

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2012**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 8:21 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
R. Dickman
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno
S. Shaw

F. Smith
P. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
J. Berchem, City Attorney
B. Peloso, Asst, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

G. Gasper (Ill)

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.

Joseph Jeffrey – 60 Richmond Street, West Haven – stated he is part owner of property on Grove Street. He stated he was speaking tonight concerning 18 Grove Street. He stated no one has seen the plans and also that no one knows what they are dealing with. He spoke personally about his 3 generations of family who have resided here in Milford. He stated the City of Milford should see the basics of both plans before moving forward. He reiterated he has not seen the final plan and that he is in the dark. He asked that the plans be made public for the good of everyone.

D. Griffin – 444 Orange Avenue – stated he was speaking tonight regarding the boardwalk. He stated he encounters many dogs and bicycles down there, yet there are signs posted that they are not allowed. He stated the signs are in the wrong place in that they are halfway down the boardwalk. He stated they should be at the

beginning. He also asked when the boardwalk would be repaired and if it would be ready for the summer season. He also commented it is the jewel of Milford.

L. Bull DiLullo – 122 Pumpkin Delight Road – stated she was speaking regarding a financial matter that concerns the city. Reading from a prepared statement she spoke of the city's recent change of bond counsel from Robinson & Cole to Pullman and Comley. She also cited an article dated February 24, 2012 which appeared in the Hartford Courant which spoke of a fundraiser wherein several attorneys gave large campaign donations. She also pointed out it was Mayor Blake who was quoted as saying he had no choice in the selection of bond counsel for the city. Ms. Bull DiLullo stated it is the GFOA that recommends a competitive selection. She urged the aldermen to use their oversight to insure transparency is the real deal as was promised during campaigning

John Jeffrey – 17 Grove Street – stated he concurred with the comments of the gentlemen who spoke earlier regarding Grove Street.

M. Hardiman – Cottage Street – invited the Board to march in the Saint Patrick's Day parade being held Saturday, March 10, 2012, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

K. Rose – 292 Naugatuck Avenue – stated she is the State Representative for the 118th District – spoke of the Mayor's Open Door policy. She stated it was suggested by Mr. Prisco that the State delegation provide periodic updates to this Board. She continued with an update of the happenings currently.

P. Jeffrey – 17 Grove Street – she stated her son Joe spoke earlier tonight. She stated there needed to be more looking at options and having transparency. She also encouraged more plans be looked at regarding Grove Street.

C. Phelan – 141 Terrace Road – spoke about the pump station issue. She recalled a time when the proposed location was the corner of Rosemary Court and New Haven Avenue and pointed out that is a public beach and was glad the pump station would not be there.

M. Case – 57 Plains Road – distributed a handout to the Board, through the Chairman, regarding Grove Street. He stated the initial cost when this was first being discussed was \$2,000,000 and that the estimate is now \$2,400,000. He stated the explanation of the handout would well exceed his allotted 3-minutes, but pointed out the handout was also delivered to the Sewer Commission and Planning and Zoning Board.

C. Phelan – Grove Street – stated her system is holding its own, but she did not know for how long. She stated the planned pump station is well planed and that she hope it would finally move forward.

S. Dolan – 4 Grove Street – spoke regarding the Grove Street Station. He stated he has been here before as well as to numerous Sewer Commission meetings regarding this issue. By way of background he stated these homes were built in the 1920's and that they are antiquated systems at this point. He stated some on his street have failed and others will fail shortly. Mr. Dolan stated at his home where he resides with his wife and two daughters, they have to stagger showers, limit toilet flushing and that his wife has to go to the laundry mat to do their laundry. He stated this is something that should not be happening in 2012. He stated he is in favor of keeping it clean and well maintained.

R. Roy – 43 Howe Street – State Representative – stated he is in support of the proposal for the purchase of 18 Grove Street, so there will finally be a pump station. He stated how important it is for the quality of life for his neighbors. He urged the Board to approve this.

D. Berlekovic – 16 Grove Street – stated he has lived there for 34 years and his system has failed. He stated he is totally in favor of this pump station, which he pointed out would be right next to his house.

B. Harovich (sp) – 1630 New Haven Avenue – stated he is in favor of the Grove Street pump station. He pointed out he will be looking out his back window seeing it, which is better than what it was, when it would have been his front yard. He asked the Board to please approve this.

R. Smith – 59 Sixth Avenue – stated he had not intended to speak tonight, but was incensed to hear a negative political attack before this Board. He stated it was inappropriate for Ms. Bull DiLullo to speak concerning bond counsel. Mr. Smith stated the Mayor had directed all departments to reduce costs and save taxpayer money. He stated the current bond counsel is less money and that they are reputable and extremely competent. He went on to commend the City Attorney for making a change that passed the savings to our citizens.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 12, 2012.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 12, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he did not know Mr. Hardiman would be present tonight and stated he had planned on reporting regarding the upcoming Saint Patrick's Day parade and invited all of the aldermen to attend.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake respectfully requested the Board's consideration and action for items 8a-k on the agenda. He stated he was also happy to report on two good pieces of news and referred the aldermen to items 6a and 6b.

(6a) Mayor Blake provided the Board with a copy of the new executed agreement Re: Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Purchasing Program Authorization. He explained after monitoring the electric supply market, it was determined that it was advantageous to renegotiate the City's current rate with Trans Canada (through CCM), and to take advantage of the unusually favorable market that currently exists. He stated the new rate would be 8.315 from 9.845 cents/kWh, which he stated he would produce an estimated savings of approximately \$1,243,000 over the course of the contract.

(6b) Mayor Blake also reported he was pleased to announce that the city of Milford took advantage of the lowest interest rates in 45 years and, on February 15, 2012 saved the City \$913,034 by successfully refunding \$8.37 million in bond issues from the previous decade.

He stated he was very pleased to announce these two good pieces of news.

Ald. Vetro stated he would ask the Board to re-order several items on tonight's agenda: item 8k to follow item 8c and item 12a-6 to follow item 8i and to vote on the bonding Ordinance; and 12a-5 to follow 8j.

Ald. P. Smith stated item 12a-5 should precede item 8j, not follow.

Ald. Vetro stated he would entertain a motion as corrected by Ald. P. Smith.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda as announced by the Chairman and corrected by Ald. P. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business.

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request pursuant to Article II, Section 16)7) of the Charter of the City of Milford, the appointment of (R) Joseph S. DellaMonica, Jr., 83 Lindy Street, 06460, to complete the unexpired term of Kevin Liddy (resigned) on the Planning and zoning board representing the Fifth District. (Term to expire 12/31/13) Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (R) William P. Farrell, 1 Glenn Street, 06460, as an Alternate to the Board of Assessment Review, to complete the unexpired term of Richard Perneta (resigned). (Term to expire 12/31/12). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (R) Robert J. Thomas, 50 Underhill Road, 06460, as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of appeals to fill the present vacancy (Term to expire 12/31/13). Motion carried unanimously.

8k. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (U) David A. Rowe, 255 Cherry Street, Unit D, 06460, to the Milford Government Access Television Committee (MGAT), to fill the unexpired term of Kimberley Boath (resigned). (Term to expire 12/31/12). Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant City Clerk B. Peloso sworn in Mr. DellaMonica and Mr. Rowe to their respective Boards/Commissions.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated February 23, 2012, for the purchase of property located at 18 Grove Street, Milford, as described in the Agreement of Sale, for the purpose of constructing a pump station, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement of Sale, substantially in its form, and any other associated relative documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate the purchase of said property.

Ald. P. Smith spoke of the costs in the original Capital Improvement Plan (“CIP”) and the current cost. She stated she would like to receive an update on spending on this project.

Ald. Veccharelli commented this is a long time coming. He stated there are some solutions, it may not be perfect, but enough time has been spent. He stated in the long run by approving this, the Board would be making these neighbors happy. He also noted it is a good price this purchase and it will work to make that pump house so it is not obtuse. He stated he was in favor of it.

Ald. Vitali stated he was glad this could finally move forward to the 21st century and all of the residents could be happy. He also commented it appeared it would be constructed so it is aesthetically pleasing to the area.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this project was under the purview of Public Works and if they would be overseeing it.

Mayor Blake stated this is a Sewer Commission project and that it has been on their agenda for many years. He went on to explain there have been a variety of proposals as evidenced from the comments from the speakers tonight. He stated the final proposal to purchase 18 Grove Street and put a pump station there will relieve the constraints of the neighborhood. He went on to explain the numbers from the past to current.

Ald. P. Smith asked if Public Works would be involved with overseeing the project on a day-to-day basis.

Mayor Blake stated that Public Works involvement is very small. He stated Westcott and Mapes, the City’s Sewer engineers would oversee the project with input from the Sewer Commission.

Ald. Bier asked the timeframe for people to see a working sewer system if the land purchase is approved tonight.

Mr. Macaluso, representing Westcott and Mapes at Temple Street, New Haven – also stated he is a lifelong Milford resident. He stated they are the consultants for the Sewer Commission. He stated this project has been talked about for about 8 years. He explained the project came about as part of an infill project and that it was separated out throughout the years. He went on to explain the lengthy history of the project. He stated they have all been working together to achieve a favorable end result.

Ald. F. Smith spoke of the other options and asked about the gravity feed.

Mr. Macaluso explained Anderson Avenue was looked at, but it would have entailed getting involved with environmental issues to go underwater. He stated they are in favor of gravity, sewer and don’t necessary want to put in pump stations, but as everyone knows it is a low lying area. He stated the proposed 11’ x 14’ pump station is smaller than the existing house. He reiterated gravity on Anderson would have been very difficult. He also stated they were trying to avoid impacting gravity.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated February 23, 2012, for the sale of city owned property known as the “John Down’s House” located at 139 North Street, Milford, and to then accept a portion of said

property, as described in the Purchase and Sale Agreement, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement, substantially in the presented form, and any other associated relative documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate the sale of property.

Ald. Anderson stated he had several questions for representatives from the hospital. He asked what plans were in effect for the existing buildings in the downtown area.

Attorney Carroll stated he was not familiar with what Ald. Anderson was asking. He stated he represents the non-profit strictly at the non-profit location. He stated properties such as those across the street from the hospital are for profit entities.

Ald. Anderson asked if there were other properties under consideration on the Boston Post Road.

Attorney Carroll responded there were no other properties under active consideration to his knowledge. He commented regarding the emergency facility located on the Boston Post Road and its success. He stated this transaction is a win-win for Milford.

Ald. Anderson stated he would refrain at this point from calling anything a win-win. He asked about the potential zone change.

Attorney Carroll explained the City would obtain that change of zone.

Mayor Blake interjected stating the City intends to sell the Downs House to the hospital for \$860,000 and that the City would retain some of the square footage. He went to explain the background of this property dating back to 2002 and spoke of the history of the Downs House and its importance to Milford and chronicled the life of John Downs. He stated it was the desire of the City to preserve that history back in 2002 and stop a 6-lot subdivision. He also addressed the contingency that goes along with this sale and the certificate of appropriateness that is necessary. He emphasized the proposal is contingent upon several things.

Ald. Shaw asked about the wavers. She also asked about the buffers that many people spoke about during public session.

Attorney Carroll stated to the rear of the Downs House (easterly boundary). He also stated they would be looking for wavers along Sunnyside Court. He stated they would take all steps necessary to make sure neighbors are satisfied. He stated there has been a lot of work done in getting to where they are with a collaborative effort with the City.

Ald. P. Smith commented they would essentially be back to square one if the change of zone is not granted and the historic commission does not grant the certificate of appropriateness.

Mayor Blake stated all considerations of the sale have to take place for the sale to take place.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke of the neglect of the building which nearly destroyed it. He also spoke of the strong efforts by Milford to save a piece of history in town. He stated he hoped this sale would go through and that the concerns of the people would also be addressed. He stated he looked forward to working with the Mayor and the various agencies to see what can be done with the house.

Ald. Vitali commented they heard a lot of concerns tonight, but that there appeared to be many checks and balances in place. He stated he hoped all of the concerns regarding fencing and buffers would be met and most importantly that those buffers would be pleasing to all during all seasons. He expressed his hope the hospital group would take all of those things under consideration and keep the lines of communications open.

Ald. F. Smith commented there are a lot of misgivings from the property owners. He asked if it would be appropriate to include some of those appropriate buffers.

Mayor Blake stated the buffers would be paid by the applicant, Torry Corp. He also pointed out the \$360,000 would go back to Milford's open space fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Historic Document Preservation Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the request for permission to apply to the State of Connecticut Department Emergency Services & Public Protection as a Sub-Grantee on behalf of eligible Milford property owners for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Disaster Declaration FEMA-DR-1958-CT and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Disaster Declaration FEMA-DR-4023-CT, and to authorize the Mayor and the Community Development Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate this grant program.

Ald. Shaw commented this is a program she may be taking advantage of because of the damage to her own home. She asked how many were applying and how long.

Robert Gregory, Community Development Director – responded they have been working very hard with the homeowners and FEMA. He stated there are 21 applications he is reviewing and that they have to be submitted by March 30, 2012 to the health director. He explained they then submit to FEMA which takes them to around December and then they will come back to this Board for approval. He also noted the grant pays 75% and that homeowner is responsible for 25%.

Ald. Shaw asked when the monies would be made available to the homeowner.

Mr. Gregory responded not until after the paperwork process, which would likely be Spring 2013.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the homeowner has to pay 25%.

Mr. Gregory responded yes and that they have to sign a commitment letter. He went on to explain some homeowners have insurance.

Ald. Giannattasio asked of those 21 applicants how many would have difficulty paying that amount.

Mr. Gregory replied he really was not sure, possibly 5 or 6.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this arrangement is similar to four years ago. She spoke of the Point Beach area where houses were raised.

Mr. Gregory stated the Army Corp of Engineers did that program which was a 90/10 split.

Ald. Anderson asked who is eligible and the deadline. He stated he was asking this for the edification of the Board members and the general public.

Mr. Gregory stated it spread from Woodmont to Bayview Beach, Point Beach, Cedar Beach and Silver Sands. He reiterated the deadline is March 30, 2012 and that the process does take a great deal of time.

Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 11 (2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant). Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

Ald. F. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met this evening to consider six Ordinances and voted favorably to forward the Ordinances to the full Board.

12a-6. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$534,000 For Various Public Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$534,000 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Mayor Blake stated the City of Milford is bonding the entire project along the section of beach affected by Tropical Storm Irene. He stated they would be applying through FEMA for reimbursement for 75%.

Ald. P. Smith stated she asked last month about the bond and final reimbursement. She stated she was also an issue that came up last month about a bonding amount and if there was a need to re-notice if the amount changed. She stated she was still waiting for a response to that question and commented it would help her and hopefully her colleagues. She also commented she found it bothersome that this Board found out through an article in the Hartford Courant that the City of Milford had changed its bond counsel. She stated she was looking for a summary as to the RFP process and evaluation and how the City came to determine that bond counsel be changed. She stated she was looking for transparency. She stated these types of articles are not good for Milford. Regarding Woodmont and the beach program, she asked when the process would begin and if they would be ready for the summer season.

Mayor Blake stated if the bond is approved by this Board, the bid would go out in the next few weeks.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements – 2012. (Engineered Beach Project at Clinton Street to Wall Street). Motion carried unanimously.

12a-5. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Establishing Article III of Chapter 2, Division 4, §2-60 Through §2-63 Of The Milford Code Of Ordinances (City Historian).

Ald. F. Smith noted was forward to the full Board as amended. He pointed out in Sec. 2-62. Appointment and Term, the second sentence “The same person may be reappointed for additional terms.” was removed by the Ordinance Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Richard N. Platt, Jr., 132 Platt Lane, 06460, as Milford’s City Historian. (Term to expire 12/31/12.) 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.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #5, #6, and #7, Fund 10 & 12, FY 12. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. F. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$54,057.38. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. F. Smith reiterated the Committee had met earlier this evening to consider six Ordinances.

12a-1. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation Of City Officials And Employees In The Service Of The City of Milford. Motion carried unanimously.

12a-2. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation Of City Officials And Employees Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation Of City Officials And Employees In The Service Of The City Of Milford (Registrars). Motion carried unanimously.

12a-3. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation Of City Officials And Employees In The Service Of The City of Milford (Mayor, City Clerk).

Ald. P. Smith pointed out for clarification purposes that these increases do not take affect with the current administration and that it is for the next election. She also stated it has been a number of years since there has been an increase in these positions.

Mayor Blake added these two positions would also pay a premium cost share.

Motion carried unanimously.

12a-4. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending chapter 19, Conditions Of Employment And Benefits For City Officials And Employees In The Service Of The City Of Milford, Article II, Public Safety Employees And Article V, General Provisions. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.
- c. Public Works Committee – no report.
- 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 – no report.
- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.

- g. Liaison – Council on Aging – Ald. P. Smith reported those in need of AARP assistance should contact the Senior Center to set up an appointment. She also reported the “Laddles of Love” event would take place on March 31, 2012.

- 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 – Ald. Anderson announced an increase of security as a result of the re-keying.

- l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. P. Smith reported the course now has four (4) golf carts, two which were recently purchased. She also reported they recently purchased 22 new pull carts. She stated opening day is March 17, 2012.

- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Health Department – no report.

- o. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- p. Human Services Commission – no report
- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.

r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – 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.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Anderson moved to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary