

## TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

### ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

March 22, 2022

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair; Councillors Sebrina Wilson and John Morrison

ALSO Rich Gentile, Corporation Counsel  
PRESENT Awet Tsegai, Councillor  
Michael Walsh, Mayor

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 14, 2022

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by John Morrison  
to **approve** the March 14, 2022 meeting minutes.  
Motion carried 3/0.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

No one spoke.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Tax Credit Program for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons

The chair provided materials on the current tax credit ordinances for veterans, people with disabilities and seniors along with the state statutes that authorize municipalities to provide such tax credits and property tax exemptions.

The committee and Mayor Walsh agreed that with some homeowners facing significant tax increases solely due to revaluation, the town should look at providing some relief to town taxpayers when authorized by state law to do so. The town currently has property tax exemptions (an amount that is deducted from a property tax assessed value, eg. A \$3,000 exemption and a 40 mill rate would yield a tax credit of \$120) for veterans and people with certain disabilities. The town also provides seniors and some individuals with disabilities

with a tax credit of up to \$700. Most exemptions and tax credits have an income limit based on a state formula that is annual adjusted for inflation plus a town authorized \$11,000.

After discussing the draft ordinance, the committee agreed to the following:

Veterans:

- increase the exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 which is the maximum provided in state law
- increase the income limit from \$11,000 over the state income limits (which are increased each year) to \$15,000 over state income limits
- clarify that the veteran's surviving spouse retains whatever exemption the veteran had
- provide a \$3,000 exemption for veterans with certain disabilities and subject to the same income limits as veterans (this is the only municipal option for veterans that was never adopted)

Seniors and Disabled:

- increase income limits to \$15,000 over the state income limits
- increase maximum property tax credit from \$700 to \$900

The budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 has funds set aside for property tax exemptions and credits. It is anticipated that these enhancements will be covered with those funds but it is unclear how many people in town will be eligible and how many will apply.

MOTION      By Sebrina Wilson  
                    Seconded by John Morrison  
                    To send the March 22, 2022 draft as amended to the Town Council for the  
                    Purposes of setting a public hearing date  
                    Motion carried 3/0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Sebrina Wilson  
                    seconded by John Morrison  
                    to **adjourn** at 6:29 p.m.  
                    Motion carried 3/0.

cc:      Mayor Walsh