

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:36 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

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.

J. Jansen – 22 Russell Road – spoke regarding a recent article he read in the press suggesting anyone who works in trades be banned from serving on boards and commissions in the city. He commented this is the usual tactic of this individual. He read from an article that appeared in the newspaper. He stated it is insulting to accuse someone who works in a trade and serves on a board or commission of being dishonest and that they would not be able to recuse themselves.

N. Veccharelli – 57 Pond Street – stated he was speaking for his constituents near the Eric Zimmerman Park in his area. He spoke of the vandalism that has been done there and that the beauty of living near a park should not be marred. He stated he has received a lot of calls from people because of this vandalism and also of the youths just hanging out there. He stated he was asking for more police patrols of that area as well as signage that the park is closed during certain hours. He stated the people in that area are very unhappy and that this is a problem that includes graffiti, garbage about, etc. He reiterated he was looking for signage and more visible police patrol. He stated he as well as his constituents would appreciate it.

M. Gallulo – 21 Deerfield Avenue – spoke as to a previous speaker, and commented “with all due respect” that he wished to remind this Board that the former City Planner was being investigated by the FBI and that concluded when he passed on. He stated there is a cloud over the building process in Milford and that it is not what you know, but who you know. He stated he really wished to speak tonight about Eisenhower Park and that taxpayer money is being showed to the other side. He spoke as to the monies that have been received by a grant. He stated it was his understanding this also happened to the Milford Land Trust and stated this is a problem. He asked the Board to act and help the community garden. He also commented this was appearing to sound like all the earmarks of a done deal.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – he stated at the last meeting he did not have a picture, but now he does. He spoke as to the elderly and the help they need. He commented that senior citizens make up the most volunteers in the country, especially in hospitals. He implored the Board help them out adding they are good volunteers and help everyone. He also spoke about Wildwood Avenue and stated the Board of Aldermen should request the price of the property before they vote on it. He stated he would like to know the price and spoke as to Robert’s Rules of Order.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on September 10, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried as unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Budget Deliberations Meetings held on April 25, 2007 and April 11, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the minutes of the Budget Deliberations Meetings held on April 25, 2007 and April 11, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman’s Report and Communications.

Chairman Beirne commented there is a lot of misunderstanding out there and commented when his doctor was examining him he commented his taxes are going to increase for the next 5 years. Chairman Beirne stated that taxes are not going up, it is the assessment. He stated he wished to clarify that and get that message out to the public.

6. Mayor’s Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli stated he ask the Board’s consideration of items 8a-8c and that he would be happy to discuss them as they come up in the agenda. He stated he wished to address some items brought up in public session. He thanked Ald. Veccharelli for bringing up the matter at Zimmerman Park. He reported the Police Department’s Cops Program has met with the people in the neighborhood. He also reported the graffiti has been removed. He stated they had requested additional lighting and was happy to report it has been installed thanks in part of the United Way’s “Light the Way” program. He reported the police department would also increase surveillance in that area as well. He also spoke as to Eisenhower Park and stated the process was very open with over 20 public meetings. He stated the final report has been a public document and is available in the Planning and Zoning Office and the Library. He addition, he stated he made copies for the Board members. He

stated this is information that can be used for years to come and stressed this report commits not one single penny. He stated he did not know where that type of information was coming from or where that supposition is from. He also reported they are taking advantage of as many State and Federal dollars as possible. He stated any additional dollars would have to come from the Board of Finance and this Board. He also spoke as to the community gardens stating it is a valuable precious entity and that it is here to stay and would only be enhanced. He also spoke as to the Open Space Advisory and the Farm Land Grant. He explained that was a sub-committee with Letty Malone and Barbara Milton putting that grant together. He stated there is no one in this city that has given more regarding the environmental than Letty Malone. He added Barbara Milton has worked tirelessly and that the work is only to enhance our environment. He also reminded the Board they voted unanimously to accept that grant and that there was no back room meeting and that it was done here out in the public where a vote took place.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

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

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request to approve the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation to approve the request of Brian and Jo Doheny of 10 Wildwood Avenue to purchase a two (2) foot by eighty (80) foot (+/-) strip of City owned property located at 235 Broadway which strip runs along the adjoining boundary line between the two properties for the purpose of extending their driveway in order for them to enter and exit their vehicles (per Planning and Zoning Board recommendation dated August 22, 2007 and Wildermere Beach Neighborhood Association recommendation dated July 1, 2006.) The board further authorizes the Mayor and City Attorney to negotiate the selling price and to take all steps necessary to effectuate the transaction. (Adjacent property owners notified.)

Ald. Ditchkus noted that currently there is a fence there and asked who would be responsible for moving that fence

Mayor Richetelli stated that fence is already two feet over and will not need to be moved.

Ald. Lambert stated there was a question during public session with regard to the money. She asked if it was \$1,700.

Mayor Richetelli explained the amount is up for negotiation. He stated the \$1,700 is the minimum amount they would accept and noted that was before reval. He reiterated that is what the minimum price is.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Approval for a Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for Improvements to Stowe Avenue Beach Access. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Establishment of a "Sponsor-A-Bench Program".

Ald. Rowland asked about maintenance of the "Sponsor-A-Bench Program". She also asked about allocated monies and how that would be maintained.

Mayor Richetelli explained the program would be developed and would go out to bid for a company for the benches. He also explained they would have to add another fund for maintenance for acceptance of benches, plaques, etc.

Ald. Genovese stated if this goes forward she would like the Board of Aldermen to have the opportunity to review the language before it goes on the plaque and that she would make that in the form of a motion. Ald. Ditchkus seconded the motion.

Mayor Richetelli stated the purpose of the program is not to burden this Board. He stated departments such as Community Development, Parks, Beach and Recreation and Public Works that should be able to decide what is appropriate. He stated he believed it would have been too cumbersome for this Board. He stated he understands Ald. Genovese intent, but suggested they leave it up those agencies to perform that task.

Ald. Beckwith suggested the city, through the legal department put in a clause that the city has the right to review.

Ald. Genovese withdrew her motion, Ald. Ditchkus withdrew is second.

Ald. Rowland stated she had a discussion with the Recreation Director regarding the wording and that he assured her that there would be some sort of template in place.

Ald. Ditchkus commented he found it difficult to think someone would want something offensive and that he was confident those agencies and our legal department will refuse anything inappropriate.

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.

Ald. Toohey requested a 5-minute recess.

The Board recessed at 8:07 p.m. Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 8:10 p.m.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to add to the agenda (Under New Business) a Request for consideration of Bid Waiver concerning purchase of printed items necessary for November 6, 2007 Municipal Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of Bid Waiver in order to purchase printed material for the November 6, 2007 Municipal Election for the estimated price of \$10,690.

Ald. Toohey asked for an explanation as to how the \$10,690 figure was arrived at and if there would be any reimbursement from the State.

Mr. Jepson explained these monies would come from the election account that this Board has already approved. He stated they would be using money already approved and explained this is a different cost because of the optical scan.

Ald. Toohey asked if they should receive reimbursement.

Mr. Jepson responded he fully expected to receive a full reimbursement.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #3, Fund 10, FY 2007-2008. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #4, Fund 10, FY 2007-2008. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$20,754.68. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee – no report.
- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.
- c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Toohey reported paving is ongoing in areas where there was concern. Public Works also did a clean up along the shoreline.
- 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. –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 – Ald. Toohey reported the last meeting the Commission discussed taking out the carpet in the offices downstairs with the hope that would remedy the situation there. She also reported the center has done a remarkable job with everything they do.

Ald. Lambert through the Chair to Ald. Toohey commented it was her understanding they were going to replace the carpeting with tiles.

Ald. Toohey responded yes and that they would be looking at other areas as well.

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 – Housing Authority – Ald. Lambert reported they were still looking to partner with the facility on Seemans Lane. She reported they had a very short meeting before going into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Toohey reported the course is doing quite well. She also reported paving is on schedule for next month.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Beckwith reported the intersection work had begun and would be completed very shortly.

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report

p. Liaison Health Department – no report.

q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Politi reported the met on September 19, 2007 to discuss the Milford Education fund. She stated present at their meeting was State Representative Paul Davis who discussed concerns and strategies for the ECS formula. She stated they received a report from Alan Sheppard who indicated in his report that a major factor is that Milford is ranked 44 out of 166 towns. She also commented on how the city is very fortunate to have Phil Russell with the Board of Education. She stated he is a former internal auditor with the State Education Department and offers a wealth of knowledge in this area. She spoke as to the formula and explained that Milford was actually going to get less, but they did not want them to go lower than the 4%. She stated they are checking to make sure the numbers were inputted correctly and that Representative Davis is assisting with that. She stated the best advocate is to work on the formula, but to also work on special grants, etc. She stated they also continue to advocate for special education dollars. She stated they were collaborating with the Milford Council of PTA's with a meeting explaining the formula, fair share, etc. would be held on November 8, 2007 at Live Oaks School. She stated they would be inviting the rest of the delegation to attend.

Ald. Veccharelli asked through the Chair to Ald. Politi if based on the work she has done if she is more comfortable and satisfied that the monies are ok, but that the equations are not really off.

Ald. Politi responded she still has a problem with the formula. She stated it just doesn't work for Milford. She spoke as to rising costs and that they have not met any of the promises they made. She stated under the formula you just don't get rewarded and spoke of the many obligations so the money really is just not satisfactory.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would like to get a copy of that formula. He also expressed his pleasure that this is being investigated to see if we are getting our fair share.

Ald. Blake commented he does not have a copy with him but he would be happy to provide one to Ald. Veccharelli and sit down with him and go over it.

Chairman Beirne commented the concern would be whether the numbers were inputted correctly and that the grand list was correct, etc. He stated the working of the formula is really not difficult.

Ald. Veccharelli added it seems every year our cost sharing from the State is going down. He stated he would like to see it looked at.

Ald. Politi stated she met with Representative Davis last month. She stated there are other communities who also are experiencing the pain.

Ald. Bier stated he wished to thank Ald. Politi for all her work and the work she has accomplished over the last 10 years. He also thanked her for being his role model and mentor and that she would be sorely missed.

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. Blake moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary