

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2015 AT 7:00PM IN ROOM 115, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present

Sylvia Nichols, Chairman and Liz Linehan; Absent: James Sima

Staff: Town Attorney Al Smith; Personnel Director/Assistant Town Manager Louis Zullo; Economic Development Coordinator Jerry Sitko; Assessor Mario Panagrosso

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION; ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR TAX EXEMPTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS.**

Town Attorney Smith distributed an amended draft of the ordinance that has one slight change from the draft provided to the committee in its packet. The amended copy stated that the ordinance would begin with the assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2015.

Town Assessor Panagrosso explained that Connecticut General Statutes enabled local ordinances to provide property tax abatements of up to 100% for those commercial establishments that had installed Class I renewable energy systems between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2013. He explained that it was the staff recommendation that the proposed ordinance would provide for property tax abatement of 45%. Economic Development Coordinator Jerry Sitko said that the 45% abatement in this ordinance was chosen because 45% is what the Town provides for property tax abatements. Mario Panagrosso stated that Macy's was the only one of three places in Town that have been identified as having installed renewable energy generating systems during the eligible period. Macy's is the only application received to date. The deadline is November 1.

In response to a question from Chairperson Nichols, Mario Panagrosso replied that this abatement was not retroactive. In response to a question from Councilperson Linehan, Mario Panagrosso responded that there are to his knowledge only two other Connecticut cities or towns that have passed such an ordinance.

Mario Panagrosso stated that in addition to Macy's there are two others that are potentially eligible. He also stated that the value of abatement to Macy's would be about \$35,000. Should the others be eligible and apply, the abatements would be \$44,000 and \$3,400, respectively.

A motion was made Liz Linehan, seconded by Sylvia Nichols, that the draft ordinance be moved to the full Town Council to set a public hearing date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis A. Zullo