

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2011
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 7, 2011 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman G. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 those men and women serving our country. He noted that the Board secretary was ill and that City Clerk, Linda Stock will fill in as the Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Blake
D. German
A. Giannattasio
F. Goodrich
M. Hardiman
B. Joy
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

Excused

B. Beven
B. Bier

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. Chrmn. Smith 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.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – stated he has been a tax payer since 1965. He spoke of the Board of Finance meeting and the fact he was upset because it was not advertised. He is trying to get the newspapers to put the meeting dates and times in the paper. He believes the Board of Ed has a “real system going,” passing notes to the children and teachers. He feels bonding is a big issue; and he does not go along with the recycling proposal. He also referred to the dredging of the harbor and the fact that there are many large boats that dock at Lisman Landing. He suggested that parking meters be installed for the boats. Also, the Board of Ed wants to hire two gym directors and he feels they are getting away from education. Mr. Petrahai believed that everyone should follow the advice of Alan Jepson – cross train everyone. We need to cut overhead to save money and the city needs to get the most out of the people who for us. We have to cut taxes and the taxpayers need to be notified of upcoming meetings.

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J. Garbus – Walnut Beach Association President – stated they were very proud of the youngest environmentalist, Mackenzie Powers. On May 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a clean up at Walnut Beach; last year there were 75 volunteers and he hopes to get more this year. There will be free ice cream from Walnut Beach Ice Cream for the first 100 volunteers.

G. Levi – 79 Wilson Street – spoke regarding single stream recycling. He noted that the new containers would be 96 gallons and 96 gallons of water weighs 800 pounds. There is potential for these new containers to weigh quite a bit and he wondered if the citizens would be responsible to bring them to the curb for pick up. He wondered if they could continue to utilize their old bins. He also questioned how often these bins would be collected. He feels there may be potential problems moving them to the curb.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – noted that the Governor is proposing that the cities take over the Tech schools. He is adamant that it is a bad idea that would cost the city more money and more problems with the Board of Ed. Mr. Prisco is against tax increases and as long as he's lived here, he's never seen taxes go down. He wished everyone "Erin Go Bragh."

D. Guaglianone – 73 Cooper Avenue – Cable Advisory Council Member from Milford. He asked that the residents support the Cable Advisory Council and also to get involved in Hartford so that Milford gets its fair share of the education funding. He commended the City and Public Works for the good job they did on snow removal in the Silver Sands area. He also commended the Police Department for keeping East Broadway open during the sewer work. Regarding MGAT member, Mike Manente and his reappointment, Mr. Guaglianone noted there are still errors occurring and he will continue to monitor same.

T. Beirne – 55 Bayshore Drive – noted how he is still attempting to get the Board to look into group medical insurance. Back in 2005 the group insurance company was being indicted for fraud and they had to return \$95 million to several companies so that the charges would be dropped. He stated the City's responsibilities toward retirees have grown. Mr. Beirne mentioned that the Finance Director always puts \$14,000,000 into the budget for this responsibility but it is always reduced to between \$300,000 and \$400,000. He maintains that the city has to look out for the citizens money.

M. Hardiman – 183 Cottage Street – stated the 21st Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on March 12 and is the greatest family oriented parade in the state. He noted that the streets will be blocked off at noon and those marching in the parade should be at Wasson Field at 11:30 a.m. His was an open invitation for all to attend the parade.

T. Marquis – 67 Point Beach Drive – Did not agree that a good job was done on snow removal as it was impossible to get from the bus shelters to the buses. Downtown needs to be friendlier. The Governor arranged for extra monies to be disbursed to take care of any extra costs in snow removal. She hopes the budget will be cut on the administration side and that the Board of Ed side will be preserved; no more schools should be closed. She mentioned the Oyster Festival and their \$250,000 bank account

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and the fact that no one knows how much they give to charity; she hopes this year they will be more transparent. Regarding the budget, there are empty positions which have been held on the books that are being eliminated and she hopes that no "real people" will be affected by layoffs, especially teachers.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 7, 2011.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 7, 2011. 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 noted that the public hearing for the Board of Ed budget will be held at City Hall on April 7, at 7:00 p.m. Other budget hearings will be held on April 11, 14, 25, and 28; deliberations will be on May 5, 12, 19, 23, 24 and 26 if needed.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli was honored to present Conservation Commission awards and introduced Bill Poutray, Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Poutray thanked all those who worked to clean up the city, especially Mackenzie Powers, the youngest volunteer.

Mayor Richetelli then presented awards to the following:

Vincent Piselli, Youth Conservation Leader (presented an Earth Day Hat to the Mayor, noting Earth Day is April 30)

Annaliese Spaziano, Conservation Educator of the Year

Maryrose Palumbo, Conservation Educator of the Year

Mackenzie Powers, Youth Conservationist of the Year

Milford Garden Club, Non-Profit conservation Organization of the Year

Frederick A. DeLuca, Business Conservationist of the Year (represented by his employee, Michele DiNello)

Mark Lofthouse, Lifetime Conservation Leader

Barbara Milton, Lifetime Conservation Leader

Letitia "Letty" Malone, Lifetime Conservation Leader

Ann Berman, Conservationist of the Year

At this time the Board took a brief recess to clear the room.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

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7. Unfinished Business:

None.

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

8a. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Historic Document Preservation Grant per request of City Clerk Linda Stock dated 2/14/11. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City of Milford to submit a grant application to the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for the On-Site Renewable Energy Generation Program's Site Specific Feasibility Study Grant to provide funding for engineering and feasibility analysis for Fuel Cells or other power generation technology at the Housatonic and/or Beaverbrook Wastewater Treatment Facilities and to authorize the Mayor and the Department of Economic and Community Development to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the grant application.

DISCUSSION

Tom Ivers, Grant Coordinator, explained that the wastewater plants are undergoing substantial renovations. The City will apply for funds to do fuel cells engineering analyses which will also be the case with Beaverbrook. Both plants will be evaluated simultaneously.

Ald. Blake noted that moving forward with this project is the right thing to do environmentally, as well as money savings in the long run. He questioned when the fuel cell is expected to be on line so the City can reap the benefits and how much will be saved in the first year – 2011-2012. Mr. Ivers responded it would probably be 18 months before either happens. Fuel cells save energy by generating electricity and heat. It is difficult to say what the energy savings will be, perhaps \$200,000 to \$300,000 in electricity net operating costs; maybe \$250,000 per year in energy savings.

Ald. Giannattasio questioned how much funding would be expected for engineering to which Mr. Ivers responded the maximum amount is \$50,000 per project. Block grant funds will cover the costs for both Beaverbrook and Housatonic.

Ald. Staneski commended Mr. Ivers for all the work put into the grants. Regarding previous discussions of using these facilities for educational purposes and also at looking at generating possible future engineers, she wondered if that is still a possibility. Although it is still a possibility, he has not been approached by the Board of Ed; however, he will explore all possibilities.

Ald. Staneski continued, questioning if the approximate savings of \$250,000 will be reinvested in other clean energy projects in Milford. Mr. Ivers responded there is nothing that requires that option; however, this area can be explored.

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Ald. Veccharelli recalled that the old sewer treatment plant, now Lisman Landing, had a giant flame coming out; he has been waiting for this fuel cell to come on line, for us to get it and start using it as the treatment plant is the largest user of electricity. He is happy to see the City moving in this direction and hopes we go further and put other energy saving systems in place.

Mr. Ivers interjected that they can only speculate what the return will be with the cash flow of 20¢ to 22¢ per kilowatt hour.

Regarding the savings, Ald. P. Smith asked if these funds will come back into the municipal funds. Mayor Richetelli explained that the operation for wastewater systems is through the user fees; therefore the cost savings will go into the wastewater budget.

Ald. Vitali also thanked Mr. Ivers for his efforts and asked what other cities and/or towns are using the same type of technology. Mr. Ivers responded that most communities such as Middletown and Fairfield have used this system for large buildings such as schools and hospitals or wastewater plants, but not for the entire community. He is not aware of any cities in Connecticut that use methane.

Ald. Joy wondered if there is a special municipal electrical rate given to the City to which Mayor Richetelli responded in the negative.

After speaking to an acquaintance in the business, Ald. Joy mentioned that he was told that one danger of this system is that if it goes down for any period of time, the city will have to pay from the grid which could be very expensive. Mr. Ivers explained they all have back up generators. In addition, these systems can be serviced with very little down time; they make no noise and have no moveable parts.

Chrmn. Smith thanked Mr. Ivers for taking the time to address the Board's questions; he was very informative.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City of Milford to submit a grant application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Fuel Cell Program Opportunity or On-Site Distributed Generation Program for construction and installation of a Fuel Cell at the Housatonic Wastewater Treatment Facility and to authorize the Mayor and the Department of Economic and Community Development to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept an Energy Opportunities Incentive payment in the amount of \$17,316 from the United Illuminating Company for installation of energy efficient, conservation investment equipment purchased with federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block

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Grant funds. It is further authorized that these funds and any future rebates, subsidies, and/or incentive payments received under this federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, shall be deposited back into the designated Energy Block Grant account, as federally required, to be used to reduce the cost of previously approved energy efficiency and conservation activities.

DISCUSSION

Ald. P. Smith asked Mr. Ivers for a concise explanation of the deposit, to which Mr. Ivers responded that the rebate does not go back into the General Fund; it is miscellaneous revenue that needs to be deposited into a separate account. The motion asks that it be automatically done in the future as well, so they do not have to come before the Board every time they receive a rebate.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there were any "future projects on the horizon." Mr. Ivers responded they are reviewing four buildings: Parsons, Margaret Egan Center, Devon Fire Station, Human Services building at the Milford Academy site.

The motion carried unanimously with no further discussion.

Mr. Ivers noted that the comfort level in City Hall, including the oxygen levels, will be improved. He also pointed out the compact energy light bulbs in the chandeliers.

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. Consideration Of Budget Memo Transfers - NONE

11. Refunds:

a. Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$ 48,633.55

It was moved by Ald. P. Smith, seconded by Ald. Goodrich to approve the refunds in the amount of \$48,633.55. The 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 – no report

d. Claims Committee – Ald. Vitali reported the Committee met earlier in the evening regarding a PPD Award to Joseph Milici. It was moved by Ald. Vitali and seconded by Ald. Giannattasio to approve a PPD Award to Joseph Milici in accordance with the recommendation of the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

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- 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 – 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. 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.

(14a) Status report Re: Mark IV Construction – East West Interceptor project.

Ald. Vetro and Joy made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session RE: Status report Re: Mark IV Construction – east West Interceptor project. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman G. Smith announced those attending the Executive Session would be the full Board, along with the Attorney Max Case and Raymond Macaluso, Sewer Consultant.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

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

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Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:00 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to authorize the City Attorney to accept the settlement on the terms as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Vetro and Ald. Goodrich moved to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock
City Clerk