

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 4, 2011**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2011 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman G. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:36 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.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier (7:42 p.m.)
D. German
F. Goodrich
A. Giannattasio
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
P. Erodici, Acting Finance Director

Excused

B. Bevan
B. Blake

Ald. Vetro noted for the record that Ald. Blake was in South Korea representing the City of Milford. Ald. Vetro stated Ald. Blake along with six other political and policy leaders from across the country were in South Korea studying that country's political system and engaging in dialog on local and international issues, the focus of which is to forge professional relationships. Ald. Vetro further stated the program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the American Council of Young Political Leaders. Ald. Vetro asked that Ald. Blake be excused from the next three Board of Aldermen meetings.

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.

T. Casey – 4 Amber Lane – stated she is a member of the Board of Education representing the 2nd district. She stated she was here to request a joint meeting of the Board of Education and Board of Aldermen. She stated she made this request last year, adding they are in the same place this year with the budget. Mrs. Casey stated she is trying to understand the difference between the Board of Education side of the budget and the city side of the budget. She begged the Board to allow the two Boards to come together and work collaboratively in the best interest of the city and the kids. She asked the Board to find a way to legally meet and get it done.

L. Malone – 14 8th Avenue – stated she is the Chair of the Mayor's Open Space Advisory Board and was here tonight regarding 462 Oronoque Road. She stated she wholeheartedly supports this purchase and asked the Board to approve this request.

M. Macri – 534 Oronoque Road – stated she has owned the River Crease farm since 1942. She expressed her hope the Board would support the purchase of this property adding she would be the best neighbor.

E. Muth – 25 Parkland Place – stated he is a 50 year resident of Milford and Commander of the Disabled Veterans Association. He stated they are a small group and meet in the Fowler Building. He asked the Board for their support regarding the Ordinance on tonight's agenda.

J. Meade – 36 Dewey Avenue – stated he is Commander of Post 3778 and was here to speak regarding tonight's Ordinance. He stated the proposed new commission would be the best of two worlds and echoed the comments of Mr. Murth.

W. Cates – 97 Pomona Avenue – stated he too supported the Ordinance adopting the two groups as one commission.

R. Hanson – 46 Oregon Avenue North – stated he was here regarding the Oronoque Road purchase. He stated the city should spend more money on open space, that there is not enough. He stated the property being discussed borders an industrial land. He stressed the need to purchase this lot.

W. Poutray – 25 Willow Street – asked the Board to vote in favor of the Oronoque Road purchase. He stated the land is one of the last, large tracts of land and that he was in favor of pursuing this as open space and farm. He stated he supported this acquisition.

A. Berman – 77 Pelham Street – thanked the Mayor for his willingness to believe in purchasing the property at Oronoque Road. She expressed her hope all Board members would support this purchase. She also passed out a flyer regarding Earth Day on April 23, 2011

M. Scagliarlin – 18 Paddock Place – thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He stated he supported the purchase of the property on Oronoque Road and also noted it is a great tract of land.

B. Wright – 20 South Street – stated she was very happy to see on the agenda the purchase of the Oronoque Road property, which is located right next to the Macri farm. She stated the tract in the middle needs to be carefully preserved. She stated she supported the Mayor's purchase of this land and stated this is important to the City of Milford.

G. Andretta – 63 Austin Road – stated here was here regarding the property on Oronoque Road. He stated it is in the city's best interest to purchase this property.

W. Carson – 188 Robert Treat Parkway – stated he is past commander of Post 34. He expressed his hope the Board would pass the Ordinance regarding the veterans.

B. Milton – 32 Elm Street – stated she was here to strongly support the purchase of Oronoque Road.

E. Peterson – 54 Florence Avenue – echoed all the comments regarding the property on Oronoque Road.

D. Guaglianone – 73 Cooper Avenue – stated he wished to speak about a few things. He asked the Board to restore funding for the Milford Public Library. He stated he also had a list of MGAT issues. He stated the Chairman has harassed a manager and he has published the names and addresses as well as social security numbers. Mr. Guaglianone also stated woman are unwilling to work for him because of his harassment of them.

G. Box – 110 Erna Avenue – stated she too was passionate about the support of the Oronoque Road purchase. She stated she has lived her whole life in Milford and there are not many farms left here. She stated we needed to have a legacy for the future and urged the Board to go ahead with the purchase of this property.

C. Alling – 29 Rivercliff Drive – urged the Board to approve the purchase of the Oronoque Road property.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – asked about the OTB money and recycling savings and asked that those monies go toward the purchase of guardrails on Anderson Avenue. He asked the Board to fix that problem. He stated the guardrails are falling down and create a safety issue. He also expressed his concern the Board of Education passed their budget with a 5-3 vote. He stated it was not a full board and he had concerns. He stated there should have been a full Board present to vote on the budget. He also told the Board to be prepared to take way and not give anything back.

T. Beirne – 55 Bayshore Drive – stated the single largest problem facing governments is how to fund retirees and how healthcare is funded. He stated here in Milford officials seem to just keep kicking it down the road. He stated he saw in the budget where the Mayor plans to only put \$500,000 in that fund, while the certified finance director with 19 years experience recommends \$14,000,000. He also spoke regarding the settlement from the insurance company. He stated sooner or later it is going to catch up. He also spoke about what happened to him recently at a meeting when he was not allowed to speak. He asked the Board to show responsibility for what they do.

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

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 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 thanked those veterans for coming out tonight and especially the VFW, American Legion and other groups that came out in support of tonight's Ordinance regarding Chapter 2, Article III. Chairman Smith also reminded everyone the public hearing regarding the Board of Finance's proposed budget for FY 11/12 would be held on April 7, 2011.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated he respectfully asked for the Board's action regarding items 8a and 8d and that he would be happy to discuss each as they come up on the agenda. He also stated he wished to make the Board aware of the following Mayor's appointment:

(D) Theresa Rivera, 160 Harrison Avenue, 06460, as the Tenant Representative on the Milford Redevelopment and Housing Partnership. Term to expire 11/30/14.

He also made the Board aware of the retirement of Finance Director Judy L. Doneiko, effective April 1, 2011. Mayor Richetelli stated Ms. Doneiko has served the City of Milford well for more than 12 years having achieved the GFOA Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting for the last six years. He stated her experience and knowledge will be missed, but he wished her much health and happiness in her retirement. Mayor Richetelli reported to the Board he has appointed Peter A. Erodici, Jr., as the Acting Finance Director and that a search has begun to fill the position. He stated he was confident through the interim period that Mr. Erodici would be an asset to the City.

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 to authorize the purchase of approximately 13.45 acres of land located at 462 Oronoque Road (Map 74, Block 928, Parcel 18) from Oronoque Road, LLC of 33A Light Street, Stratford, CT, for a price of \$1,100,000 and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney's Office to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents, to effectuate this purchase. (Per attached Planning and Zoning Board recommendation dated March 17, 2011.).

Ald. Veccharelli asked what the cost would be per year with bonding to purchase the property.

Mayor Richetelli replied the number would have to be calculated. He stated it they had received advance notice he could have had it calculated, but he certainly could get that information.

Ald. Veccharelli commented if this parcel were to be used as open space they would be paying too much, but it looks as though the property was not being bought for open space. He spoke about the \$1,400 purchase price as well as the back taxes, which is stated is part of this agreement to purchase. He noted many people spoke regarding this and that they want the city to buy this and that he too is in favor of this purchase, but that it looks as though this will cost \$75,000-100,000 per year to purchase. He stated it was his understanding the city was not just openly buying this without the understanding that they would be paying yearly for this.

Mayor Richetelli stated the property was not being dedicated as open space. He stated the city was preserving its options for the future.

Ald. German stated he wished to thank all of those who spoke during the public comment in support of this purchase.

Ald. Goodrich stated in reading the memorandum in the aldermen packet, it looks like financing is \$85,000. He stated he would rather that than having a junkyard in the farm. He stated he was in support of this.

Ald. Giannattasio commented it really is a very reasonable price.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 12a 1-. Motion carried unanimously.

12a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Giannattasio reported the committee met earlier in the evening to discuss four Ordinances and voted favorably to forward the following Ordinance to the full Board as follows:

12a-1 Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$1,685,000 For Land Acquisition And Road Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance of \$1,685,000 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Cash Advance for the Purchase of Land at 462 Oronoque Road and Realignment, Reconstruction, and Traffic Safety Improvements at Old Gate Lane under Metro North Railroad Bridge. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Regarding Urban Action Grant for Bridgeport Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Devon Revitalization Phase IV).

Ald. P. Smith asked the Mayor to provide an update regarding this phase.

Mayor Richetelli stated the Devon Revitalization has been going on for better than a decade. He stated through this group they have paid for site improvements, brick walks, lamplights, etc., however that money is coming to an end. He explained the State Bond Commission approved additional monies to complete the improvements on Bridgeport Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Nancy Tudor, 1234 Windward Road, 06461, to the Animal Shelter Commission to complete the unexpired term of (D) Marlene N. Scrivani (resigned). Term to expire 12/31/13. 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. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #8, Fund 10, FY 11. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #8, Fund 36, FY 11. 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 \$53,990.33. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Suspensions in the amount of \$178,876.93. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Giannattasio stated there were three other Ordinances the committee considered tonight. He stated the Ordinance Committee voted to forward to the full Board with a favorable recommendation the following Ordinances:

12a-2. Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Creating A Retiree Health Care Trust And Appointing a Trustee And Administrator Of The Trust.

Mayor Richetelli stated this refers to the retirees' healthcare or OPEB. He acknowledged the presence of Attorney Bruce Barth if the Board had any additional questions.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this is approved tonight how long it would take to set up.

Attorney Barth stated it should be set up to July 1, 2011.

Ald. Patterson asked if past money that has been funded would go into this trust.

Attorney Barth responded yes, that was his understanding.

Motion carried unanimously.

12a-3. Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending the Workers' Compensation Self Insurance Fund and Establishing Chapter 2, Article VIII, Funds, Division 1, Sections 2-110 through 2-113 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Workers' Compensation Self Insurance Fund). Motion carried unanimously.

12a-4 Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article III, And Adopting Division 3, Sections 2-57 through 2-59 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission).

Chairman G. Smith explained the history of how this came about and provided details of the two groups. He stated each of the organizations takes turns organizing and running the parade. He stated now was the time for these groups to come together for efficiency.

Ald. Vetro agreed anything that would create a more organized manner for these parades would be a plus. He added it will be great to see more participation.

Ald. P. Smith commended the organizations for their work and coming together. She also echoed the comments of Ald. Vetro, reiterating it will be great to see more participation.

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 – Ald. Vitali reported the Board of Education welcomed new superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Feser today.

- 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 – Ald. Vetro reported the Rent-A-Kid program has begun and that the food bank is available to those in need. He also reported the department provides therapy services, energy assistance, which ends in May, rent rebate program and outreach.

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) Cynthia Anger v. City of Milford, et al – discussion re: pending litigation.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session RE: Cynthia Anger v. City of Milford, et al – discussion re: pending litigation.

Chairman G. Smith announced those attending the Executive Session would be the full Board, along with the Mayor, City Attorney W. Smith and Attorney James Tallberg, counsel for the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:39 p.m.

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

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 9:01 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to authorize the City Attorney to enter into settlement RE: Cynthia Anger v. City of Milford in accordance with the recommendations of Counsel for the City as discussed in Executive Session and authorize the City Pension Board to approve said settlement. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary