

7.B. 25/26-30: Consideration/Possible Action to call for Public Hearing: Firearms Safety as recommended by the Firearms Safety/Home shooting Range Study Committee (E)

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will review and consider a draft ordinance creating new firearms safety regulations which include the need for an appropriate backstop. Additionally, Town Council will consider whether or not to move forward with the issue and call for a public hearing on the draft Ordinance.

Purpose: Due to several shooting safety concerns and shooting noise complaints reported to the Coventry Police around the community, Town Council in 2024 created a Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee to study the concerns and to determine if there was a need for firearms safety regulations in Coventry. Town Council will consider the recommendations of the Committee, including their draft Ordinance.

History: The Committee was appointed by Town Council to study the complaints that the Police Department was receiving in residential areas. Their Charge indicated that they could recommend an ordinance if they believed one was warranted. In late fall of 2024, they determined that an ordinance should be developed. They reviewed the policies of other CT towns and held several meetings carefully crafting language that would be in the draft Ordinance. The Committee expressed that they wanted to be careful not to be over restrictive for those wishing to use firearms while also considering safety concerns that may occur in residential areas. They had an advertised public input meeting on September 18, 2025 so that the public could comment on their draft Ordinance. Upon hearing the comments, they made additional amendments taking into consideration most of the comments.

Facts about the issue: The Steering Committee discussed the draft Ordinance with the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee leadership and made additional amendments to the draft Ordinance before it was submitted to the Town Council.

Funding Information: There is no direct financial impact to the Town for adopting this Ordinance.

Steering Committee Recommendation: The Steering Committee, at their December 22, 2025, meeting voted to recommend to Town Council that the Town Council consider the draft Ordinance proposed by the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee.

Town Manager Comments: none.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to approve the wording of the proposed Ordinance and to call for a public hearing on this Ordinance for February 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM to be held in the Town Hall Annex.