

Town of Mansfield
Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee
On Prohibiting Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons in Town Buildings
Wednesday, February 17 , 2021
Virtual Meeting - GoToMeeting
5:00 P.M.

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ben Shaiken (Chair), Charles Ausburger & Peter Kochenburger
Staff Present: Ryan Aylesworth, Tasha Smith
Guests: Kevin Deneen, Town Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shaiken called the meeting to order at 5:06PM

2. COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Mr. Kochenburger **nominated** Ben Shaiken to be Chair of the Committee. Mr. Shaiken seconded the nomination. The nomination **passed** unanimously.

Mr. Shaiken proposed that the Committee adopt the Council rules for governing their meetings. Seeing no objections, Mr. Shaiken declared the Council rules adopted by unanimous consent.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Shaiken closed public comment as no members of the public were in attendance or sent in their comments

4. REVIEW OF CHARGE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Shaiken went over the charge from the Town Council which is as follows:

1. Review the merits of adopting an ordinance prohibiting the carrying of firearms and other dangerous weapons in Town buildings
2. If the purpose of such ordinance is deemed beneficial, work directly with the Town Attorney and town Staff as appropriate to prepare corresponding draft ordinance that is subsequently presented to the Town Council for formal review and consideration

5. REVIEW DRAFT ORDINANCE LANGUAGE AS PREPARED BY TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Deneen shared the proposed ordinance language that was prepared and spoke to the Committee about similar ordinances in other Connecticut municipalities and States. Staff and the Committee discussed the merits of adopting such an ordinance, and also the possibility for objection from residents to some of the proposed language.

6. DELIBERATION AND VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

The Committee debated language in the proposed ordinance involving parking lots, the parking garage, storage in locked vehicles and provisions for peace officers. Changes that all members agreed with were made to the proposed language. Mr. Deneen confirmed the legality of the changes.

Mr. Ausburger **moved** to recommend the following possible ordinance be presented to the Town Council at the next or following meeting:

Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons prohibited in Town buildings or on Town Real Property.

A.

Pursuant to the authority granted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 29-28(e), no person shall possess a firearm, air gun, air rifle, or crossbow, longbow, archery equipment, or any dangerous weapon, as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 53-206 in Town-owned buildings or on Town-owned real property. The lawful possession of firearms, air guns, air rifles, or crossbows, longbows, or archery equipment, on sidewalks, roads, highways, and streets, within the Town shall be permitted. Except where otherwise prohibited, the lawful possession of firearms, air guns, air rifles, or crossbows, longbows, or archery equipment within a locked vehicle shall be permitted.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to a peace officer, as defined in Section 53a-3(9) of the Connecticut General Statutes, when acting within the scope of his/her duties or as otherwise authorized by law or any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, performing in uniform as a member of an official ceremonial unit.

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Penalties for offenses.

Any violation of this chapter shall be a violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.

Mr. Kochenburger seconded the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. SET NEXT MEETING DATE (IF NECESSARY)

Mr. Shaiken stated that a second meeting would not be necessary unless the Council requests the Committee to make changes to the proposed ordinance language.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kochenburger **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 6:23PM. Mr. Shaiken seconded the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Tasha Smith
Executive Assistant, Town Managers Office