

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE  
AMENDING THE GENERAL PROVISION FOR THE SALE OF  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

**DECEMBER 12, 2006 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER 552, 999**

---

President Scott Slifka called the hearing to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present were Councilors Shari Cantor, Barbara Carpenter, Chuck Coursey, Maureen Kelly McClay, Mark Sinatro, Scott Slifka, Art Spada and Joseph Verrengia. Councilor Carolyn Thornberry absent.

President Slifka: Thank you Mrs. Guest. It looks like we have a presentation from the administration and Ms. Boneham is in charge tonight.

Ms. Boneham: A very short presentation, I am Kimberly Boneham for the Town. This ordinance was actually originally adopted back in 1981 and it was part of a substantial revision to the existing liquor ordinances at the time. They were broken out separately by various categories and during the revision back in 1981 this small section addressing the sales on January 1<sup>st</sup> was phrased in such a way that it created an unintended result but it really wasn't noticed at the time of the adoption or even twenty five years since. It was recently brought to our attention and upon researching it we realized that it did need to be corrected. It hasn't caused any problems to date to what we believe but we also felt that since New Year's Day was coming up it would be optimal to change it beforehand. Essentially, the amendment just makes the portion of the ordinance that deals with January 1<sup>st</sup> sales consistent with State statute.

President Slifka: That was brief. Thank you. Does anybody have any questions for Ms. Boneham? Mrs. Carpenter.

Councilor Carpenter: Yes, I just want to make it very clear that I have gotten a few e-mails from people and there was a little bit of confusion or concern that we were actually relaxing again the alcohol, sale of alcohol in our town buildings. I just think that, I understand the intent but I think we need to be very clear with our residents that this does not include any relaxing any kind of alcoholic sales in our town.

**Ms. Boneham:** That is correct. This does not relax it in any way, shape or form and in fact the town actually has more strict prohibitions than the statute has.

**President Slifka:** Thank you Mrs. Carpenter.

**Councilor Carpenter:** Thank you so much Mayor Slifka. The other follow up question would be these should be the exact same restrictions that are placed on any town in the State of Connecticut based on those dates and times so the closing of, when I looked at the closing of the times because of January 1<sup>st</sup> falls, so you would find these across the state?

**Ms. Boneham:** Well you would. In fact, they follow the statutes.

**Councilor Carpenter:** Thank you very much.

**Ms. Boneham:** If they follow the statute you would but some of the towns may choose to make it even more restrictive if they wanted to. I can't say that every town has it until 3 a.m. Some of them could have it until 2 a.m. or 1 a.m. if they wanted to.

**Councilor Carpenter:** Joe if you could follow up on that, I just thought it was pretty much consistent across the towns.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Well what it is state statute allows the service of alcoholic beverages up until 3 a.m. on January 1<sup>st</sup>. That is because of the New Year's Eve celebrations. When we adopted our town ordinance it was mistakenly referred to as 3 a.m. on January 2<sup>nd</sup> which would be inconsistent with state law and because you cannot stay open that late on any other day of the year other than January 1<sup>st</sup> so we are just making it January 1<sup>st</sup> which is the original intent of the ordinance so it complies with state statutes.

**Councilor Carpenter:** Thank you very much.

**President Slifka:** Thank you. Are there any further questions? Thank you.  
**Mr. O'Brien:** Is there a sign up sheet?

**Mr. O'Brien:** There is but no one has signed up.

President Slifka: Okay, for those that may be wondering where we are in the process, this is a public hearing. It is before the Town Council meeting so if there was anybody who wanted to sign up to speak to this particular item as opposed to something that is on the agenda for the Council meeting tonight, now would be your time but seeing none I will go back one more time to the Council. Anything further? Okay, with that we will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk