

Town of Montville Town Council
Public Hearing Minutes for Monday, September 8, 2014
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 read the following into the record:

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 special meeting of the Town Council held August 18, 2014 and a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Town Council will be held at Town Hall Council Chambers, September 8, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 345, ARTICLE VI, ORD. NO. 2012-004
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 **by more than 25% up to a maximum of \$25,000, as provided in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81f(a)**, the applicable maximum amount as provided under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81l 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 **by more than 25% up to a maximum of \$25,000, as provided in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81f(a)**, the applicable maximum amount as provided under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81l 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 12th day of August 2014.

Lisa Terry, Montville Town Clerk

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

Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, asked whether the Finance Committee approved the Ordinance, how much it will cost, and how many people would be affected should the Ordinance pass. The Mayor confirmed that the Finance Committee did approve the Ordinance and Finance Director Terry Hart stated that it is difficult to estimate the cost and number of people it would affect as those who would qualify had not been able to apply. Under the current Ordinance, 129 veterans qualify for the exemption at a cost of approximately \$300.00 per veteran.

Mr. Siragusa estimated that the Ordinance would cost the taxpayers approximately \$30,000.00 to support the exemption. He added that all veterans should be provided with that aid, not just the select few in comparison to his senior tax plan, which would have made money for the Town over time and supported all seniors.

Chairman Jaskiewicz asked three times if there were any additional persons from the public who would like to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

5. Adjournment

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:35 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