the Ordinance, as there are no playing fields at that location.

Chairman Jaskiewicz asked three times if there was anyone present from the public who would like to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

5. Adjournment

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE MONTVILLE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE