

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE ERECTION OF COMMERCIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS OR ANTENNAE UNTIL MARCH 31, 1998.

December 16, 1997

Council Chambers

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President Rob Bouvier called the hearing to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Vice President Connors: We have an ordinance extending the moratorium on the erection of commercial telecommunications towers or antennae until March 31, 1998. We have a communication from the Capitol Region Council of Governments involving the proposed moratorium dated November 19, 1997. The staff of the regional planning commission of the Capitol Region Council of Governments has reviewed this referral and finds there is no apparent conflict with regional plans and policies and it is signed by Robert Jurasin and Daisy Chavez and Carmen Torres-Collazo.

We have a communication dated November 8, 1997 from Stanley Johnson, Town Plan and Zoning Chairman, after a detailed review of the application and its related exhibits and after consideration of staff technical comments, the TPZ acted by unanimous vote to recommend approval of the subject application.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Connors. Any comments from the administration? Mrs. Wilder.

Mrs. Wilder: Just one moment. As Mr. Connors indicated this ordinance would simply extend the existing moratorium on the erection of certain telecommunications towers or antennae until March 31st. In addition, you have been provided a memorandum of law which indicates that at least one court has struck down a moratorium on telecommunications towers in Farmington. As a result, when that decision came out not too long ago, I think in October, the administration worked very hard and has developed a telecommunications ordinance which you have already introduced and you do have, have scheduled a hearing. I think it is January 6th but I could be incorrect on that date, Mr. Mayor, so this would be an extension of the moratorium just to fill in for that gap from now until when you are able to consider the full ordinance in January.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mrs. Wilder. Do we have a sign up sheet? Mr. Genduso.

Mr. Genduso: Domenico Genduso, 80 Blue Ridge Lane, West Hartford. Mr. Mayor, members of the Town Council. In May I think it was a public hearing about the same thing and I thought that the resolution or whatever it was at that time passed. Then I went on vacation during the summer and I didn't know anything was going on in my neighborhood. When I came back three days after I was home my neighbor said did you see what they built on top of the building across from us. I said no. I said when. Well two weeks ago which was in September. They said did you know anything of what happened. I said I guess they had the permit and everything to do the stuff.

They erected a tower. I don't care if they erected a tower, that doesn't bother me but they bother me in another way. Why they have to make, they are the ones that make money. Does the Town assess those towers because if they don't assess the towers that is too bad because I know that we assess those stupid boxes that are on the street, on the sidewalk and on the parking lot of the supermarkets that they sell newspapers. They have assessments for those boxes. Those towers have a value. I don't know how much they cost to bring them up because they are big ones. They are not just two or three feet. It is a big one, then a small one, and then they have some kind of looks like some day maybe I will go over there and put some Christmas candles on and it will look like a beautiful decoration.

I don't know if it would affect the communication or not in our neighborhood but I know one thing. How come they have already everything prepared to have the permit to build and everything. I know that Hong Kong because I call Hong Kong but now I cannot call Hong Kong anymore, Bishops Corner, because Hong Kong went back to the mother land, China. Over here they are independent because they are BS, some of the buildings, like the former Lord & Taylor and the Konover building. They can do anything they want. We, the citizens have no remedy to complain or oppose some of this stuff.

Now for instance the leaves are gone. We have illumination. It looks like there is a carnival over there you know but nobody is doing anything. It is not just the glow of the lights. They reflect on the houses. The main point is if they have a value those towers, they make money, like a computer for instance. If you have a computer, you have a company, you have let's say a 370-84 or 90 or whatever they have now, you pay. You pay taxes on that not just local but other taxes I guess because it is an asset, not only do they make money in renting the place they are using for making money and there is an asset of the Konover building. I think they are supposed to be charged taxes for this stuff. Why I have to pay \$350 a month for federal

communications. What communication? I don't communicate with anybody. If I call the White House to complain or the House of Representatives I have to pay for long distance. It is not free. Why I have to pay the federal communication and then they give, who is the federal trade communication? It is an agency. It is not a government. I don't find anything. This is the Constitution of the United States. I don't find anything that the federal trade communication has authority to make a new law.

The law I am mad about is another branch of government. That is Congress and then it is approved by the President and executed by the President of the Executive Branch and controlled by judicial. That is why I don't understand, all those scared that oh we cannot do nothing about it or we cannot do this or could do that. It is time that somebody put their foot down and said that is enough with those stupid agencies we have that they have to make or come up with crazy ideas. They don't know what they are doing.

Now, factories are closing because they say they pollute the air, damage the air and they give work to 2,000 people making a living. They cut the living of those people, their earnings when they close a factory but when they a business that is polluting and messing it up everything around. It is okay, the federal communications has the power. I don't know who gives them the power. Anyway, I am in favor of this stuff. I hope that we can have, not until March, I mean forever because it is getting or going out of hand this stupid communication stuff because they don't do anything good anyway. I don't have to go around and be a fanatic in my car. I am supposed to drive. I wish they had a law, the State legislation passed a law and said you cannot drive with cellular phone, telephone, on your ear because it is dangerous and I am afraid to go on the highway.

President Bouvier: Thank you, Mr. Genduso.

Mr. Genduso: Thank you.

President Bouvier: Would anyone else like to speak to an ordinance extending the moratorium on the erection of commercial telecommunications towers or antennae until March 31st, 1998? Any questions or comments? Mrs. Gillette.

Councilor Gillette: I have a question and I don't know if it is in order because I don't know that it is goes directly to the moratorium issue. Do we assess the towers?

Mr. Feldman: To my knowledge, I don't believe we do, unless Marge has better information than I, I don't believe we assess the towers.

Councilor Gillette: We might want to look into that.

Public Hearing
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Telecommunication Towers

President Bouvier: Are there further questions? If not, we will close this public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin
Town Clerk/Council Clerk