

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL,
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Chairman Robert J. Oris Jr. ; Vice Chairman Paul A. Bowman; Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Alfred Smith, Town Attorney; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Dept. of Education - Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer.

PUBLIC HEARING SUBJECT MATTER:

**CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT GRANTING
A TAX EXEMPTION TO CERTAIN VETERANS, SECTION 17-17 (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 Oris 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 advised the State recently adopted this legislation, and municipalities can also adopt the program, but it is not mandated. He stated there are three veterans in Cheshire who qualify for this program with 100% disability and income eligibility. They can get a \$3,000 exemption on their property value, a reduction of \$97 per year in taxes.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

Ray Squier asked if the program completely frees these three veterans of tax payments on their homes...or is it just for a portion of the taxes.

Mr. Milone stated it is only for a portion of the property taxes.

In that case, Mr. Squier said these veterans should not have to pay any taxes on their property, and asked about this cost to the Town.

Stating he was uncertain of the exact cost, Mr. Milone reported there are other veterans with 100% disability who do not meet the income eligibility for the program. He explained that Cheshire has other sources of generous exemptions extended to veterans and senior citizens. The subject program is one of many for veterans based on this benefit under the new statute.

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

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

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk