

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, August 6, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:47 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
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
J. Doneiko, Finance Director

Chairman Beirne apologized for the delay in getting the meeting started and explained the Claims Committee meeting had run late. Chairman Beirne deferred to Mayor Richetelli for a special presentation.

Mayor Richetelli brought forward Mr. Jason Jenkins, Jenkins Chiropractic. The Mayor stated he was pleased to honor Mr. Jenkins for his work with "Kids Day America" which will be held in Milford, Connecticut on September 22, 2007. Mayor Richetelli explained the work of Mr. Jenkins and a little about "Kids Day America" which is brings environmental health awareness forward for our children and residents and how important it is to be mindful of educating our children in environmental health issues. He urged all to attend on September 22, 2007 as this day is dedicated to all doctors, chiropractors, etc.

Mr. Jenkins stated he was pleased to bring "Kids Day America" to Milford. He thanked the Mayor, police and fire departments for their support as well as the health department and many local doctors and dentists. He stated many athletes and also Jonathan Lipnicky, who has starred in films, etc, endorse the event. He reiterated his thanks to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for endorsing this.

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.

T. Chaucer – 104 Hawley Avenue – stated he was speaking on behalf of Committee of Preservation Trust and he is the Program Chair of the Milford Historical Society. He commented the history of Milford is extremely important. He spoke of some of the historical things that have happened in Milford such as the Memorial Bridge, Duck Pond and also this building, City Hall, a miniature Monticello. He spoke as to the John Downs House and extended a thank you to the Mayor and all of the citizens and stated we actually all own this building. He spoke of the many men who fought in this war. He stated he believe the Downs House pre-dates 1750. He also commented regarding the structure of the Downs House, including the beams, etc. He stated it is early 18th Century features and also spoke as to the plaster and lab features of the house and its serpent feature.

M. Margonis - no address given – stated he is a lifelong Milford resident and history teacher. He spoke as to preserving Milford and the history of Joseph Plumb Martin, the most important historic figure to come out of Milford. He spoke of Mr. Plumb's journal, his travels and noted Valley Forge has a trail named after him. He stated the Downs House is an important investment that Milford needs to preserve. He stated unfortunately these men are unheard of and should be integrated into Milford's history.

L. Flannigan – 44 Prospect Street – stated she is a member of the Milford Preservation Trust – she encouraged the Board and Mayor not to sell this house. She spoke of these important names, Joseph Plumb Martin, Mary Hepburn Smith and John Downs and stated these names along with this house should be preserved. She also spoke as to the attraction it could be from Milford's Lisman Landing through the historic district to the Downs House.

A. Maher – 50 Prospect Street – stated she is a member of the Milford Preservation Trust. She spoke of the importance of making the Downs House a draw to Milford and combining this with the other aspects of Milford. She also spoke as to the aspects of these unique statistics and continued by reading from a prepared statement. She asked the Board to take all of this into consideration when making their final decision regarding the Downs House.

M. Galullo – 21 Deerfield Avenue – urged the Board to take possession of the Eisenhower Park report and reminded the Board they commissioned that report and it has never come back to this Board. He stated the ball is in the air and the park is in need of the Board's attention. He also stated he was concerned with the idea that Animal Control could move there. He asked the Board to get involved and reminded them it is their report.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – requested the Board make a request to the Board to make a request to the Mayor to turn over copies of the Eisenhower Park Study Committee report. He also spoke regarding helping senior citizens to receive more and also spoke as to the reductions for senior citizens. He spoke of a song he was reminded of and told the Board to keep in mind that fundamental things apply as time goes by.

S. Borer – 204 Anderson Avenue – stated he would like to see the Board make a request to get this study out and pursue it. He stated it looks like money is on its way so it time to move. He also stressed the importance of making sure everyone is on board. He also commented the study has not been developed into a plan and that

this should be done. He reiterated how important it is to ask for the plan tonight and review it and survey the people as to what they like and don't like. He stated the last informational session was not good enough. He also spoke regarding Woodmont and stated he would like to know what happened with Woodmont and if someone could get back to him and let him know.

R. Smiley – 6th Avenue – stated he wished to address his comments to Ald. Garbus and how partisanship transcends. He spoke concerning the City's response to the toxic waste on Meadowside Road and stated he was concerned as to how we as a citizen responded and stated we did not respond appropriately. He stated as a resident of that area to see these hazmat trucks and fire trucks along with DEP was somewhat frightening. He asked that copies of the MSDA be provided. He also spoke of the symptoms, which were not made public until Ald. Lambert inquired. He stated when he spoke to the police officer on scene and tried to inquire he was told he was not at liberty to discuss the situation. He stated the comments of the Health Director were "if you come in contact with this go to the emergency room". He stated the citizens deserve a true response. He asked Ald. Garbus to convince the Public Safety Committee to address how this situation was handled.

J. Jansen – 22 Russell Road – spoke concerning the Downs House and stated if any group would come up with a reasonable plan to support and keep the Downs House he believed the Planning and Zoning Board would support it. He also noted because it had not been mentioned that the property along the Duck Pond and the green was donated to the City. He also spoke regarding an issue brought up concerning Eisenhower Park. He stated it really hasn't been developed and noted there has been a number of workshops and was well received by the public. He also commented the information is available in the library, city hall and in Planning and Zoning. He also spoke as to the funding and noted a portion of that has already been voted on.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on July 2, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the minutes of the July 2, 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.

Chairman Beirne reported he received a letter of apology from Mr. F. Nicoll regarding the comments he made at the June meeting. Chairman Beirne read the letter to the Board. He also reported he received a letter of thanks from Mr. Kevin Cruseadean thanking the Board for his recent re-appointment. He stated he was unable to attend the meeting but thanked the Board of their support of him.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli stated he would respectfully ask the Board to consider items 8a-8f and that he would be happy to answer any questions as each item comes up. He stated he also wished to make the Board aware of the following appointments: In accordance with Chapter 18, Article IXI of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford, appointment of Milford's Representative to the Housatonic River Estuary Commission as follows: (R) Lori J. Romick, 10 Valery Court (two-year term to expire 7/1/09). Mayor Richetelli stated Ms. Romick has

been in Environmental Management for many years and is a true professional and he is pleased to make this appointment.

City Clerk, Alan Jepson swore in Ms. Romick.

Mayor Richetelli stated, as the Board was aware there was a retirement this past week, Joel Baldwin, former mayor and Human Resources Director retired after 18 years of service. He stated his successor has worked with the City for 25 years and is ready to fill his shoes and already has done so. In accordance with Section 18-134 of the Code of Ordinances of City of the City of Milford, appointment of Lisa E. Diamond Graham, 600 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT as Executive Director of Human Resources Development Agency. He stated Ms. Graham was the Clinical Director of Youth and Family Services and was the unanimous choice of HRD and that he wholeheartedly supports her.

City Clerk, Alan Jepson swore in Ms. Diamond-Graham.

Ms. Diamond-Graham stated she wished to thank the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and she is happy to serve the citizens and families of Milford.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to address several issues that came up during Public Comment. With regard to the Downs House, he explained the background with regard to this property and that it was on the market and a court order approving the sub-division. He stated at that time former Mayor Lisman got together with the historic district to see what the City could do. He explained a plan was brought to this Board several years ago to preserve this house. He also explained that the plan by unanimous consent was to preserve and sell as a private residence. He stated this has been a model that they have followed in the City with other properties such as the Stowe property, Cadley, etc. He stated he has had conversations with Gerry Patton, Tim Chaucer and others as well as the Preservation Trust regarding keeping the Downs House. He stated the original proposal to this Board was to borrow the money from the taxpayers. He stated they would present a plan to Planning and Zoning and this honorable Board. He stated the first commitment would be to the taxpayers to honor the commitment to pay the taxpayers back and then work on a plan to finish the work, as the building will need to be code compliant. He stated they would look at all viable options. Mayor Richetelli also commented with regard to Eisenhower Park and reminded the Board they approve in the past the money from UI and CL&P and that those funds amounted to \$500-700,000. He stated that Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning and this Board have approved that work. He also stated that last week Senator Liberman was able to obtain the funding for the environmental upgrades of the park and that he will continue to shepherd this as it goes through to the House of Representatives. He stated the plan is not "bottled up" and that anyone can look at the plan. He stated it is also available in Planning and Zoning and at the Milford Public Library. He stated it was his recommendation they work strictly in phases and that they would begin with Phase I, which is environmental. He added he looked forward to the Board's support. He also spoke as to the Plan of Conservation and Development and stated it is 5 years old and that there has been groups that have expressed interest in looking at the plan. He stated Planning and Zoning has looked at this and plans to continue to do so and make some revisions. He spoke of a formal review of the plan with a committee being formed where the committee would look at the plan and that it could be looked at every 5 years. He stated by State law they are required to do it every 10 years. He also spoke as to the chemical spill last month on Hill Street. He stated Ald. Garbus is working to put together a meeting, but that it takes time to coordinate the many city agencies and personnel involved and that in addition it costs money. He stated they are looking to do this but assured the Board that

every protocol was followed. He stated he spoke on that date with the fire chief, health director and DEP and that there was no risk to humans and that all notifications were made in a timely manner.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

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

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of ((D) Henry B. Healy, 192 West River Street, from an Alternate to a Regular Member of the Board of Assessment Review to complete the unexpired term of (D) Joseph E. Godin (resigned) (three-year term expiring 12/31/08). Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Mobile Equipment Technology Grant for Milford Police Department.

Ald. Rowland asked how many vehicles this grant would cover and if there would be future grants.

Mayor Richetelli responded it would be for the computer software to run the camera and at least one vehicle, possibly two. He stated the commitment would be to get more vehicles.

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept a donation to the Milford Police Department from National Amusements in the amount of \$7,056.95 and to authorize and direct the Finance Director to create a special account to deposit these funds to be used to purchase and replace equipment related to the Milford Police Department's bicycle patrol unit (per request from Police Chief Keith L. Mello).

Mayor Richetelli noted it is an odd amount. He explained National Amusements owns the property on Cherry Street, which land is vacant and that they have allowed carnivals on that property. Rather than keep it National Amusements decided to donate the monies between the Milford Police Department and the Beth El Shelter.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 2 (Reimbursement – Cadley Farm). Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Reduction and Rescission of Authorized, Unused, and Unissued Amounts Totaling \$15,677,933.42 per the Table Identifying Projects/Acquisitions/Purposes Funded with Bond/BAN Proceeds. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Garbus moved to approve the request for a sole-source technical waiver of bid for the Milford Fire Department to purchase a 2008 Smeal Pumper from New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus Corporation, 10 Stillman Road, North Haven, CT (per request from Fire Chief Louis A. LaVecchia and quote no. 1246 dated 4/16/07 from New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus Corp.).

Ald. Blake commented he understood the advantages of having another Smeal and agreed it made sense to stay with the same and spoke as to qualified drivers, etc., but stated they would be delinquent in their duties if they did not ask to get a quote from a similar manufacturer.

Chief LaVecchia responded he went back to New England and asked them to sharpen their pencil and they did. He stated New England is holding the price to what they purchased Engine 7 two years ago.

Ald. Blake asked if the Chief could share with the Board the other quotes from fire truck manufacturers.

Chief LaVecchia replied without going out to bid they would not have any other quotes. He explained they cannot get a bid unless they pay for it or go out to bid. He stated staying with New England only makes sense because of the excellent service and other factors. He stated if they were to go out to bid they could possibly get a lower bid but the differences would not be worth it with regard to equipment, etc.

Ald. Blake asked about other departments that have gone out to bid.

Chief LaVecchia stated the price for a pumper would range from \$300,000-\$600,000 or possibly more. He stated their specifications are specific to the truck and equipment and that no two departments are the same.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about the price they got two years ago.

Chief LaVecchia stated it is far below a 1% increase.

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. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #21, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #22, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Rowland asked about cell phones and asked if the \$150 is because of going over minutes, text messaging or anything discussed during budget deliberations.

Mayor Richetelli responded he did not have that information and noted it would be for the last bill of the fiscal year.

Ald. Rowland stated she would like to know what caused the overage.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Garbus moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #1, Fund 10, FY 2007-2008. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #2, Fund 10, FY 2007-2008. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$6,686.36. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Garbus requested a 5-minute recess at 8:54 p.m. Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 9:04 p.m.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee – no report
- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Garbus thanked Chief LaVecchia for the Safety Preparedness Pamphlet, which was distributed tonight to all Board members. With regard to the issue of the toxic spill, he reported he had spoken with Ald. Rowland and they are working on it and that it will take time.
- c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Toohey reported they are continuing with street sweeping and that the second bulk trash pickup just took place and that it is working out well. She also reported the beaches look well.
- d. Claims Committee – Ald. Toohey reported the Board met earlier concerning two items and voted unanimously to forward to the full Board those two items as discussed in Executive Session.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of the Claim of Public Works employee Kevin Katrick (PPD Award) (Executive Session) as recommended by the City Attorney in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Hardiman moved to approve consideration of settlement of Suitt v. Pepsi, et al 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.
- 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 Janice Jackson was unanimously named as the Executive Director of the Senior Center and that she was making the Board aware of this exciting news.

h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – Ald. Genovese reported they would be meeting tomorrow 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 they met on July 17, 2007 regarding turnover and that they are trying to get turnover time down.

l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Toohey reported they had a great month and that rounds have increased. She stated the Commission is looking at repaving the parking lot as well as some minor maintenance issues that will make the clubhouse/course look even better.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Beckwith reported they would be meeting on August 7, 2007.

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report

p. Liaison Health Department – no report.

q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Politi reported they would be meeting on August 15, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in City Hall. She stated they would have two guest speakers, Representative Paul Davis and Peter Smith. She stated they planned on discussing better ways to advocate in Milford's best interest.

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.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary

