

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 2, 2017**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting and public hearing on Monday, October 2, 2017. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

F. Smith, Chairman
E. Beatty
A. Giannattasio
M. Casey
B. Anderson

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
S. Fournier, Mayor's Assistant
J. Berchem, City Attorney

Chairman Smith welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Ald. Vetro regarding a procedural matter concerning the Ordinance Committee.

Ald. Vetro announced Ald. Beatty had been appointed to the Ordinance Committee to fill the place of former aldermen Susan Shaw.

Chairman Smith stated there was one item on the agenda tonight, An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 12, Prohibiting Storage, Disposal or Use of Waste from Oil and Gas Explosives, or Extraction Activities, or any Derivative thereof, Sections 12-1 through 12-5 of the City of Milford Code of Ordinances.

He stated tonight's meeting was noticed in the New Haven Register on September 27, 2017. He asked the audience to keep in mind that it is the discretion of this Committee to forward the proposed Ordinance to the full Board of Aldermen. He went on to explain the term "fracking" and continued with a history of the process involving hydro carbons.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Mayor Blake pointed out Jen Seskind, Local Coordinator was an expert on this process and was present tonight to answer any questions.

Chairman Smith stated he spoke with Ms. Seskind prior to the meeting and that she could provide any input necessary to both the Ordinance Committee and the full Board of Aldermen.

Speakers in Favor

J. Cervin - Central Avenue - stated she is in support of the Ordinance. She commented on the locations of other storage facilities and spoke of the importance of supporting clean energy and urged the Committee to forward this item to the full Board of Aldermen for approval.

J. Braun - 22 Salem Walk – stated she was here tonight as a concerned resident of Milford and a member of the Concerned Citizens of Milford. Reading from a prepared statement she spoke of the importance of keeping the environment clean and safe and the long term consequences of the environment and banning “fracking.” She asked the Committee to make the right decision in voting for this Ordinance.

Speakers Opposed – None.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation, An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 12, Prohibiting Storage, Disposal or Use of Waste from Oil and Gas Explosives, or Extraction Activities, or any Derivative thereof, Sections 12-1 through 12-5 of the City of Milford Code of Ordinances.

Chairman Smith stated before voting on the motion he would ask Ms. Seskind to discuss and answer any questions of the Committee.

Ms. Seskind stated she is the local coordinator and that she has been working for 4 years to ban this waste from coming into Connecticut. She explained the current temporary moratorium. She continued with an explanation. Ms. Seskind stated she wished to correct an earlier comment that transportation cannot allow the ban of this, but we can ban where it will go in Connecticut. Section 7-148. She stated if the Ordinance passes, Milford will be the 27th city in Connecticut to ban.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for clarification concerning the use of “fracking” for de-icing the roads.

Ms. Seskind provided background and explained what it does with relating to de-icing. She explained the brine may not be as chemically impacting, but it is a toxic that comes to the surface. Radioactive material over time is radioactive. She stated a major concern for her is “brown” fields which are loop holed in the moratorium.

Chairman Smith reiterated this is not an anti-fracking Ordinance. He asked Ms. Seskind about the loop whole she mentioned in terms of the solid waste component. She also commented it is difficult to assess the content of those materials.

Ms. Seskind stated the State law defines the waste specific to the fracking process. She explained each of the processes and what areas are covered in the language. State does not have any policies regarding natural occurring processes. Essentially, we are trying to get towns to pass the best possible language.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Anderson and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance Committee adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary