

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, AT 7:00 P.M., AUGUST 2, 2016, TOWN HALL, ROOM 207, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present

Ordinance Review Committee Members: Paul Bowman, Patti Flynn-Harris, and Tim Slocum.

Staff: Lou Zullo, Ramona Burkey, and Bob Ceccolini
Town Attorney Al Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag

3. TOWN HISTORIAN “EMERITUS” TITLE

Former Town Historian Ron Gagliardi has bestowed upon himself the title of Town Historian Emeritus. The use of the word ‘emeritus’ would seem to mean having served as Town Historian and the term is just honorary, not having the ability to make decisions. The Town of Cheshire did not give Ron Gagliardi the title Emeritus. He does work with the Town Historical Committee on an ad hoc and free basis. Patti-Flynn Harris said that the Town will not codify the use of the term emeritus of the Town Historian. While Mr. Gagliardi can’t declare himself as the Town Historian, he can in theory call himself any title but it will not be an official designation coming through codification by the Town.

4. REQUEST FOR ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR BUILDING FEE WAIVER FOR THE CHESHIRE FOOD PANTRY

The Committee was to give consideration to the proposed ordinance that was drafted to Town Attorney Smith.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

Fees for all types of construction, renovation, expansion or other building fees shall not be charged for municipal projects, with the exception of the office of the state building inspector educational training fee.

The town council may waive the fees for new construction provided that each of the following criteria are met:

The property and building shall be owned entirely by a public charity operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The owner provides the delivery of key services for the greater good of the citizens of Cheshire.

The new construction will result in a building size 5,000 square feet or more and with a total assessed value over \$750,000.00.

As of March 1, 2010, and thereafter, a one hundred fifty dollar (\$150.00) flat rate late fee shall be charged for any work requiring a building or mechanical permit that is commenced prior to obtaining said permit.

The waiver of fees that meet the above criteria in (d) shall be effective as of January 1, 2016.

Discussion

There was discussion initiated by Paul Bowman to waive the building permit fees for projects that are classified at a tax-exempt organization and serving a greater good.

Tim Slocum, believed there should be a reduction in the fee or even a flat fee. Al Smith said that tax-exempt is too subjective because it is for the “greater good”. All required inspections are determined by the CT General Statutes and the Town pays the inspection fees. Organizations that donate food, clothing, shelter may qualify to have the town pay for building inspection fees.

Motion was made to forward the proposed ordinance to the Town Council to set a public hearing date. Motion by Tim Slocum, seconded by Paul Bowman. Passed unanimously.

5. TOBACCO-FREE ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

Bob Ceccolini, Parks and Recreation Director, suggested that the Town promote a healthy community by omitting smoking in public parks. The issue of enforcement was raised. How does one monitor smoking in parks? It was suggested that signage be put up to deter smoking.

The Committee asked Town Attorney Al Smith to draft an ordinance at which time the Committee will refer the draft prior to referral to the full Town Council.

6. ALCOHOL USE AT SPECIAL EVENTS AT TOWN FACILITIES

Library Director Ramona Burkey spoke about allowing beer and wine at events at the Cheshire Public Library and Artsplace that are revenue generating and sponsored by the Library and ArtsPlace. She cited examples that if a third-party was sponsoring the event, the liability of checking IDs and such would be covered by the insurance of the third party. Also, the third-party would be responsible for clean-up. It was discussed that the town had previously allowed alcohol consumption at Parks and Recreation facilities. Ramona Burkey will meet with the Town Attorney and a representative of the Town’s insurer to further discuss a policy.

7. NOISE ORDINANCE

Lou Zullo distributed samples of noise ordinances from other Connecticut cities and towns are the committee to review.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by to adjourn by Paul Bowman, seconded by Tim Slocum at 8:30pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Acting Clerk