

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2009 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman B. Blake called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Blake asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance lead by City Attorney Winthrop S. Smith, Jr.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Rosen
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
S. Willey

Also Present

L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk
W. Smith, Jr, City Attorney

Excused

Mayor Richetelli (medical)

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated only residents; taxpayers or electors may address the Board. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

K. Huffman – 20 Pond Street – stated she and her husband are being portrayed as people trying to get away with something. She stated she distributed to each of the aldermen a handout and brief DVD depicting the events that have occurred concerning her situation. She also stated she wished to update the Board of some recent events. Reading from a prepared statement she stated they were denied access to their records and that it was through the Mayor's office they were able to have the records released. She also spoke as to a conversation she had with Ald. Veccharelli concerning the creation of the Historic District in which they live. With regard to the Historic District she stated the chairman of that commission continues to discuss the case without it being on the agenda. She stated since she spoke last month the minutes have been posted on the City website noting they were seven months late. She stated they have been in touch with the FOIA concerning this. Ms. Huffman stated they relied on the City to guide them. She asked the Board to appoint a liaison to the Historic District.

A. Reimann – 20 Pond Street – stated for months he has been asking to see the records. He stated he has been to the Mayor, Building Department, Planning and Zoning and City Clerk's Office. He stated when he finally gained access he was astonished at this findings. He cited other properties that had applied for Certificate of Appropriateness such as 10 Pond Street, which was approved without a plot plan. He stated he looked at 13 cases that did not have complete files. He also stated he was refused meeting notes that he could have used in his favor and questioned why the information was withheld stating he was no longer disgusted, but just plain embarrassed. He also stated he has been in touch with FOIA and they are interested in this.

M. Galullo – 21 Deerfield Avenue – stated he wished to raise concern this Board has already approved a project at Eisenhower Park with another plan that is outside the plan when the original plan has never been considered. He asked the Board to table 8b until they can fully understand if it fits into the park plan. He stated he likes the idea of Bodie's Place and that the bridge is going to be put back, but stated he felt it was irresponsible to approve this at this time.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Lane – spoke concerning item 8c on the agenda commenting this would give them access to preservation funding. He stated on a new topic he wished to discuss two acres of marsh property off Pond Point Avenue he was just made aware of that his family owns. He spoke to its assessed value and the assessed value of another parcel off Burnt Plains Road. He stated the numbers in value just do not add up. He explained his findings and concerns with the discrepancy of the assessment numbers. He also commented as to the two acres behind the John Downs house that the city already owns.

T. Chaucer – 104 Hawley Avenue – wished the Board a Happy Groundhog Day. He stated last year at this time about 20 or more citizens came to speak to this Board regarding the Cadley/Merwin property. He asked the status of the investigation/inquiry and when there might be a report. He also stated the current new house is listed for \$2,000,000 with a tax assessment of \$2,400 for the half year and a full assessment of \$4,800 which is based on the 2007 tax list. He expressed concern with these numbers. He also commented the John Downs house is a wonderful place to save.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he watched the meeting last month regarding parking at the harbor noting the Board designated only three spaces. He asked about handicap parking expressing concern the handicapped were forgotten. He also commented the tax reval will make the taxes go up. He asked the Board not give any more money to the Board of Education while pointing out it was Ald. Vitali who was the deciding vote last year.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 5, 2009.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 5, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held December 1, 2008.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on December 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Blake reiterated the greetings of Mr. Chaucer and extended a Happy Groundhog Day to everyone pointing out the groundhog saw its shadow so there would be another six weeks of winter which would not make Public Works happy. He pointed out they have done an excellent job with the winter we have been having and applauded their efforts. He also noted everyone is aware the Mayor is not here and commented he wished the Mayor a speedy recovery and that he is in everyone's prayers.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Chairman Blake stated he would be recusing himself from items 8a-e. He asked the Board consider items 8a-e and those items listed under Executive Session.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business:

8a. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Mayor to sign Certification Agreement between the State of Connecticut by and through the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and the City of Milford.

Ald. Blacketter asked if there is a representative present who could discuss this grant.

Chairman Blake stated that person would be Marcia Winter, but she did not appear to be present.

Ald. Blacketter stated she had concerns about taking on the responsibility and also asked about the possibility of being eligible for grant money and also what it could cost the taxpayer to implement these.

Chairman Blake responded from past history and from his reading of this it is only to make the City eligible for funds. He also pointed out it would have to come back to the Board of Aldermen for funding approval.

Motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Blake).

8b. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Authorization of enter into a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for Financial Assistance for Improvements to Eisenhower Park. Motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Blake).

8c. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Nondiscrimination Certification. Motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Blake).

8d. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a request to approve Allocation Transfer No. 8.

Ald. Manning asked about advertising to offset the costs.

Mr. Jadach responded it was not likely. He explained the program and stated they did look into it but the size and restrictions would not allow it.

Ald. Blacketter asked the age of the shelters.

Mr. Jadach responded the shelters were at least 30 years old.

Ald. Vetro asked if it would be the same footprint as the existing or if they were just replacing them.

Mr. Jadach replied they would be using the same footprint but explained the new ones would be more architecturally attractive.

Motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Blake).

8e. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Authorizing an Interest-Free Loan to the Good Shepherd Day Care Center – February 2, 2009.

Ald. Ditchkus commented it was his understanding this is a loan and that this had been done year after year and that it is something the City is repaid for. He stated he hoped the Board would be in favor.

Ald. Patterson questioned if there should be an allocation transfer for this.

Chairman Blake responded he did not believe so.

Ald. Ditchkus explained in the past they had never done that.

Chairman Blake added it is simply a “bridge-loan”, temporary money.

Motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Blake).

9. New Business not on the Agenda which may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

None

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$37,092.60. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – no report.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.

c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Vetro reported Public Works has been working very hard referring to this winter as “savage”. He commented being a snowplow contractor himself he appreciates the work that goes into snow removal.

d. Claims Committee – no report.

e. Rules Committee – no report.

f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – no report.

b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.

c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – no report

d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – Ald. Blacketter commented concerning remarks made during the public session regarding Bodies Place. She stated this was discussed and that the playground is consistent with those plans.

e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.

f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.

g. Liaison – Council on Aging – no report.

h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – no report

i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report

j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report

k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.

l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Hardiman reported the Commission met in January and elected their officers. He reported Mr. Austin was re-elected Chairman and Dan Worroll as Vice Chairman. He also reported the Commission is looking to do a walk through of the building before spring to see what needs to be done. He also stated they are looking at whether to purchase or lease carts.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – no report

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report

p. Liaison Health Department – no report.

- q. Milford Legislative Action Committee – no report.
- r. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- s. Human Services Commission – no report

14. Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item to be considered in executive session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into executive session.

The Chairman shall announce, in public session, those items to be covered in executive session and call for a vote to enter executive session. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to enter executive session, is obtained, the hall shall be cleared and executive session declared.

14a. Status report and consideration of settlement of
Banta Associates v. City of Milford
RE: 0 Plains Road

14b. Status report and consideration of settlement of
Crown Properties, LLC v. City of Milford
RE: 470 Wheelers Farm Road

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session regarding items 14a and 14 b. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blake announced the Board would be going into Executive Session with the City Assessor, D. Thomas and City Attorney, W. Smith.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:09 p.m.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board in Public Session at 8:24 p.m.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to authorize the City Attorney to enter into settlement RE: Banta Associates v. City of Milford ("0" Plains Road) and Crown Properties, LLC v. City of Milford (470 Wheelers Farm Road) in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor as discussed in Executive Session in the matter of. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary