

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN
HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Public Hearing Subject Matter

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT EXTENDING THE ELDERLY TAX RELIEF
ORDINANCE SECTION 17-6

Present

Paul A. Bowman, Vice Chairman; Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, and Peter Talbot.

Absent: Robert J. Oris, Thomas Ruocco and Timothy Slocum.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Deputy Chief Brian Pichnarcik.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

Chairman Bowman moved the Pledge of Allegiance and Proclamation for Scouting Recognition Day in Cheshire - February 15, 2017 - to current status on the public hearing agenda.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Scout Leaders lead the Town Council and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Bowman commended the scouting program for its long tradition of community service, building character and confidence in the Scouts. He read the proclamation in Recognition of Scouting Day. Council members personally congratulated each Boy Scout and Girl Scout and Scout Leader present for their commitment to Scouting.

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

Mr. Bowman explained the procedure for a public hearing of the Town Council.

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Town Manager Milone explained that Cheshire has two elderly tax relief programs...tax relief ordinance and tax freeze ordinance. The intention of these programs is to provide tax relief to the elderly and disabled with low incomes. The programs have been in effect in Cheshire for 20+ years. Each year the Council must adopt the programs for one year; there is a sunset provision in the programs; and to go on longer they must be re-adopted by the Council.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, asked about the program being available to those who are permanently disabled.

Mr. Milone restated that the program includes all people who meet the criteria under the State Statute.

Derf Kleist stated his support of the programs, and noted that Social Security increased 3%, and the programs should increase by at least 1.7%. This would increase the annual cost to the Town by about \$60,000.

6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.
7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.
8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bowman adjourned the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk