

**ORDINANCE 1726**  
**ADOPTED 11/16/2015**  
**PUBLISHED 11/18/2015**  
**AMENDS ORD 1437 & 1650**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NORWICH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 7-26 –  
“TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS”**

WHEREAS, ordinance 1437, as later amended by ordinance 1650, adopted by the Council of the City of Norwich in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §12-81w on December 4, 2000 and codified as §7-26 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances, provides up to \$1,000 abatement of taxes on the residential and/ or personal property owned by volunteer firefighters who meet certain service and training requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Fund Committee has recommended the amendments detailed below in an effort to clarify and modernize the language and make the training requirements of the tax abatement for volunteer firefighters consistent with those of the Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Fund Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Norwich, that the following amendments to §7-26 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances be and hereby are adopted.

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

- (a) Any member seeking an abatement must have ~~attended a minimum of 20 percent of the years emergency calls and meets the training requirements as prescribed by the bylaws of the individual volunteer fire company (both calculated from January 1 – December 31 of each year)~~ met the 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 according to time lost 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 ~~Collector~~ Assessor, or the Tax Collector or Assessor of the municipality which has entered into a 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 collector~~ Tax Assessor for the ~~Town~~ 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 departments who in a municipality subject to said intergovernmental agreement and provide volunteer services in another municipality subject to said agreement.

Purpose: To update the volunteer tax abatement emergency call and training criteria to match the criteria for the volunteer firefighters' relief fund plan and to correct certain portions of the code of ordinance to match current operating practices.

Mayor Deberoy Hinchey