

MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON AN  
ORDINANCE PERMITTING CIRCULAR DRIVEWAYS IN THE INTEREST OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY

July 13, 1999

Council Chambers

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President Rob Bouvier called the hearing to order at 8:15 p.m.

Present were Councilors Holly Abery-Wetstone, Rob Bouvier, Carl Donatelli, Liz Gillette, Patrick McCabe, Jim O'Brien, John Shulansky and Al Turco. Councilor Kevin Connors was absent.

President Bouvier: Would the administration like to comment on this particular hearing?

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor, what the public hearing this evening is it is in regards to an amendment to our town ordinances that would permit the construction of a circular driveway under certain conditions that would be approved by the Town Planner. The conditions essentially would allow for the construction of that circular driveway are on arterial roadways. Those conditions don't currently exist and by the amendment to the ordinance, if so approved, it gives the Town Planner additional latitude to make those changes and approval for circular driveways to be built.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Feldman. Are there any comments from the Council? Ms. Wetstone.

Councilor Abery-Wetstone: A question for Mr. Feldman. Could you give some examples of roads that would be considered arterial?

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor, Ms. Wetstone. They would be arterial roadways perhaps Ridgewood, Sinsbury Road, Farmington Avenue, roads such as that.

Councilor Abery-Wetstone: Mountain Road?

Mr. Feldman: Mountain Road.

Councilor Abery-Wetstone: Thank you.

President Bouvier: Thank you. Mr. Alair.

Mr. Alair: If I could to follow up on that, the term arterial street is used in our plan of development and if you have a copy of the plan there actually there is a map showing the arterial streets as defined in the plan of development and we would use that definition.

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President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Alair. Any other comments? Mrs. Gillette.

Councilor Gillette: It is my understanding that our prohibition against circular driveways on certain lots has to do with lot size and with reducing the amount of pavement, etc., so that this would be more pavement than we currently allow. I guess my question is that as part of this approval process would the Town Planner also work with the homeowners for other safe alternatives for turn around possibilities that did not include as much pavement, perhaps not a circular drive but sort of design advice if it was obvious?

President Bouvier: Mr. Feldman.

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Gillette, good question. The answer of course is yes. We have done that in the past and will continue to do that in the future.

Councilor Gillette: I know we have done it in the past and with some success so I was hoping it would continue.

Mr. Feldman: Yes.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mrs. Gillette. Any other comments or questions? If not.

Councilor Turco: Is there a sign up sheet?

President Bouvier: Do we have a sign up sheet?

Mr. Alair: There is a sign up sheet. It is blank.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Alair. Thank you, Mr. Turco. If not, we will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk