

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7-26 OF THE NORWICH CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SUBSECTION (g) TO INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT NO. 19-36

WHEREAS, Public Act No 19-36 repealed section 12-81w of the General Statutes and substituted new provisions effective July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Public Act No 19-36 increased the amount of the property tax abatement for certain first responders including volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire police officers, as defined in subsection (a) of section 7-308 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Such tax relief to include an abatement of up to \$1,500 in property taxes due in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and an abatement of up to \$2,000 in property taxes due thereafter commencing with the fiscal year running from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that, Ordinance No. 7-26 be and hereby is amended by adding a subsection (g) to provide as follows:

Sec. 7-26. Tax abatement for volunteer firefighters.

(a) Any member seeking an abatement must have met with emergency call and training requirements set forth in §§ 8-74 (a)(i) and (ii).

(b) A member who cannot perform his/her duty as a result of a department-related injury, as defined in § 8-72, shall have their percentage of attendance adjusted in the same manner as § 8-74(a)(iii).

(c) The chief of each individual volunteer fire company shall submit a notarized list and an electronic list of all eligible members, as well as their respective level of tax abatement to the Norwich Tax Assessor, or the Tax Collector or Assessor of the municipality which has entered into an interlocal agreement with the City of Norwich and in which said eligible member resides, no later than March 1st of each year, in order to be eligible for a tax abatement as to taxes due on the following July 1st on the grand list of October 1st of the preceding year. This tax abatement shall be applied only to residential property tax or personal property tax, whether such property is owned individually jointly or as tenant in common with one or more other persons.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to imply that if an eligible member has less tax liability than their permitted amount of tax abatement, that they are entitled to receive any additional funds from the city under this section.

(e) The Tax Assessor for the City of Norwich shall maintain a record of all taxes abated in accordance with this section.

(f) The city manager is authorized to enter into, create, receive and deliver an interlocal agreement on behalf of the City of Norwich with one or more of the towns showing common boundaries with the City of Norwich to provide reciprocal tax abatements as set forth in this section for eligible members of volunteer fire department who in a municipality subject to said intergovernmental agreement and provide volunteer services in another municipality subject to said agreement.

(g) Any member meeting the emergency call and training requirements set forth in subsection (a) herein or who cannot perform his/her duty as a result of department-related injury as set forth in subsection (b) herein, and on whose behalf the necessary qualifying information has been submitted by the chief of the volunteer fire company for which the member performed services as set forth in subsection (c) herein shall be eligible for a tax abatement of up to \$1,500 in property taxes due for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and up to \$2,000 for taxes due on any fiscal year thereafter commencing with the fiscal year running from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Mark M. Bettencourt