

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance asking former aldermen Joe Viscout to lead the salute. He also asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Sebastian Boscarino who recently passed away. Chairman Vetro stated Basco as he was warmly called was a fixture at the senior center.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
M. Casey
S. Fontana
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Jonathan D. Berchem, City Attorney
Peter Erodici, Finance Director
Suzanne Paul, Assistant City Clerk
Steven Fournier, Mayor's Admin Asst

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.

J. Viscount – stated he would defer to his commanding officer, Betsy Walsh. Ms. Walsh stated she was here tonight to bring attention to an initiative that has not been fixed since 1951. She stated the Parsons Complex was originally supposed to be named the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. She stated she would like to see this rectified. She also spoke to the cost of correcting the monument which stated she would be about \$1,500-\$1,700. Ms. Walsh also spoke as to the lack of accessibility at the building which was pointed out to her recently by State Senator Blumenthal. She stated the building is also lacking the names of those veterans from the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraqi Wars. Also, Milford's war veterans and POW's should be recognized.

Mr. Viscount stated 22 years ago he had the privilege to serve as this Board's minority leader and that he was very happy to return here tonight and provide some words of wisdom. He spoke of the old days spent in this building as a teenager, historic events in Milford and his personal life. Mr. Viscount stated tonight he wanted to speak about the Ordinance he submitted. He stated veterans have done and continue to do so much for Milford and its residents. He stated he wants Milford to be safe for all as to all of the veterans. He stated the Ordinance he is proposing will give everyone a better Milford and asked the Board to please take a look at the Ordinance and give it a fair shake.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Street – stated he was in strong support of the appointment of Carol LaBrake as the City Historian, who he pointed out is the daughter of Ruth Brockett, Milford's first City Historian. Mr. Platt also stated he wished to support his fellow veterans and asked the Board to fix the Veterans Memorial Auditorium and have the appropriate sign put up. He also stated he wished to discuss Prospect Street. He went on to speak of the 1001 Plan of Conservation and Development and the part of Prospect Street in that plan. With Milford celebrating its 375th, he wanted the Board to recall the historic importance of the property at 67 Prospect which may possibly be foreclosed on and the danger of what it may become. He continued reading from a prepared statement regarding Prospect Street.

T. Russo – no address given – spoke of his personal background and how he went to war as a young man. He asked the Board to consider Mr. Viscount's proposal, adding it was very important to Milford.

T. Flowers – 21 Point Lookout – stated he is the Chairman of the Veterans Parade and Ceremony Commission. He stated he was here tonight in support of his fellow veterans. He also applauded the replacement of the memorial flag on the green and the enhancement of Founders Walk, adding they were wonderful opportunities.

R. Gregory – 14 Manor House Lane – stated he is the Chairman of Milford's 375th Anniversary Celebration. He stated as part of the celebration the Air Force Concert band would be performing at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. He also stated he was happy to report banners depicting Milford's 375th would be up on poles throughout Milford and stated any local business could sponsor a banner. He deferred to James Maroney.

J. Maroney – commented he and Ald. Stanford are part of the Devon Rotary replacing the flag pole. He continued with an explanation of the Founders Walk which he stated would become a paved walkway, with seating, etc. He also thanked the 375th Committee for its unofficial gift to the city.

Mr. Gregory concluded it would in fact be the legacy the 375th would leave. He also stated they are partnering with the garden club, which this Board would hear from later tonight.

J. Viscount – 57 Chatham Avenue – stated he is too is a veteran, as are 14 members of his family that have served. He stated he was here to support the work of his father and expressed his hope this Board would move forward with it.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on March 3, 2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 3, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated the Memorial Day parade would be held next month and expressed his hope Milford residents would turn out as they did for the Saint Patrick's Day parade.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake asked the Board's consideration and action on those agenda items 8a-8m and that he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have. He also stated there is one item for the Board to consider under New Business.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (U) Carol LaBrake, 46 Bilyard Street, Milford, 06461, to complete the unexpired term of (D) Richard Platt (five-year term expiring 12/31/16). Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (R) Joan Campbell, 40 Shell Avenue, 06460, as a member of the Milford Department of Human Services (organized labor representative), to complete the unexpired term of (D) Paul Geer (resigned) (three-year term expiring 12/31/15). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (R) Patricia Deer, 235 Seaside Avenue, 06460, as a member of the Milford Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission (civic representative) to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/16). Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Gregory Kimmell, 101 Centennial Drive, 06461, from an alternate member to a regular member of the Pension and Retirement Board to complete the unexpired term of (U) Jeffrey Roblyer (resigned) (three-year term expiring 12/31/15). Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant City Clerk Bonnie Peloso swore in Ms. LaBrake, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Kimmell.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: "The Official Flower of the City of Milford."

Mayor Blake stated the Milford Garden Club was present to provide the Board with any additional information.

A spokesperson from the Garden Club explained they are a non-profit organization since 1927. She stated they are very interested in contributing to Milford and after much research they found Milford did not have a city flower. She went on to explain the research they conducted and how they arrived at the Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' also known as the Eastern Purple Coneflower.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he was glad to hear it was deer resistant.

Ald. German thanked the garden club for their work.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City to accept the Coastal Community Resilience Grant in the amount of \$6,500 from the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and \$13,500 from the Connecticut Association of Realtors, Inc. for a total award of \$20,000 and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and DPLU Director, to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grants. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for the NROC Coastal Community Resilience Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City to accept the Department of Agriculture's Ag Viability Grant in the amount of \$6,720 from the Department of Agriculture and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and Open Space Manager to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said grant.

Mayor Blake stated these grants as well as the two subsequent two grants were applied for by Steven Johnson.

Ald. German asked for a brief description of what the grants will accomplish.

Mr. Johnson explained it would help with the water quality supplying the Wepawaug River. He also stated they are looking to improve the Wepawaug River, dredging, etc.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the Resolution Re: Cash Advance for the Department of Agriculture's Ag Viability Grant.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the city to accept 2014 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) award in the amount of \$500,000 from the State of Connecticut for the design and reconstruction of the Beaverbrook Boardwalk, including the enhancement of a nature trail and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and Open Space Manager to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said grant.

Ald. Smith commended Mr. Johnson for his fine work securing these grants, adding it was a testimony to his hard work.

Motion carried unanimously.

8k. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for the State of Connecticut's STEAP award. Motion carried unanimously.

8l. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City to accept the Wepawaug River Watershed Alliance Grant in the amount of \$3,825 for the purchase of a professional water quality testing meter, supplies and training and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and Open Space Manager to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8m. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City to accept the Youth Running Program Grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the Consultation Center, Inc. of New Haven, and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and Police Chief, to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant.

Mayor Blake stated this program stems from a program started by Officer Compare helping keep our kids active and healthy.

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.

Chairman Vetro stated he would entertain a motion to add new business.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to add to the agenda the request for approval for Resolution RE: Authorizing Resolution of the City of Milford Board of Aldermen and the FFY 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for approval for Resolution RE: Authorizing Resolution of the City of Milford Board of Aldermen and the FFY 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why this was before this Board under New Business.

Mayor Blake stated he received an email on Friday after the agendas had gone out. He stated Mr. Richards from DEMHS Region II and Deputy Emergency Management Director was on hand for questions.

Mr. Richards stated the deadline had actually passed.

Attorney Berchem added this is something the City signs on an annual basis. He stated it was received on April 2 and that he called the State and they asked if this item could somehow make its way onto the agenda.

By roll call vote motion carried 12 yes (Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 1 no (Fontana).

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #7 and #8, Funds 10 and 12, FY 14. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$14,661.11. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening to consider four Ordinances. He stated all four Ordinances were forwarded to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation. He stated the Ordinances were mainly housekeeping items, with some language clarification.

12a-1. Ald. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,973,000 for Various School Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,973,000 Bonds of the City to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

12a-2. Ald. Smith and Ald. made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2, Administration, Article IV, Personnel Department, Sections 2-76 Through 2-78 and Substituting, Chapter 2, Administration, Article IV, Human Resources Department Sections 2-76 through 2-78. Motion carried unanimously

12a-3. Ald. Smith and Ald. made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Administration, Article VIII, Funds, Division Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, Section 2-115, Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Smith stated with regard to the fourth Ordinance, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Building and Building Regulations, Article 1, In General; Demolition, Sections 6-5, 6-7 and 6-10, there were some concerns with the language and additional input from the new city historian, so the matter was tabled.

Ald. Giannattasio raised a point of order, asking if this was merely an update as the matter was tabled at the Committee level.

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 –
- 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. Consideration of settlement of Old Gate Realty 2 LLC v. City of Milford
Re: 55 Old Gate Lane
- 14b. Consideration of settlement of Old Gate Realty. v. City of Milford
Re: 125 Old Gate Lane
- 14c. Consideration of settlement of BVS Jai Alai, LLC v. City of Milford
Re: 311 Old Gate Lane
- 14d. Consideration of settlement of Paradigm Lansdale, LLC v. City of Milford
Re: 100 Lansdale Avenue
- 14e. Consideration of settlement of 245 Orange Avenue, LLC v. City of Milford
Re: 239 Orange Avenue
- 14f. Consideration of settlement of Isabelle Morrison, et al v. City of Milford
Re: 8 Rogers Avenue

Chairman Vetro announced those individuals entering Executive Session for items 14a-f would be the full Board, Mayor and City Attorney.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the items announced by the Chairman above. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:41 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:04 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Old Gate Realty 2 LLC v. City of Milford Re: 55 Old Gate Lane, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Old Gate Realty. v. City of Milford Re: 125 Old Gate Lane, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement Re: BVS Jai Alai, LLC v. City of Milford Re: 311 Old Gate Lane, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement Re: Paradigm Lansdale, LLC v. City of Milford Re: 100 Lansdale Avenue, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement Re: 245 Orange Avenue, LLC v. City of Milford Re: 239 Orange Avenue, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement Re: Isabelle Morrison, et al v. City of Milford Re: 8 Rogers Avenue, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Kubek moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary