

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHEHSIRE CT 06410.**

Present

Tim Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Patti FlynnHarris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Robert Oris, Jr., Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot.
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Michael Donnelly, Town Attorney; James Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, PW Director; Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer; Carolyn Soltis, Town Clerk; Vincent Masciana, BOE Director of Management Services.

Public Hearing Subject Matter

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES
TAX EXEMPTION, SECTION 17-6 (new)

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

Chairman Slocum explained the procedure for a Town Council public hearing.

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Town Manager Milone explained this is a request from Bloomingdale/Macys for tax exemption for installation of fuel cells on their property. The company is eligible for 100% of the equipment value. Two other companies will also fall into this window and come forward to avail themselves of the provision. The condition recommended by the Council is that the abatement, which can be up to 100%, will only be 45%, consistent with tax incentives for new businesses or business expansions granted.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, asked about a sunset provision of 5 to 10 years should things change in the future.

Ms. Nichols explained this is a one time tax exemption.

Mr. Milone stated there is no sunset provision, so once approved it lasts as long as the equipment is in the ownership of the company.

Mr. Sitko said the fuel cell will be depreciated; it is 80% depreciation now; and will reduce to 30%; and right now the tax break is 45%. It will go from \$34,000 to \$13,000 at full depreciation, over a five year period.

Mr. Sima commented on the broad range of the exemption, and asked about solar rays and geothermal also being eligible for this provision, not just fuel cells.

The Council was informed by Mr. Sitko it must be certified by PURA as a Class 2 Renewable Building and installed between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2013. After January 1, 2014 the exemption is 100%.

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

Chairman Slocum adjourned the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk