

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman G. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. He asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bevan
B. Bier
B. Blake
D. German
A. Giannattasio
F. Goodrich
M. Hardiman
B. Joy, Jr.
J. Patterson
G. Smith
P. Smith
P. Staneski
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
L. Stock, City Clerk
W. Smith, Jr., City Attorney

Chairman G. Smith deferred to the Mayor for a special proclamation.

Mayor Richetelli welcomed those members of the Milford Elks Jr. Pee Wee, Bob Boss champions and read and presented a proclamation to each player. He went on to thank the coaches, parents and dedicated volunteers who make the program a success.

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.

R. Gregory – 14 Manor House Lane – stated he was here tonight as the Chairman of the Milford Complete Count Committee and that he was here tonight to remind everyone of the upcoming census count. He offered thanks and appreciation to a number of individuals who have helped spread the word to the community and spoke of the importance of getting the forms back as soon as possible. He stated the census is important for Milford and the country and could result in benefits such as federal government grants, etc. He stated the

winner of the slogan contest was former alderwoman Michelle Collins with the motor “Milford’s Counting on You”.

B. Genovese – 19 Belmont Street – stated she was speaking on behalf of Regina Cahill who was unable to be here tonight. Mrs. Genovese stated she is the Vice President of the Milford Preservation Trust and was speaking regarding the value of the Downs homestead. She distributed a handout, from which she read a statement asking the Board to help keep the homestead.

A. Petrahai -32 Orient Avenue – stated he came to Milford in 1965. He stated last year was the first year the taxes went down. He stated as a senior citizen on a fixed income it was important to maintain budgets. He thanked the bipartisan Board of Aldermen who worked together last year and did a fantastic job. He also went to on personally thank Vinny Ditchkus and Ben Blake for their efforts.

J. Jansen – 22 Russell Road – commented on the new Department of Permitting and Land Use which he stated was proposed by a Republican mayor who brought in a consulting firm and then this new department was formed by an overwhelmingly Democratic Board. He stated to the Board they have an opportunity to look at this and see if it is what they really want, if it was what the KRIT report recommended and what was implemented. He stated it was his opinion the KRIT committee went beyond their charge. He also spoke regarding the letter of accomplishment of the interim director, but questioned if there really was the need for another administrator to accomplish these things.

B. Milton – 32 Elm Street – commented as to the many environmentalists who have worked hard to protect Milford’s open space, the environmental coast, etc., but expressed her concern over the ability to enforce those laws; noting currently there is no zoning enforcement officer. She went on to read a letter directed to Board of Aldermen Chairman G. Smith from the Assistant City Planner who is also working as the Zoning Enforcement Officer, which spoke of the roles and responsibilities of an Assistant City Planner and a Zoning Enforcement Officer.

S. Shaw – 39 Point Beach Drive – stated she is the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Board. She stated she had spoken with a number of the board members over the last week regarding concerns she had as well as those of the Planning and Zoning Board. She stated she wished to state publicly she has nothing but support for the improvements to the land use and permitting process, but that her board has not been consulted about most of the changes. She stated she has heard for the past few months and for the next five months there would not be a full time Zoning Enforcement Officer and was dismayed to learn the current Assistant City Planner would act in each position. She also commented regarding the recent firing of the Assistant City Attorney and expressed concern because the Planning and Zoning Board would now have to rely on the City Attorney. She stated there have been no discussions with the Planning and Zoning Board regarding these changes. She also noted the Planning and Zoning Board wrote to the interim Land Use Director and received no response and assumes they never will. She stated finding a way to make the permitting process work should not impede the work of the Planning and Zoning Board. She stated the Planning and Zoning Board and Department of Permitting and Land use had a legal and ethical obligation to act fairly.

J. Cervin – 3 Central Avenue – stated she had numerous concerns with the Department of Permitting and Land Use. She asked the Board to consider amendments to the Ordinance currently in place and address the level of authority of the mayor. Reading from a prepared statement she expressed overriding concern in city governance. She also expressed concern over many unanswered questions and asked the Board to revisit this.

She also spoke regarding the recent firing of the Assistant City Attorney, whom she stated was respected and valued for her land use knowledge. She stated Attorney Anger was someone who was thorough and informed and respectful and after serving the city for 23 years was dismissed by the Mayor's Assistant. She stated there has yet to be a reason for the firing but that the manner of the firing reflects poorly. Ms. Cervin noted shortly after the appointment of Mr. Novack, Attorney Anger was limited from speaking and that she found this to be a very puzzling action. She asked the Board to retrieve their legislative powers and place this as an agenda item next month. She also presented a petition of 56 names to the Board and asked they put on hold any further decisions with regard to the DPLU.

B. Bell – 24 Winthrop Court – thanked the mayor for attempting to report on the DPLU. She stated the report indicated this new department had reduced its cell phone bill, had 3 public outreach responses and made 9 department changes. She questioned how all this was being measured. Reading from a prepared statement she questioned this restructuring and also cited an analogy if this was another department, i.e. education.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – asked the Chairman if the rules allowing an alderman to recognize him had changed. He stated when Mayor Lisman was an alderman he always would recognize him to speak. He also asked the Board to look into the technical problem regarding the broadcasting of these meetings and the meetings of the Board of Education stating it was very “muffled” and difficult to hear.

S. Borer – 204 Anderson Avenue – distributed a handout regarding the Borough of Woodmont. He stated there seemed to be a glitch in the process and stated this handout was received after the public hearing. He also spoke regarding the testimony the Borough gave at their Board of Finance hearing regarding the fishing pier, which he stated was incorrect. He stated he had many questions with this handout. He asked the Board to question what they did with the money they received last year and what they plan on doing with this year's money. He reiterated he believed there was a glitch in the process and that this document should not have been admitted.

D. Guaglianone – 73 Cooper Avenue – stated he had two issues. He apologized for not speaking early regarding the issue concerning MGAT, but that he had some family issues. He stated politics is not a game, but a life or death matter. He spoke of being accused of showing favoritism to the mayor's party. He stated he is passionately unaffiliated and that he is neither a republican nor democrat. He stated was with four particular individuals whom he named and presented a document to the Board detailing what had transpired. He stated the second topic concerned our young people and that more needed to be done for them.

T. Beirne – 55 Bayshore Drive and J. Santa Barbara – 31 Hitching Post Lane – stated when he served on the Board each budget year would be the same thing, that they would just ask questions about specific items in the budget. He stated a group of 5 people came together, which included himself and Mr. Santa Barbara and others who wished to remain anonymous. He distributed a handout that detailed suggestions for substantial savings in the budget. He went on to explain each page in the handout.

Mr. Santa Barbara explained the Board of Education side of the handout. He stated each year there would be threats of layoffs which would create fear in parents. He offered a number of suggestions outlined in the handout to reduce the Board of Education budget, which totaled \$967,000 and did not increase class size, close schools or layoffs of teachers.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 1, 2010.

Ald. Goodrich and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 1, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman G. Smith thanked all those citizens who have spoken concerning Planning and Zoning and the Kimball report. He stated it was his opinion and the opinion of those he has spoken with that endlessly debating the issue is not productive. He stated the changes that are in place are showing great improvements and that they must be allowed to continue.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated he was submitting for the Board's consideration items 8a-g on the agenda as well as the following items:

6a. For informational purposes, a fact sheet – Milford's Counting on You – Census 2010.

6b. For informational purposes, Mayor Richetelli made the Board aware of the following Mayor's appointment:

Walnut Beach Enhancement Committee

(R) Deborah E. Mead, 67 Peak Avenue, to complete the unexpired term of (R) Brian J. Doheny (resigned).

Mayor Richetelli stated it was his understanding the City Clerk had sworn in Mrs. Mead earlier in the evening.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business (from Mayor's Report Items 8a-8g)

8a. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Five Year License Agreement for Ingress and Egress, Placement of Tables and Chairs, and Awning Overhand for sidewalk to City Owned property at 25-27 River Street, between the City of Milford and Santina, LLC d/b/a Café Atlantique, 33 River Street.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he wanted to be sure this area where the tables and chairs would be placed was open to the public. He referenced section 8a(1) and read the language.

Mayor Richetelli stated this is the same language as when it was Dr. Knori and Charlie Litaz and now it was Santina.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for resolution Re: Historic Document Preservation Grant (per request of City Clerk Linda Stock, dated 2/5/10).

Mrs. Stock explained the State of Connecticut library offers grants for historic documents. She stated she has done research to put the City's Code of Ordinances on-line. She stated she would be submitting an agreement to the State Library and if they receive the grant they would begin to put the Code of Ordinances on-line, but that she need approval from the Board of Aldermen to submit this through the Mayor.

Ald. Blake asked how long it would take to implement if the grant were granted.

Mrs. Stock stated she located a company called General Code and has been working with them. She stated if the grant is received it would take about 6-8 weeks to put on-line. She pointed out she would not hear about the grant until June.

Chairman Blake stated she would be a great use of grant money.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) an the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$45,000 and to authorize the expenditure of the City's 20 percent cost share of \$9,000 for the purchase of Lucas Automatic Chest Compression Devices and to authorize the Mayor and Fire chief to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate the acceptance of this grant and purchase of the devices (per request from Battalion Chief Alan J. Zingaro, dated February 1, 2010).

Ald. Blake asked if the fiscal budget 2010-2011 could be reduced at all because these items have been incorporated.

Chief LaVecchia replied it was already cut from the budget. He also commented they have seen a 40% increase during the trial period they have used these devices.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Allocation Transfer No. 9 (Lucas Chest Compression). Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Designation of the East Side Fire Station Consolidation Committee.

Ald. Blake commented on the language in the Resolution and read the language. He recalled at the last meeting he asked about the possibility of consolidating the two dispatch units, fire and police. He asked if under this

program if the fire department would run two trucks at all time and if this committee could come up with other recommendations including coming up with ways to generate income, i.e. transporting.

Mayor Richetelli explained this consolidation was going to be similar to when Stations 3 and 4 were closed. He stated they looked at those plans and they were mirrored for this one. He also stated the make-up of the committee is the same as in 1996 and that the language is the exact language and the same language as all building committees, i.e. Milford Academy and the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee. Mayor Richetelli also stated they have applied for grants for planning and construction, both state and federal and will continue to do so.

Chief LaVecchia commented regarding EMS transport and explained transportation is regulated from the State and that it is licensed. He stated if the fire department were to get involved in transportation they would need additional ALS rescue trucks. He stated the standard also calls for two paramedics to arrive on scene.

Ald. Blake asked if it would be economically feasible to look into.

Chief LaVecchia explained it is not something they can even go after unless they can find just cause that AMR is not performing and they are.

Mayor Richetelli added the contract with AMR is zero dollars.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the following Mayor's appointment:

East Side Fire Station Consolidation Committee

Fire Commission

(D) John F. Healy, Jr., 146 Pond Point Avenue

(U) William Brennan, 51 Milford Point Road

Board of Aldermen

(R) Bill Bevan, 22 Merlin Circle

(D) Philip J. Vetro, 10 Carmen Road North

Residents

(R) Judith Toohey, 59 Ruth Ann Terrace

(D) Carmen Corvino, 31 Chapel Street

(R) John Jansen, 22 Russell Road

Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk, Mrs. Stock swore-in Mr. Brennan, Ald. Vetro, Ald. Bevan, Mrs. Corvino and Mr. Jansen.

8g. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request to remove the stipulation "that the minimum acceptable bid will be \$125,000" for each lot for Sale of City Property at:

1) 2 Welton Street (corner of Stone Street) (a/k/a Map 16, Block 255, Parcel 1) and combined with 28 ft. of 6 Stone Street (a/k/a map 16, Block 255, Parcel 15) – lot size 100 ft x 108 ft. or 10,787 sq. ft. in and R-5 zone (approved for one residential building lot).

2.) A rear lot on Stone Street (a/k/a Map 16, Block 255, Parcel 11) – lot size 15,000 sq. ft. +/- in an R-5 zone (approved for one residential building lot).

Ald. Patterson asked if the assessor had appraised this property as fair market value.

Mayor Richetelli explained because the City owns the properties they don't put a value on it, just as open space.

Ald. Patterson expressed concern with any minimum bid.

Mayor Richetelli stated whether the sale is conducted by auction, sealed bid or even on-line, the city reserves the right to reject any bid. He stated if bids are too low, they would be rejected. Mayor Richetelli explained the two auctions that have been held which did not generate any interest.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he too would be concerned with any minimum. He stated he did not know what the bottom line was, but that he would like to see an amendment of at least \$75,000 and then there would not be any guessing and the city would be protected.

Mayor Richetelli stated while he understood the intent, he felt the figure Ald. Veccharelli stated was too low.

Ald. Goodrich stated there have been two auctions and no one has come in. He suggested without a minimum bid perhaps the builders would try to outbid each other.

Ald. Staneski asked if the bid amount were amended to \$75,000, were they saying they should accept that figure.

Mayor Richetelli responded one might look at it that way, so you could be bound by it. He stated he wished to give his assurances that \$75,000 is just too low.

Ald. Blake stated he felt it prudent to put a stipulation into the rules of the auction that any bid has to come back to the Board of Aldermen and that he wished to make that change in the form of an amendment to the motion.

Ald. Vetro seconded the motion.

Chairman G. Smith announced a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 9:18 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 9:28 p.m.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Staneski asked since the process was being changed if it would be a blind bid back to the board and it was her understanding the Board would only know the amount.

Ald. Goodrich suggested the Mayor bring back to the Board the two highest bids.

Ald. Veccharelli reiterated he would like to see the bid come back to the Board for approval.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

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

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer 7, Fund 10, FY 2009-2010. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer No. 8, Fund 10, FY 2009-2010. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$91,922.90. 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. Joy reported an auction was held for used equipment and netted \$14,000. He also reported the Public Works department received a letter of congratulations from the University of Connecticut Engineering Department acknowledging the public works department for its safety incentive program.

d. Claims Committee – no report.

e. Rules Committee – no report.

f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

Chairman G. Smith noted the minutes of the following Committees can be found on the city's web-site or are available at the next meeting.

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 – no report.

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 – no report.
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – no report
- o. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- p. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- q. Human Services Commission – no report.
- r. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.

s. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – Ald. Goodrich reported they are looking at the AT&T agreement to see if they can carry the meetings. He also reported the problem with the sound system has been resolved.

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.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session re: Status report with respect to Mark IV Construction, East West Interceptor. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman G. Smith stated the full Board along with the Mayor and Ray Macaluso from Westcott and Mapes would go into the executive session. The Board went into Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

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

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:12 p.m.

Ald. Hardiman announced the final fundraiser for the Saint Patrick's Day parade would take place on Saturday, March 7, 2010. He stated the annual pancake breakfast would take place from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 10:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary