

MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON AN  
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 30-8, 30-12, 30-17, 30-20, 30-24  
AND 30-53 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD  
PENSION PLAN

March 10, 1998

Council Chambers

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President Rob Bouvier called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

President Bouvier: In the file we have a revised addition to correct the date of written. Mr. Feldman.

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor, what you have before you is an ordinance that would amend the Town's pension ordinance.

Mr. Alair: We do have a substitute.

President Bouvier: Boy, that is hot off the press! Excuse me, Mr. Alair.

Mr. Feldman: I will explain the substitute in just a second as soon as Pat hands them out.

President Bouvier: Mr. Feldman.

Mr. Feldman: Let me see if we can maybe begin again. Your public hearing is on a substitute amended ordinance that amends the Town's pension ordinance and there is just a very minor substitution and I will try to point that out to you. In the substitute that you just received from Pat there is a date change that in the first paragraph where it says window member, I believe it is one, two, three, fourth line from the bottom of that paragraph, the original ordinance had a date of May 7th. The new ordinance or the substitute ordinance has a date now of June 30, 1998 and the reason is that is the time frame that the employee who may select the incentive to retire needs to respond back to the Town in regards to any written agreement or general release that he or she must sign. So the date is just extended by that few week period. That is the reason for the substitution.

The amended ordinance is to recognize and to allow for a retirement program that gives a certain incentive to certain employees that work for the Town of West Hartford. Those employees are described in, essentially in the first paragraph in what is called the window member. For the record I will just that the employees, the incentive is

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being offered to employees in the Public Works Department other than the employee who is the Director or a member of the clerical staff of that department. It is offered to an employee of the Town's Department of Human Services, the Social Services Division who performs social services functions that will be assumed by the State of Connecticut on or about July 1, 1998 and is in part c of our plan. We also offer it to an Assistant Fire Chief. Let me just make sure I am covering everybody. Is that Pat I believe?

Mr. Alair: I think that was it.

Mr. Feldman: The incentive is similar, actually it is the same incentive that we have offered two times before; once I believe in 1992 and once in 1995. What the incentive is at the employee's choice is to receive a credit for either five years of service or for five years of age, not both. It is not and, it is or. What we would ask of you is to, if you receive public comments, not to close the public hearing. Keep the public hearing open and the reason is that between now and hopefully the 24th of March, your next meeting, our intention is to negotiate with bargaining units that are affected by this amended ordinance to hopefully reach an agreement with those bargaining units and thus on the 24th to finalize the public hearing and to consider and hopefully adopt the ordinance. The public hearing should remain open tonight, Mr. Mayor, if you would, to allow for public comments or any questions that the Council may have.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Feldman. Any other questions? Mr. Alair is there anyone on the sign up sheet?

Mr. Alair: No there isn't.

President Bouvier: Thank you. Is there anyone here who would like to speak to this? Mrs. Gillette.

Councilor Gillette: About keeping the public hearing open, this is not a zoning ordinance so we can have discussions outside of the hearing about this. I know when we keep a zoning ordinance open you can't breath the name of the development, that is not the case with this type, is it?

Mr. Alair: Technically, yes it is. It is still an ordinance. It is still the subject of a public hearing before you and the evidence you hear should be on the record in the public hearing. It is not subject to the specific strictures of the zoning statutes but there are general rules regarding conducting business outside the hearing.

Councilor Gillette: Thank you.

President Bouvier: Anything else? If not then we will keep the public hearing open until the 24th.

Mr. Feldman: Do you want to set a time on that? I would assume just a few minutes before the Council meeting would be appropriate.

President Bouvier: Same time, 7 o'clock?

Mr. Feldman: I'm not even sure you need it that early.

President Bouvier: Seven fifteen.

Mr. Feldman: Seven fifteen.

President Bouvier: Okay, 7:15 on the 24th.

Mr. Feldman: Thank you.

President Bouvier: Okay, I will close the hearing.

Mr. Feldman: No.

President Bouvier: I mean recess the public hearing.

The hearing recessed at 7:04 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk