

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 4, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. asking everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith
T. Beirne
B. Bier
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
J. Garbus
B. Genovese
M. Hardiman
B. Lambert
J. Patterson
J. Politi
K. Rowland
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli, Jr.
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk
M. Lipton, City Attorney (8:05 pm)

Chairman Beirne deferred to Mayor Richetelli for a special presentation.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was his pleasure as he has done each year for the last 5 years or more to recognize the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and recognize one special person each year as "Mayor for a Day". Mayor Richetelli stated he was proud to recognize Mr. Kevin Brink as "Mayor for the Day – 2007" which is sponsored by the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities. Mayor Richetelli deferred to Mr. Tony Candido.

Mr. Candido stated he wished to personally recognize and thank Ald. Toohey, Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Beckwith for their continued support for those who are physically and mental challenged. He announced his year's Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities annual awards dinner will be held on September 28, 2007 at the Grassy Hill Country Club and that Ald. J. Politi and City Clerk Alan Jepson will be receiving the Outstanding Citizens Award. He noted the Parson's Complex, which is handicapped accessible, but you could not get onto the stage. He stated this was brought to his attention and that he was pleased to announce the ramp has been put in and those physically challenged individuals will now graduate on state with their class. He explained the process for when they look for their "Mayor for the Day" and that he receives a number of letters. In announcing this year's "Mayor for the Day" Mr. Candido announced some amazing number this young man has put forth in volunteer hours; at Milford Hospital some 2,400 in 5 years, the Francis Shrinner Hospital

approximately 10,700 in 10 years and another 7,500 in Hoboken, New Jersey. He also stated this year's recipient is a swimmer with Special Olympics, plays golf and has played in a number of local events including the Greater Hartford Open. He stated he was pleased to introduce Mr. Kevin Brink, who attended Saint Mary's, Jonathan Law and is currently working towards his GED at Foran High School. Mr. Candido also announced Kevin will get some extra tutoring to accomplish his goal of receiving his GED.

Mayor Richetelli read the proclamation for Kevin P. Brink and deferred to Kevin for comment.

Mr. Brink read from a statement stating he is truly a Connecticut Yankee and that he was born and raised in Milford. He stated he currently attends school 2 days a week and his working with his lifelong teacher Gloria Marino. He stated he is also an altar boy at Saint Mary's Church and thanks to the late Ray Fitzpatrick he learned to play golf and continues to do so on a regular basis. He thanked the Mayor and Mr. Candido for being named "Mayor for a Day".

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three minutes. Residents, taxpayers or electors may address the Board. Chairman Beirne also explained the Board does not respond to questions.

L. Barton and Audrey Wesson – 21 Rock Road – stated they are both Milford residents for over 60 years and submitted a letter to the Chairman regarding tax relief for seniors who have resided in Milford for at least 25 years. They asked the Board to put this on their agenda for next month.

A. DeNello – stated she is a resident of Morningside, Milford and commented she just made a sizeable donation to Special Olympics and that as a senior she has supported Milford for over 50 years. She stated she has never asked for anything, only paid her taxes, but now she was asking the Board for their support. She asked if it was out with the old senior and in with the new.

N. Seltzer – 74 Camden Street – stated she is also liaison to the Planning and Zoning Board. She commented she was shopping recently on Daniel Street and a shop owner stated to her that her employees are having difficulties parking downtown and that there needs to be parking set aside for employees and shop owners in the downtown area. She stated the parking in that area is usually a 2-hour limit and that most people work an 8-hour day. She also spoke about last month's Board of Aldermen meeting and a land use item on the agenda and that that issue never came before Planning and Zoning, yet this Board approved it. She reminded the Board that land use issues go before Planning and Zoning first.

N. Rottman – 5 Beach Avenue – stated she wished to speak regarding a freeze for the assessment for senior citizens. She stated she pays \$17,000 in taxes, plus a borough tax and that her new tax would be \$19,283. She also commented she only puts out a half can of garbage per week and also pays the same for sewer fees as a family of four. She also stated she has no children in the school system and that it was her understanding it costs \$10,000-13,000 per pupil personnel. She stated by keeping seniors in their home you can save and that it is a win/win situation to keep seniors in their homes. She stated she does not play sports and added she does not believe she is a burden on the police department. She stated she wants to die in her home without being chased out. She reiterated it is a win-win situation to help the seniors of Milford. She stated the proposition being proposed is a limited one and thanked the Board for their consideration.

E. Tamas – 5 Wayland Court – stated he is disgusted with the mill rate and that he was almost as disgusted with the cuts this Board did not make to the Board of Education. He stated he has pointed out that there are places that could have been cut that could have totaled nearly \$1,000,000 but that the Board of Education scares this Board into thinking that they will make drastic cuts and that Milford won't have the best school system. He commented this is not the best school system and spoke of an article a year or two ago that students were graduating without being able to read. He spoke of the requirements of graduation. He also pointed out Ald. Genovese who stood up to the BOE and that it was promised she would not be re-elected and she was, again and again. He stated it is all smoke and mirrors. He also pointed out two members of this Board that are former BOE members and pointed two people talking and angrily stated the members of this Board should pay attention to what is being said and that it was their job and what they were elected to do. He reminded the Board they were elected to represent the people and that he does not think they are doing that. He also stated it was time in Milford for a third political party. He apologized to Mr. Garbus for all he has had to take over the last two to three weeks over a comment concerning the Board of Education and for standing up to them.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he was at the Board of Finance meeting regarding the Mayor's budget and that he spoke against it and yet the Board of Finance passed it as it was. He stated he disapproved of that budget. He also commented the Board of Education was cut and dry and this Board passed it without any questions. He stated he felt the mill rate should have been lower and also commented without parents and grandparents you (the Board) would not be here). He stated seniors need a tax break. He also commented regarding the speakers in this building and that they are not worth anything and that it is difficult to hear and also complained that some of the aldermen leave their microphones on. He reminded them to turn them off. He commended the Board for their efforts for the budget and commented the Board worked hard and spent a lot of time, but noted it could have been better.

F. Nicol – 14 Crest Place – commented a number of the members of the Board are fiscally challenged and that by their votes they have placed on huge burden on the shoulder of the seniors. He stated the votes and the budget is a huge burden. He spoke of spending time at the courthouse on a Monday morning and that they line is very long with people that are croaks and stated he felt the 8 individuals who voted for this budget are croaked and belonged in that line and that the Mayor belonged in that line as well. He angrily accused the Board members of not caring about seniors and that the seniors should not have to put up with the crap from that Board of Education, Superintendent, teachers and administrators. He accused the Board members of just sitting there and taking and by approving this budget showed they are croaked. He continued to repeat those words.

Chairman Beirne interjected asking the speaker not to insult the members of the Board. He stated the speaker was allowed his three minutes but asked him to be civil in doing so.

Mr. Nicol stated he was disgusted to even to spoken to like that and walked away from the microphone.

A. DeNello – no address given – stated he is legally blind but hears very well and functions just as well. He complained taxes, taxes, taxes and that the Board was holding "us" prisoner and asked the Board how he was to do it on a fixed income. He complained the Board was asleep and not paying attention and also complained reval is for the birds. He also commented this administration has raised taxes and has not stopped and that the seniors are looking to this Board to come to their rescue and save them. He stated he is 89 years old and asked

where he would go if he has to sell his house. He asked the Board to support the senior citizens because someday they would be one too.

M. A. Griffin – Shell Avenue – stated she has lived in her house for nearly 50 years and worked for the City of Milford for almost 31 years. She compared her taxes from 1993 at \$7,300 to 2007 at \$14,500 and stated she is living on one pension and social security does not allow for anything extra. She stated she also must pay flood insurance. She commented living on the shore does not give you anything more and stated many people have told her just to sell, but that just is not easy emotionally. She stated she has that live here and attended the local schools and spoke of their personal achievements. She asked the Board to please consider a tax freeze for all those who are eligible and allow her and many others to stay in “our” homes.

M. Galulo – 21 Deerfield Avenue – asked the Board to consider Eisenhower Park. He stated this Board authorized hundreds of thousands of dollars for a committee to look into this park. He asked the Board to consider the report that was forwarded by the committee and that it must not sit on some shelf somewhere and decide which parts should move forward.

P. Rusanowsky – 11 Golden Hill Street – stated Eisenhower Park is an issue that has occupied our attention and is a big concern. He stated the Eisenhower Park Study Committee created a plan that includes 100 acres that is not a part of Eisenhower Park. He stated it is designed for corporate development and wondered how it could be considered as part of Eisenhower Park. He also noted only one walking trail has been identified. He stated he also heard UI was doing something but has heard nothing more about it. He also questioned who would want to walk under high power lines and commented he wouldn't. He also commented he was reaching the ability to pay for his house and that he was watching carefully to see how this Board decides. He also added one additional comment regarding Eisenhower Park and stated the Study Committee should not be the implementation committee as well.

J. Dowid – Farview Avenue – stated he has lived in Milford for over 45 years. He spoke of when he first lived here and that now it was time for the town to consider them.

R. Dunphey – 109 East Broadway – asked the reason the tax assessment went up as Board of Aldermen voted on reval to take a grace period and that when that was done taxes were at the highest. He asked the Board to not take this grace period. He also stated he was not in favor of phasing-in and that the Board needed to listen to the seniors who are on a fixed income. He commented they don't get a raise every year like most people. He stated many people are moving out of Milford because they cannot afford the taxes and who's moving in are people from New York and Fairfield County. He stated it is time to do something for the seniors and stated the Board gave a break to veterans and now it was time to think about the seniors. He also spoke about the transfer station and that people are getting mad because you cannot bring building supplies to the transfer station and that they are mad because there was no notice. He stated they should have been given notice. He asked the Board to do their best and not vote party lines but what is best for individuals of Milford. He also asked the Board to remember when Public Works took a freeze but the Board of Education did not and suggested possibly doing that.

R. Chapman – 44 Riverdale Road – stated he is a senior citizen and World War II veteran and with either of those categories he still only has \$1.25 in his pocket, which can buy him a cup of coffee. He commented with the tax freeze once you sell your home it goes back to the City with interest. He also stated 50% of the people in the municipality for Milford and the Board of Education don't live here because simply they cannot afford it.

He also stated people live week to week and that is two wage earners. He stated he himself is on a fixed income and asked the Board how they think people will be able to keep it up. He stated he is afraid he will be taxed out. He also commented on the overall deduction and theatrical parade that lasted until 3:00 a.m. and resulted in less than 1% and stated it was a charade. He stated the talk in Hartford even with surplus is 8% spending. He also stated there were words spoken tonight that were crude and also commented that nationally the schools are flunking. He stated a person that speaks has a right to speak and suggested if anyone can't stand the heat they should get out. He reminded members of the Board they came to us and you asked us to vote. He reiterated it its too hot – get out. He stated the whole nation should go out on COLA and if there was a national standard the best people would have no where to go but here.

J. Dowid (note second time speaking tonight) – stated he just had a question and asked if it is true 70% of the Board of Education's budget goes toward salary and commented it was horrendous. He stated their salaries go up and his goes down. He also asked why they didn't promote from within for the Superintendent position instead of paying \$150,000. He reiterated the question is, is it true 70% of the education budget is salaries.

S. Borer – 204 Anderson Avenue – commented it was a long, arduous process but was glade to see the Board work together, especially staying up so late for so many meetings. He applauded the Board for working so hard and stated not everyone was happy but he felt the Board worked hard and they should be applauded.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 7, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Bier moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried as unanimously.

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

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

No report.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli stated he would respectfully ask the Board to consider items 8a-8h and that he would be happy to answer any questions as each item comes up.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

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

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the reappointment of (R) Kevin J. Curseaden, 22 Daggett Street, as Milford's representative to the South Central

Connecticut Regional Water District's Representative Policy Board (RPB). (Three-year term to expire June 30, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Grant Application regarding Mobile Technology Equipmetn Grant for Milford Police for \$13,580 and to authorize the Mayor to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate the grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Programs. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request (per Planning and Zoning Baord recommendation dated May 16, 2007), to grant the petition of Rene Leduc to release and extinguish an existing easement across his property at 134 Old Gate Lane also know as Map 68, Block 811, Parcel 6F. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Hazard Mitigation Plan (revised).

Ald. Rowland questioned the numbers on pages 25 and 26.

Mayor Richetelli explained the plan is the first step in the FEMA process in the event there was a disaster in Milford. He stated without the plan the City would not be eligible for grant funds. He explained the first plan in 2002 and then it was revised. With this plan he stated there are no number amounts attached, as this plan is only to identify the needs of the community and address natural disasters, i.e. floods, hurricanes, etc.

Ald. Rowland asked if this plan was paving the way for these projects.

Mayor Richetelli reminded Ald. Rowland and the Board that no money can be spent unless approved by this Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Memorandum of Agreement among the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the South Central Regional Council of Governments, the New Haven Area Special Hazards Team, and the City of Milford regarding certain Hazardous Materials Equipment and Vehicles and authorize the Mayor to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for License Agreement between the City of Milford and the Borough of Woodmont regarding the Woodmont Library's use of a portion of the Fannie Beach Community Center.

Ald. Blake stated in curiosity, in order for the library to be established what programs would be displaced.

Mayor Richetelli replied the Woodmont Library has been in existence for many years and that this is a standardized lease as used in any city building. He explained after the Margaret Egan fire they found that many

buildings used in the city did not have leases. As a result of this, he explained they wished to standardize all the leases for all group. He stated this standardizes a lease they actually never had. Mayor Richetelli stated the Borough has no objection and there is no charge for it and it also is a hold harmless for any liability.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how long the lease is good for.

Mayor Richetelli explained it is actually a license agreement as opposed to a lease and in effect until revoked either by the City of the Borough of Woodmont.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if they were looking to do this with everybody.

Mayor Richetelli explained municipal entities such as the Borough receive license agreements and other groups such as Team, Head Start, etc., would have a lease. He added this license agreements protects from liability.

Ald. Veccharelli remarked the Mayor had just stated it could be terminated whenever we wanted. He asked if we were unhappy how it would be terminated.

Attorney Lipton explained a license by nature is revocable at will. She explained the process is a three-step process that would include Planning and Zoning and the Board of Aldermen and Section 8-24. She also noted they are already in our self-insurance and pay their own premium.

Ald. Genovese remarked Woodmont Library has been there for many, many years and that it is not a big room but they are very protective and they are good for the Borough.

Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ad. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Lease Agreement between Next Media Outdoor, Inc., 201 Christian Lane, Suite A, Berlin, CT and the City of Milford for advertising rights at two City owned properties located 1) at New Haven Avenue, Map 56, Block 556, Lot 1D (across from Sundae Housse) and 2) at Bridgeport Avenue, Map 25, Block 385, Lot 9 (across from the Knights of Columbus Building) per Planning and Zoning recommendation dated March 7, 2007.

Mayor Richetelli stated the final lease was sent to the Board electronically be e-mail and hand out this evening.

Ald. Lambert commented she would accept this lease tonight and stated she was glad there was no one opposed to this and that she felt she could now vote on this.

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. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #17, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #18, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$6,510.93. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Ditchkus reported the Committee met earlier in the evening and voted to forward to the full Board one Ordinance.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to approve an Ordinance enacting Chapter 18, Article XIX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford establishing the Housatonic River Estuary Commission.

Ald. Ditchkus stated this Commission was formed pursuant to State statute. He stated there is no funding at this time based on what the State has forwarded.

Ald. Veccharelli commented this is a good thing because we can keep an eye on the river. He stated it would be nice in the future if this could be expanded to include some of the other towns that put the stuff into the river. He commented he has seen stuff floating in the river that has come from up the river.

Ald. Ditchkus added he too grew up here in Milford along with Ald. Veccharelli and remembers along the train all the stuff in the water that came from up stream.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.
- c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Toohey reported they did not meet.
- 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.
- 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 – Ald. Genovese reported they will be meeting on Thursday regarding the high schools.

- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report.

- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Housing Authority – Ald. Lambert reported there was a question about a resident in the housing authority selling drugs. She stated they spoke at length about the issue and are on top of it and it is under advisement.

- l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Toohey reported there would be an “Opening Day” ceremony on June 16, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. She stated the purpose is to showcase the improvements to the golf course and medical abilities within the course.

- m. Inland Wetlands Agency

- n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Beckwith reported work continues to progress along and they will meet next week.

- o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report

- p. Liaison Health Department – Ald. Politi reported graduation was held for all the CERT graduates and that Ald. Toohey and Ald. Patterson were among those graduating. Ald. Politi stated she also sits on the Harbor Management and inquired as to an update on the dredging.

Mayor Richetelli reported they requested an extension and that they had a June 1, 2007 deadline. They were not going to finish by that time so they asked for an extension for one week.

q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Politi stated everyone should have received a copy of the minutes of the last meeting. She stated alerts have gone out which she commented are labor intensive. She stated there is a lot going on with the legislature and also noted the workers compensation bill is gaining momentum. She stated it was to have been voted on last Saturday, but was not. She added if this passes it would cost the city a considerable amount of money. She stated the next meeting will be held next Wednesday in City Hall.

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.

- a. Status report and consideration of tentative agreement between the City of Milford and the Civilian Fire Dispatchers – Local 4260.
- b. Status report and consideration of settlement of Lexington Health Care Group, LLC v. City of Milford (BTR) RE: 60 Platt Street.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to go into Executive to discuss items 14(a) and 14(b).

Chairman Beirne noted those going into executive session would be the entire Board, Mayor Richetelli, City Attorney and Chief LaVecchia for item 14(a) and the entire Board, Mayor Richetelli, City Attorney and the City Assessor, Dan Thomas for item 14(b).

Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Ald. Rowland and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve those two items (14(a) and 14(b)) as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland moved to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary