

**Town of Montville Town Council
Public Hearing Minutes
August 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Council Chambers – via GoToWebinar**

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town Charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToWebinar.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least 1 working day in advance (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor and Council.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToWebinar by registering at the web address or calling from your telephone or computer mic & speakers (VoIP) noted above.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

1. Call to Order
Chairman May called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Public Hearing

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING A
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR BUILDINGS USED IN FARMING**

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

- A. The Town of Montville finds that the preservation of farming and farmland is vitally important to retaining Montville's character and quality of life, as well as promoting economic and environmental sustainability. Pursuant to the authority granted under C.G.S.A. § 12-91(c), as amended, any building used actually and exclusively in farming, as defined in C.G.S.A. § 1-1, or for any building used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer upon proper application being made in accordance with this section, shall be exempt from property tax to the extent of an assessed value of one hundred thousand dollars.
 - B. This exemption shall not apply to the residence of any farmer.
 - C. Annually, within thirty days after the assessment date, each individual farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation shall make written application for the exemption provided in subsection A. of this section to the assessor, including therewith a notarized affidavit certifying that such farmer, individually or as part of a group, partnership or corporation, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars in gross sales from such farming operation, or incurred at least fifteen thousand dollars in expenses related to such farming operation, with respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior to the commencement of the assessment year for which such application is made, on forms prescribed by the commissioner of agriculture. Failure to file such application in said manner and form within the time limit prescribed shall be considered a waiver of the right to such exemption for the assessment year.
 - D. Upon passage, this section shall take effect pursuant to Section C312 of the Montville Town Charter, and apply to taxes owing on the Grand List of October 1, 2020.
5. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit
Chairman May introduced the “Ordinance Regarding Property Tax Exemption for Buildings Used in Farming” and asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak regarding the Ordinance.
No comments were voiced.
6. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor
Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the Ordinance was reviewed by the Town Administration/ Rules of Procedures Standing Committee and, after speaking with Town Assessor Lucy Beit, who did not see any adverse effects of the Ordinance, he supports the Ordinance.
Mayor McDaniel stated that, while the Ordinance will have a very nominal impact on the town, it will provide a very important function helping to support their local farmers and encourage sustainability practices in the town and the state, as a whole.
Councilor Caron and May expressed their full support of the Ordinance.
7. Adjournment
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to close the Public Hearing and adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – FORM REPOSITORY – MEETING RECORDINGS