

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
APRIL 8, 2019**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone and asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson (7:04)
E. Beatty
K. Fortunati
C. Gaynor
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
J. Grant
M. Hardiman
F. Smith (7:04)
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
P. Erodici, Finance Director
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff
J. Rohrig, City Clerk

Chairman Vetro reconvened the budget proceedings in public session at 7:01 p.m.

Harbor Commission (pg. 109) – Ray Swift, Director of Operations was present for questions/comments. He stated they are getting ready for the new season. The Marina has been redecked and they are completing painting. Chairman Vetro stated the Landing is doing a great job and looks good. Ald. Giannattasio asked how many positions are included in the budget. Mr. Swift stated it depends on the skill of new hires, but there approximately 8-10 seasonal staff. He stated he needs 6 working on Fridays and Saturdays. He also stated that he is the only full time staff member. Ald. Giannattasio asked there was authority to have up to 10 seasonal staff. Mr. Swift stated if he needs to hire more he could. He also stated that most of his crew returns to school the end of August which is a savings. Ald. German asked if there was reason electricity is higher than prior years. Mr. Swift stated there is no reason he is aware of other than rates have increased. He commented that the solar panels are now approximately 10 years old and may not be producing as much. Ald. Golden asked if there were plans to upgrade the solar panels. Mr. Swift commented not at this time. Ald. Grant asked if there were plans to modernize slip bookings. Mr. Swift explained how he had tried to go with an online booking company, but it was difficult because of the big weekends at the marina.

Veterans Graves (pg. 89) - No speakers present.

Milford Flotilla 73 (pg. 90) – Shaun Liebskind, Flotilla Commander state the Flotilla has been around since World War II and they are getting ready for their busy season. He stated the Flotilla continues to grow with 13 new members this year. He commented on how the Flotilla gives back to the City through boating safety education and vessel inspections. Ald. Beatty asked what the cause of most casualties was. Mr. Liebskind explained it was paddle craft and the lack of education. Ald. Giannattasio asked why the grant request was \$9,000, \$500 less than FY 17/18. Mr. Liebskind explained the Flotilla understood everyone was asked to cut back and they thought they should do their part. Ald. Giannattasio asked if the Flotilla was looking for a new location. Discussion ensued concerning the possible relocation of the Flotilla.

Cemetery Association (pg. 91) – No speakers present.

Community Development (pg. 20) - Julie Nash, Director of Community Development stated they had a successful year and continue to improve business growth. She stated the budget is tight for the number of events and the only increase requested is due to the tourism website due to launch in May. Ms. Nash explained that in order for the tourism website to be successful a good social media campaign is necessary. She discussed how tourism is good for the local economy. Ald. Vitali asked about the office upkeep account. Ms. Nash explained there are 6 computers in the office and they try to upgrade 1 each year, including software. Ald. German asked if Ms. Dash would give some background on the state of the City's economy. Ms. Nash provided statistics generated by the Secretary of State's Office. Ald. Giannattasio asked how many staff members are in the office. Ms. Nash stated she is full time, one clerical part-time staff member and the CDBG Grant Coordinator who is paid by grant. Discussion ensued concerning the Milford Flotilla and best use of the property.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a recess at 8:02 p.m. The Board reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

Ald. Anderson asked Ms. Nash to share information concerning the industrial sector. Ms. Nash stated our strongest industries are healthcare, retail and manufacturing. She stated most facilities are fully occupied. Ald. German asked Ms. Nash to share information concerning the tourism website. Ms. Nash stated this has been a work in process for the past two years. She reviewed all the areas that were studied to develop the website. Ms. Nash provided an overview of the project.

Economic Development Commission (pg. 20) – Julie Nash, Director of Community Development, stated the Commission's budget is \$1 and they have not asked for an increase. She stated the Commission has a great membership and they have been very supportive.

Boys and Girls Club (pg. 92) - No speakers present. The Mayor stated he could answer any questions or the Boys and Girls Club could be rescheduled should any of the Aldermen have question. Ald. German asked that they be rescheduled as he did have several questions.

Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission (pg. 33) – No speakers present.

Public Library (pg. 35) – Chris Angeli, Library Director, thanked the Board for having her present during Library Week. She stated the budget represents a .02% increase. Ms. Angeli provided library statistics for the past year. Ms. Angeli stated that programs offered have increased by 109% over the past 10 years. Ald. Smith stated Ms. Angeli was instrumental in securing a state grant for the

expansion of the children's department. He also commented on the great work the library has been doing. Ald. Grant stated he echoes Ald. Smith's comments. He stated the statistics are outstanding. Ald. Beatty asked with the expansion of the children's library how it will work with a flat budget. Ms. Angeli stated she will look at every dollar and shift funds as may be needed. Ald. Gaynor stated she was happy to see the coffee shop with City Perks. Ms. Angeli stated this is a great partnership with the Board of Education vocational services and it's a great opportunity for the students.

Park, Beach and Recreation Commission (pg. 31) - Paul Piscitelli, Recreation Director, stated he was happy to answer any questions.

Recreation Department (pg. 82) – Paul Piscitelli, Recreation Director, was present to answer questions. Ald. German asked if there were any large projects planned. Mr. Piscitelli stated the Recreation Department and Public Works Department have been working together on many improvements including the dog park at Eisenhower and Foote Field. He commended on the recent bonding for renovating the outdated playgrounds. Ald. Anderson asked if the Recreation budget reflected an increase in the minimum wage. Mr. Piscitelli stated that it does not at this time, but it is his hope that if increased it will not be all at once, but will be factored in over years.

Golf Course (pg. 112) – Paul Piscitelli, Recreation Director stated Dan Worroll had to leave unexpectedly and should the Board have any questions he would do his best to provide answers.

Chairman Vetro announced that Milford Government Access Television would be moved to the end of the agenda as Kara Flannery was working in the control room filming tonight's meeting.

Flood and Erosion Board (pg. 30) – No speakers present.

Tree Commission (pg. 30) – No speakers present.

Conservation Commission (pg. 32) – No speakers present.

Open Space (pg. 34) – Steve Johnson, Open Space and Natural Resource Agent provided highlights on Sustainable Connecticut. He also provided information on the work he has done as the open space and natural resource agent. Ald. German asked where funds for the open space account come from. Mr. Johnson stated from several different sources such as developers paying into the open space fund in lieu of providing open space and from the sale of small parcel of property for less than \$10,000. Discussion ensued concerning Beaverbrook and upcoming construction. Ald. Giannattasio asked if the cataloging of open space had been completed. Mr. Johnson stated it is still a work in progress.

Housing Code Board of Appeals (pg. 34) – No speakers present.

Milford Promise, Inc. (pg. 91) - No speakers present. Ald. Vitali asked if the Mayor could provide information on projects completed by MPI. Discussion ensued.

Milford Government Access Television (Pg. 16) – Kara Flannery, Chairman stated she would be happy to answer questions. She provided a brief summary of the work MGAT has done over the past

year. Ms. Flannery stated that live streaming is now available for both Board of Education and City and that both studios are similarly equipped. She stated that MGAT hopes to film and broadcast more commission meetings and city events in the coming year. Ald. Smith asked about staffing the studios. Ms. Flannery reviewed staffing and cross training. Ald. Giannattasio asked about a leak in the control room at City Hall. Ms. Flannery stated there was not a leak, but there had been concern about dust and that the equipment has since been cleaned and appears to be working properly.

Ald. Vitali announced the passing of longtime educator Bob Cummings.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to recess. Motion carried unanimously. The Board recessed at 9:27 p.m.

Chairman Vetro announced the Board would stand in recess until Monday, April 22, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary