

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, July 2, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. asking everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

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
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Excused

P. Beckwith (vac.)
N. Veccharelli, Jr.

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.

R. Blake – 99 Green Meadow Road – stating he was speaking on behalf of his brother who was unable to attend, concerning property located on 862 Broadway. He stated this piece of property has been going on for almost 5 years and that the Health Department, Dr. McBride and Ms. Devitt, have been involved. He stated the property is on tonight's agenda and that the Mayor is looking for a waiver of bid. He asked the Board to please approve this waiver. He stated if anyone from the Board had to live next to this property for all this time they would want to do this. He also spoke as to the pigeon droppings that are making a mess in this area. He also noted the people on Broadway pay a lot of taxes and it was time to do something. He asked the Board to waive the bid and put a lien on this property so it could come down.

K. DiDonato – 801 East Broadway – stated she lives nearby and walks the beach every morning and sees this piece of property. She too stated the pigeon droppings are becoming quite a problem on the beach and that there are flocks of them there. She stated the house has looked like this for a long time. She spoke as to her

own property and stated her family had done renovations and adhered to the City's regulations. She stated it was time for the city to do something and get this blight out of their neighborhood.

S. Borer – 204 Anderson Avenue – stated he had a question regarding item 14a – Status Report.

Chairman Beirne reminded the speaker there is no dialogue but that he was welcome to stay.

Mr. Borer spoke as to item 8e, the Capital Improvement Plan, specifically the environmental part of the Eisenhower Park. He stated the Mayor has the master plan and this was basically “cherry picking” sections of the plan before it is revealed to the public. He stated it was inappropriate and unfair to the people. He referred again to 14a and asked the Board not to go into Executive Session regarding this matter. He stated he was unable to review the minutes, as they were not available. He commented it seems like a double re-do and that he would like to see this discussed in the open. He stated it should not be done behind closed doors. He stated there is a process in place and spoke of the Charter that was upheld two years ago. He read from the Charter. He reiterated Executive Session was not appropriate for this item and stated it excludes the taxpayers and the process. He asked why it was being done behind closed doors if there is a lawsuit. He stated any funding issue needed to be aired. He asked the Board to let the process go forward as intended.

B. McDonough – stated his object here tonight is to give the Mayor a tea bag. He asked the Board to check the amount of money due in July and they will find out they are collecting more money than anticipated. He asked the Board to take another look after they are done collecting. On a humorous side, he commented as to a house that had come down on Melba Street and commented it was one way of getting away with not paying taxes.

E. Tamas – 46 Wayland Street – thanked Ald. Beirne and Ald. Genovese for coming to the Senior Citizen Center, as well as Ald. Rowland, Ald. Lambert and Ald. Toohey and stated it was nice to see people on this Board are listening. He stated to those that did not attend that they should have taken the time to be there. He reminded them they were elected by their constituents. He spoke of the City's \$168,000,000 budget and commented the Board of Education gets \$78,000,000 of that budget giving them a budget of \$100,000,000. He stated he could not understand why the Aldermen could only seem to find ways to cut the City side of the budget and not the Board of Education. He pointed out a number of areas that could have been cut and point out they have duplicate positions in administration. He stated it is ridiculous and commented they are overstaffed, overpaid and stated the Board should have taken time to read the budget book. He referred to the BOE's double positions and also spoke as to the Alternative Education Program and how last the person running this program was an administrator and now this year he is a Director. He continued as to other discrepancies he has found and stated it was time the Board took the time to look at these. He reminded the Board they were elected to serve the people.

Lois ?? – 856 East Broadway – stated she lives two doors away from that derelict building and stated it has been that way for 7 years. She also corrected an earlier speaking and stated the property is located on East Broadway and not Broadway. She also stated there is a family of skunks that have taken up residence in the building. She also spoke as to the problem of the young kids hanging out there and that they go into the building to party and expressed her concern as to safety and spoke of the many what ifs.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on June 4, 2007 and the Minutes of the Budget Deliberations meetings for April 4, 2007 and April 11, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2007 and minutes of the Budget Deliberations from April 4, 2007 and April 22, 2007 meetings.

Chairman Beirne pointed out on Page 3; Paragraph 4 should read the Board was referred to, as “*crooks*” not croaks.

Motion carried unanimously as corrected.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Special Meeting held on June 25, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Hardiman moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on June 25, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman’s Report and Communications.

None.

6. Mayor’s Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli asked the Board to consider items 8a-8e and stated he would be happy to discuss each item as they come up. In addition, he stated he wished to make the Board aware of item 6a the memorandum and Summary from City Clerk Alan Jepson regarding the Historic Document Preservation Grant. He asked if Mr. Jepson wished to add anything.

Mr. Jepson remarked it was summed up very well in his report and stated this is good for the City.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business (from Mayor’s Report Items 8a-8e)

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution Re: authorizing Creation of a Fund 90 Account for the Purpose of enforcing an Agreement Regarding the Demolition of a structure at 862 East Broadway, Milford; Authorizing the Placement of Liens on the Property to Recover the Costs Associated therewith; and Authorizing the Waiver of Bidding to Expedite the Enforcement of the Terms of the Agreement for the health and Safety of the Neighborhood.

Ald. Lambert requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 7:56 p.m.

Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 8:00 p.m.

Ald. Toohey stated she supported this 100% and that she has spoken with Mr. Blake several times over the last two years when he first contacted her regarding this property. She also commented how important this is to those residents who have had to live in this area. She stated this property has to come down and that she is in favor of the waiver and placing a lien against it.

Ald. Lambert stated she too supports this. She spoke of how that area has changed so much and recollected what she remembers growing up in that area. She also stated she is in favor of that house coming down as soon as possible.

Ald. Genovese stated she is in favor of this 100% and also commented Dr. McBride is in favor of this and that she respects his opinion. She expressed her hope the Board and Health Department would look at some houses in the Woodmont area, two specifically that should come down.

Ald. Vetro added he too is in favor of this. He asked about the waiver of bid and how long it would take for the demolition to begin.

Mayor Richetelli thanked the Health Department, especially Ms. Sonia McDevit, also Tom Ivers and the City Attorney for getting to this point. He spoke of the difficulties in dealing with this property owner and also the length of time it would take if they had to go out to bid and explained the process. He also stated the Building Inspector has lined up and gotten some bids and that he expected if approved this structure could come down by the end of the week or early next week.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request by the Milford Golf Commission to transfer an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from their Fund 18 Golf Course Account for the purpose of re-paving and re-alignment of the parking lot at the Orchards Golf Course. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 1 FY 07-08 (862 East Broadway demolition and Fund 18 Golf Course Transfer). Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution Re: Grant Application for Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (CDBG) Program Year 33-October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request for Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2007-2012.

Ald. Rowland commented it was her understanding \$500,000 was coming from CL & P.

Mayor Richetelli responded she was corrected and explained Inland Wetlands, Planning and Zoning and this Board had already approved CL&P to do the work in the park.

Ald. Blake stated he wished to re-emphasis that this is a planning tool and not an endorsement of these items. He stated it would make him feel better to hear this.

Mayor Richetelli commented it makes him happy to make Ald. Blake feel better. He stated he put in his transmittal as he has each year language to that effect and read the first and second paragraphs of his memorandum. He also stated before any item can be acted on it must come before this Board. He also added that this is a planning tool.

Ald. Lambert commented regarding the 5-year equipment needs plan – auto light vehicles and stated it was her understanding that is now \$18,000 for the building inspector.

Mayor Richetelli responded she is correct and that it was a typographical error. The corrected page was distributed to the members of the Board.

Ald. Patterson asked about the two new firehouses and major renovations to the police station and asked if that is further out in the matrix.

Mayor Richetelli replied it is further out and that it is in the plan for consideration for somewhere in the future, but not over the next 5 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request for the appointment of (d) Janis Diamond, 74 Castle Lane, to complete the unexpired term of (d) Jennifer Dunn (resigned) on the Animal Shelter Commission. (Term to expire 12/31/10). Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Alan Jepson swore in Ms. Diamond.

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:

None.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$4,613.70. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Ditchkus stated there was no meeting but he wished to report he received a letter from the City Attorney regarding tax relief for seniors. He stated the opinion was this cannot be done because of state statutes. He stated there is nothing in the state statutes that allows this and noted numerous towns have tried and it has never been upheld. He stated this would have to be something enacted through our legislatures.

Ald. Rowland stated she remembered in Ordinance there were tax relief options and asked if the Ordinance Committee could revisit them.

Ald. Ditchkus stated it is the law they can revisit. He stated all the others that were discussed are in effect.

Mayor Richetelli stated there are 10 programs that are currently in effect. He explained that all of them are expressly allowed by State Statute and each has income criteria attached to it. He stated that is the one issue that is problematic and that the group seeking this tax relief do not want income guidelines. He stated they are advocating for a program that does not have income guidelines. He also commented as to the local option law that Ald. Ditchkus was referring to and that they will have continuing dialogue. He reiterated the programs on the books are problematic because of the income guidelines.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he would forward a copy of that opinion letter to the Board. He also commented as to the program the legislature passed down and whether reverse mortgages you would have to charge interest by law which was a sticking point.

Ald. Lambert added she recalled there was a 15-year limitation.

Ald. Ditchkus replied yes she was correct and that after that time those taxes are abated and they would go onto the suspense list.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Garbus reported he is working with the newspapers and Chief LaVecchia to get publication through the newspapers.

c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Toohey reported they met last week and are continuing to move forward. She stated there was a backlog with getting some of the grounds cuts but they are beginning to move forward.

d. Claims Committee – Ald. Toohey reported the Committee met earlier in the evening.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Patterson moved to approve the Finding and Award of Firefighter Gary Guilmette (Medicals only) as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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. – Ald. Rowland reported the Summer Playground Program got underway today. She commented on a personal note that it was a great day and thanked Director McCarthy and the Park, Beach and Recreation for this great program and a safe place for kids to go whose parents work.

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 – Ald. Toohey reported they continue to move forward and are doing great work with their volunteers.

h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – Ald. Genovese reported they met last week regarding Pumpkin Delight School and they are moving forward with that bid.

i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – Ald. Politi reported the Passport Office is working out well and they are very pleased with how it is working out.

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

k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Housing Authority – Ald. Lambert reported they met last week. She stated Commissioner Fowler wanted to know about the LRA Committee and also they are looking for a way to be fore non-profit.

l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Toohey thanked all those who came out last week for the Open House at the Golf Course. She stated it was a great Saturday morning and a wonderful way to showcase the tees. She added the Commission has done a phenomenal job with the course. She also reported they would be re-paving the parking lot which will make it even nicer.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Blake reported work is underway with Rosenbaum Hall and that the concrete forms are in process. He reported there was a “hiccup” with the other building and commented it seems that only the Chief Building Inspector can review those plans. He stated the Building Inspector took a 3-week vacation at the height of the building season. He stated this is something they need to look into.

Mayor Richetelli asked if Ald. Blake was sure it was a 3-week vacation. He stated progress has not stopped and that the Building Inspector continues to work with the contractor so that work can continue.

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report

p. Liaison Health Department

q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Polit reported the minutes of the last meeting had been sent out. She reported the mandate that would have extended workers compensation failed. She stated CCM credited the number of e-mails that had gone out. She also spoke as to a mandate regarding out of school system suspensions. She also reported they are working on a letter to the Milford Public Schools seeking students interested in tracking legislature and keeping this Board informed.

Chairman Beirne asked if they had the final numbers for the Board of Education.

Mayor Richetelli reported regarding the education cost sharing. He stated the state funding was \$198,000 and that it was less than what this Board approved in the final budget based on what appropriations were funded.

He stated he met with Speaker Amann today and that Speaker Amann assured him that he would continue to do whatever he could to get the \$198,000.

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 and Consideration of Settlement Re: budget Grant for the Borough of Woodmont.

Chairman Beirne stated he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session with the full Board, the Mayor and City Attorney.

Mayor Richetelli stated he was advised by the City Attorney they needed to go into executive session because of the threatened litigation in this matter.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus moved to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Lambert moved to authorize the City Attorney to further discuss with the Borough of Woodmont the terms as discussed in Executive Session. By roll call vote motion carried 11 yes (Beirne, Bier, Blake, Ditchkus, Garbus, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Politi, Rowland, Toohey) and 2 no (Genovese and Vetro).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Hardiman moved to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary