



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Public Hearing on Ordinances**

March 8, 2016

Call to Order

Aldermanic President Philip Tripp called the Public Hearing on Ordinances to order at 6:30 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

The proposed ordinances for public hearing were as follows:

- A. Child Safety Zones
- B. Tobacco-Free Recreation
- C. Dogs and Other Animals Prohibited from Playing Surface of Fields
- D. Enforcement of Zoning, Inland-Wetlands Regulations
- E. Administrative Fees for Building Regulations
- F. Establishment of Citation Procedure

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Aldermen Present:

- Randolph Carroll, R1
- Charles Stowe, R1
- Philip Tripp, R2
- Lorie Vaccaro, R2
- Joseph Jeanette, D3
- Richard Kaslaitis, R4
- Ashley Rogers, R4
- Anthony Cassetti, R5
- Patrick Henri, R6
- Frank DeLibero, R7

City Officials Present:

- Mayor David Cassetti
- Corporation Counsel John Marini
- Comptroller William Nimons
- Town and City Clerk Janet Waugh

President Tripp invited speakers to share their comments on the six above-listed topics and asked that they limit their comments to three to four minutes.

Lynn Schwarzenberg, 63 Hubbell Avenue

I'm here to testify to ask that you guys do not extend the smoke-free zones to include electronic cigarettes and vaping devices. I have one in my hand so you know what I'm talking about; they don't all look like cigarettes. They don't all contain nicotine; mine does not. I quit smoking three years ago with this and through seeing people in different town areas around, obviously in the store, I've talked to you, Mr. Tripp, about this before. I have helped eight people completely kick cigarettes and I feel that I've helped save eight lives with this. Two of them were in public places that would be banned by ordinance. You guys are mainly

Republicans, Libertarians, I don't know why you want to put up an ordinance like this in the first place. This is, what comes out of it into the air is not something that's going to harm anyone. I understand if you're getting in someone's face or blow it right into their face, that's rude and that should be something that's more like an assault type of charge, but if somebody is quietly using one of these on the sidelines, especially at a kids' game, it's showing those kids I gave up cigarettes. My generation is hopefully the last generation that does smoke. I hope that is true. It's not going to keep catching on and making people switch from combustible tobacco to non-combustible tobacco, which has no carcinogens in it. Nicotine is not a carcinogen, despite what you guys might have heard. If you look into it, nicotine is not a carcinogen and a lot of people quit smoking and don't even have nicotine in them. You can't tell whether there's nicotine in it and you've already admitted that you can't enforce it because we don't have the police to do so. So I'm just asking that you kindly listen to my comments. There is going to be another person making a comment. Consider the fact that vaporizers and, I don't like the term "electronic cigarette" because there's nothing cigarette about it, have saved a lot of lives so far and will continue to do so for the rest of our lives. It was called by a neuro-psycho-pharmacologist whose name eludes me right now, but I remembered his title, that this is the most important innovation in public health since antibiotics. That's a pretty strong endorsement. The FDA has done nothing to regulate these at this point. The State has not banned them outside. I don't think Ansonia should set the precedent for doing so until the information has come in from other authorities that have refused to act.

Tommy Howell, 63 Hubbell Avenue

As far as three years ago, I was smoking three packs of cigarettes a day. I picked up a vaporizer electronic cigarette and haven't had a single one since. I don't know at what point the antidote becomes data. There are enough of us around that have that same story that I think now the data's pretty clear, that it does help people quit. The Ministry of Health of the United Kingdom rates them as 95 percent safer than smoking a cigarette. The problem that I see is that people say, "the science isn't in." There is plenty of science already. It's just that they aren't being reviewed by the people that are making money off of people who continue to smoke. That is where you see the paid studies that you see in the newspapers and whatever. You have to trace the money. Basically what I'm asking is not that you do anything about the smoking part, what I'm asking is that the City of Ansonia does not equate vaporizers with smoking. There is nothing ignited; there is nothing burning. It could be more akin to boiling. There is nothing actually on fire; there is nothing ever lit. It is just water vapor, flavoring, and a minute amount of nicotine that could come out which many studies have shown, it is actually less chemical residue in direct exhaled vapor than the air you breathe on the street corner. I would just ask that for now, until things can be settled a little more, that the City look more toward the positives that have come from these implements and take them off of the ban at least for now.

President Tripp asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public hearing closed at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen