

**Town of Montville Town Council
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 10, 2012
6:45 p.m. – Town Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Buebendorf called the public hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Caron, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Councilor Jones arrived at 6:46 and Councilor Longton was absent. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel.

4. Public Hearing

Chairperson Buebendorf opened the public hearing and read the following into the record;

The following Ordinance, copies of which may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk during office hours, was introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Council held September 10, 2012 and a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Town Council will be held at Town Hall Council Chambers, October 10, 2012 at 6:45 P.M.

Chairperson Buebendorf asked if there was anyone present who would like to come forward to discuss the proposed ordinance;

Kathy Doherty-Peck of 26 Sachem Lane also the Director of Social/Senior Services spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that she has been working on this for years at the local as well as the state level. She felt this ordinance would keep the senior's safe as well as making them feel safe.

John Geary of 11 Depot Road also a member of the Commission on Aging informed the Council that the Commission has discussed and approved the ordinance at their meeting. He also acknowledged Council Caron who has been a strong advocate for the safety of the elderly.

Joseph Jaskiewicz of 577 Route 163 formerly Mayor of the Town of Montville also supported the ordinance.

ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SENIOR SAFETY ZONES

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Purpose: Administration.

Since the Town of Montville has a compelling interest in protecting seniors from the threat of sexual abuse from sex offenders, it is hereby resolved that, to preserve and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the seniors of the Town, it is in the common interest to enact reasonable regulation restricting sex offenders from entering Senior Safety Zones.

Definitions:

When used in this Ordinance, the terms, phrases, words, and derivations shall have the meanings set forth thereafter. When not inconsistent with the context, words in the plural number include the singular and words in the singular number include the plural. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory. Terms not defined below shall have the meanings set forth in Section 54-250 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

Senior.

Any natural person who has reached the age of sixty (60) years.

Senior Safety Zone.

Any park, senior center, senior bus, elderly community, elderly event, elderly function, or other like facility, wherein seniors congregate, which is 1) under the jurisdiction of any department, agency, or authority of the Town, or 2) leased by the Town to another person for the purpose of operating a like facility; to include any and all buildings, land, parking areas or other improvements located on the same parcel on which any of the aforementioned facilities are located, but does not include any public street or public sidewalk located on the outside boundary of Senior Safety Zones.

Sex Offender.

(a) A person who:

- 1) Has been convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a “criminal offense against a victim who is a minor”; “nonviolent sexual offense”; “sexually violent offense”; or any felony that the Court finds was committed for a “sexual purpose” as those terms are defined in Subdivisions (2), (5), (11) and (12) of Section 54-250 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended and who is required to register with the Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant to Sections 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.
- 2) a person who has been convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect in any other State, in a Federal or Military Court or in any foreign jurisdiction of any crime the essential elements of which are substantially the same as any of the crimes specified in Subdivisions (2), (5), (11) of Section 54-250 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or which requires registration as a Sexual Offender in such other State or in the Federal or Military system, and who resides in this State on and after October 1, 1998.

Prohibition.

It shall be unlawful for a Sex Offender to be present in a Senior Safety Zone.

Exclusions.

This Prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- (1) To any person whose name has been removed from the Connecticut Department of Public Safety’s Sex Offender Registry or from the registry of any other State or in the Federal or Military system by act of a Court or by expiration of the term.
- (2) To any person entering into a facility in a Senior Safety Zone for the sole purpose of voting in any Municipal, State or Federal election or referendum, provided that the person leaves the facility immediately after voting.
- (3) To the extent that the conduct prohibited by this Ordinance is in conflict with any sentence or order of probation or parole imposed upon a sex offender.
- (4) To any person who enters a Senior Safety Zone for the purpose of dropping off or picking up his or her own parent, provided that the person leaves the Senior Safety Zone immediately after dropping off or picking up his or her parent.

- (5) To any person who enters a Senior Safety Zone to meet with any official, agent, employee or representative of a facility to discuss his or her own parent's health or general welfare, provided that the person leaves the Senior Safety Zone immediately after completing the meeting or discussion.

Notice.

The Mayor acting as Chief of Police or Resident State Trooper or his/her designee shall make reasonable efforts to provide written notice of the enactment of this Ordinance ((which notice shall contain a copy of the Ordinance)) to all persons who are listed on the Sex Offender Registry as of the effective date of this Ordinance as well as those persons who are added to the Sex Offender Registry thereafter, which persons' addresses (as shown on the Sex Offender Registry) are within the Town. Such notice requirement may be satisfied by the mailing of such notice by Registered or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the last known address of such person as listed on the Sex Offender Registry or as otherwise known to the Mayor acting as Chief of Police or Resident State Trooper or his/her designee. The failure of any person to receive such actual written notice shall not be a defense to a violation of the Ordinance.

Enforcement.

- (a) If a Police Officer reasonable believes that a sex offender is in a Senior Safety Zone in violation of this Ordinance, the Officer shall require the suspected sex offender to provide his/her name, address and telephone number. If it is established that the individual is a sex offender, then the Officer may issue an Infraction ticket to the offender and require the offender to leave the Senior Safety Zone.
- (b) Any person in violation of this Ordinance shall be fined in the amount of ninety-nine dollars (\$99.00) for each violation or the maximum imposed by State Statute.

Severability.

Any provision of this Ordinance held to be unconstitutional or superseded by State law or regulation shall not serve to invalidate the remaining unaffected provisions hereof. No provision of this Ordinance shall serve to validate any activity otherwise prohibited by State or local law or lawfully enacted zoning regulations.

Senior Safety Zone.

Each Senior Safety Zone may be identified by a sign conspicuously posted at the primary entrance to the Senior Safety Zone and any building within the Senior Safety Zone. In addition, the Town of Montville will make available a map outlining each Senior Safety Zone in Montville and a document listing each Senior Safety Zone at the Mayor's Office and the Montville Town Police Department. Any maps or similar documents showing or listing the designated Senior Safety Zones in Montville will be placed on the Town of Montville's website for viewing.

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption.

Dated at Montville Connecticut this 11th day of September 2012.

Lisa Terry, Town Clerk

5. Adjournment

Councilor Buebendorf adjourn the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lisa Terry, Acting Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.