

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
S. Shaw
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Jonathan D. Berchem, City Attorney
Peter Erodicti, Finance Director
Joanne Rohrig, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

S. Fontana (ill)
M. Hardiman (ill)

Mayor Blake stated tonight was a special night. He acknowledged that October is Breast Health Awareness month. He called upon Mary Ann Wasil, CEO and founder of Get in Touch Foundation. He went on to read the proclamation. He stated there are Daisy Wheels in all 50 states and 26 countries. Mayor Blake Proclaimed October 17, 2014 as Get Your Pink on Day.

Ms. Wasil stated it was a pleasure to be here and that it is a source of pride for Milford and the State of Connecticut how far the organization and Daisy Wheel have gone, adding they are a global organization. Ms. Wasil stated they continue to spread the word for something that started right here in Milford. It is important to continue to push this mission to girls in this country and elsewhere

Mayor Blake recognized State Representative James Maroney to present a citation on behalf of the state delegation to the Get in Touch Foundation. Mr. Maroney went on to read the citation.

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated only residents; taxpayers or electors may address the Board. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

He asked that speakers not express derogatory and offensive statements and not to engage in negative statements about any person.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Lane – stated this has been a year of celebration of Milford's history. However, it comes with sad news as the Elijah Bryan House is now a pile of rubble, despite attempts to save it. He stated one of the problems is that Gulf Street is not a historic street. He stated he hoped by the next aldermanic meeting to bring to the Board an Ordinance to protect such properties. Mr. Platt stated Milford is losing its history bit by bit. He stated Milford has to be on guard so that nothing like what happened to the Elijah Bryan House happens again.

T. Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – reading from a prepared statement spoke about the high schools in Milford and where they rank compared to other districts in the State. He stated it is not because of a lack of money because Milford spends more money than other districts comparable to Milford in the state. He stated next week the Board of Education will bring forward its Long Range Planning decisions. He continued reading speaking about the performance of the high schools need to do more of basic education. He also spoke of the issue of closing a school and that the Board of Education has stated they can not come up with a decision. If stated if they are going to close an elementary school, this is the time to do it. He asked the Mayor and Board to take the initiative and speak up.

E. Ditchkus – Housatonic Drive – former co-chair of the Devon Revitalization Committee, along with Carol Eaton. She stated they are looking for the full support of the Board and Mayor to approve the creation of the Village of Devon Progress, Inc. She stated many years ago they gave \$30,000 to Milford Progress for signage but have seen nothing. She stated she was asking that the money be restored accordingly and held in a trustee account as seed money for additional projects in the Village of Devon, which would be a bipartisan committee.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he is for helping the senior citizens of Milford. He asked the Board to help senior citizens stay in their homes. He stated the \$600 they receive is not enough. He asked the Board to consider giving seniors more. He also spoke about the closing of Harborside Middle School and stated he just did not understand the point. Mr. Prisco also extended congratulations to Chairman Vetro on being named "Italian of the Year."

V. Ditchkus – Housatonic Drive – He stated years back Devon Revitalization gave \$30,000 to Milford Progress for signage. He stated it is now his understanding that the public works department has taken over that signage work, so his question is "where is the money"? He stated he would like a full accounting of where that money is.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on September 8, 2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 8, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro commented regarding recognition of National Breast Health Awareness month and applauded Ms. Wasil on her continued efforts.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake asked the Board's consideration and action on those agenda items 8a-8h and that he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have. He stated the Wayfinding signage came up during public comments. He stated they are moving forward and that several locations have already been recognized. Mayor Blake stated they are also working with DOT and nearing the finish line for phase 2.

Ald. Vitali stated during recent budget deliberations Milford Progress was questioned as to what was going on, but that they did not receive satisfactory answers. He asked who is paying for the signs, MPI or the City through Public Works

Mayor Blake stated the city found they are able to produce the signs more cost effectively. He explained the details of the signage with regard to the color of the signage which is dictated to by DOT. He also stated they are currently work with the grant monies they received which has reduced the cost of the initial costs.

Ald. Vitali asked if MPI would in fact pay for some of the signs.

Mayor Blake stated it is a work in progress and that they are still bringing back information to their executive board.

Chairman Vetro also noted two liaisons were appointed to MPI.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Connecticut Municipalities Broadband Infrastructure Upgrade and Expansion Project and to authorize the Mayor to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents to effectuate said RFQ.

Mayor Blake stated they were fortunate to have Elin Katz, Consumer Counsel present.

Ms. Katz thanked the Board for having her and to Mayor Blake for inviting her. She continued with a presentation “Gigabit Networks: Why Do We Need Them, How Will We Use Them, and What Steps Can We Take to Obtain Them?”

Ald. Vitali spoke about the cost and upgrades. He cited various testing especially in the schools, wherein they are continually needing to upgrade their hardware to accommodate the network.

Ms. Katz likened it to expanding the highway. She stated yes, there could be some costs associated with it but it would likely be about 5 years down the line.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if any businesses in Milford had reached out to her looking for this service.

Ms. Katz stated she would need to double check.

Ald. Giannattasio spoke of some of the large businesses such as Subway, Schick, etc.

Ms. Katz met with the CBI personnel last week.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if Milford Hospital or Yale New Haven Hospital expressed any interest.

Ms. Katz stated they had reached out to Yale University. She stated the municipalities that have expressed interest are still in the dialogue stages.

Mayor Blake stated he had some businesses reach out to his office.

Ald. Golden asked why New England is so far behind. She also noted she did not see New York City on any of the maps shown during the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Katz explained it is likely due to the infrastructure in New York City. As to New England she stated she really did not know but that it is likely due to competition.

Chairman Vetro thanked Ms. Katz for her presentation and that the Board would certainly have homework to do,

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the Public Works Director and the Purchasing Agent to dispose of obsolete and unusable equipment as listed on the email from the Public Works Foreman Corey Vena dated September 24, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated July 17, 2013 for the sale of 204 Melba Street and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents to effectuate said sale, subject to final Board of Aldermen approval.

Ald. Bier asked how this property would be sold.

Mayor Blake stated previously this was previously a sealed bid. He stated this would allow the City to put this back out to bid. He stated what the Board was being asked to approve memorializes what occurred in Executive Session at the September meeting.

Ald. Giannattasio stated there has not been signage at the property. He asked if it would be there once this was approved.

Mayor Blake stated there formally was no “floor”, so this would go out without that floor.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this approval included the use.

Mayor Blake replied yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to amend the City of Milford Capital Improvement Plan 2014-2019 (as adopted by the Board of Aldermen on January 6, 2014 to add the following projects: Health Department Roof Replacement and Margaret Egan Center Roof Replacement. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program Assistance Program (LoCIP) – 2014.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how long reimbursement would take for the cash reimbursement.

Mayor Blake stated he believed the comptroller’s office had a new system in place which would transfer money to our account once documentation was in place.

Mr. Erodicti stated the requirement is that the city must spend the money first, and then make copies of all the documentation, cancelled checks etc. and they would then apply for reimbursement.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program Assistance Program (LoCIP) – 2014.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why the amount is not spelled out in the agenda item.

Mayor Blake stated it was memorialized in the Resolution.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was not on the specific item.

Mayor Blake explained this is how the city has always proceeded in previous years.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it might be more prudent to have the amount included in the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City of Milford to accept the 2014 Port Security Grant Award in the amount of \$25,000 and to authorize the Mayor and the Police Department to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the receipt of said grant funds.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if anyone from the police department was present

Mayor Blake stated Captain Marschner was present.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the grant was for dive equipment.

Captain Marschner stated yes. He stated the grant would allow them to purchase dive equipment. He explained they have 10 divers and that they would be able to outfit most of the divers. He stated there are still divers that did not have their equipment replaced.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the life expectancy of the equipment.

Captain Marschner stated about 10 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the FFY 2014 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Understanding and that the city enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and that the Mayor is authorized to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents to effectuate said Memorandum of Understanding. 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. Shaw and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to add to the agenda the request for Agreement between the United Illuminating Company and the City of Milford for the Municipal Energy Opportunities Standard Agreements for an integrated energy opportunity for Parson's Government Complex, City Hall and Fannie Beach and to authorize the Mayor, Community Development Director and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Agreement between the United Illuminating Company and the City of Milford for the Municipal Energy Opportunities Standard Agreements for an integrated energy opportunity for Parson's Government Complex, City Hall and Fannie Beach and to authorize the Mayor, Community Development Director and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. Vitali asked the public works director to capsular of this agreement.

Mr. Saley apologized for the lateness of this request. He explained UI freed up some money for Fanny Beach which would allow them to retrofit the existing boilers. He also pointed out it is an interest free loan and would give them quite a savings. He stated it is for Fanny Beach, Parsons Building and City Hall. He went on to explain the process. He stated the incentives also provide energy efficiencies that should net the city positive cash flow and that there is no outlay to the city. He also stated they would retrofit lighting and EMS would be brought in. Mr. Saley stated City Hall would also get two new boilers and retrofitting lighting.

Ald. Vitali asked the timeframe.

Mr. Saley stated with winter fast approaching, he is hoping for the next two months.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if something had happened that the boilers failed at Fanny Beach or if something else happened.

Mr. Saley stated they have been leaking for sometime. He stated they looked at various scenarios and then with the incentive program from UI, it was a positive putting all three projects together. He stated as part of the process Board of Aldermen approval was needed.

Attorney Berchem pointed out at last month's Board of Aldermen meeting (September) item 8d, this Board approved an identical program which it was thought included Fanny Beach. It did not so this agreement was quickly put together.

Ald. German asked the accuracy of the numbers.

Mr. Saley explained how UI arrives at the numbers. He stated with energy costs going up it should reduce the City's costs greatly.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about swapping out the boilers and if that was the unfunded part the city was assuming.

Mr. Saley stated it is actually state money. He explained the UI actually manages the program. He also pointed out it is not specific to one part of the project.

Mr. German asked about the lighting and current technology.

Mr. Saley stated it is high efficiency and also possible LED. He stated they are still in the process of finalizing what they will use.

Ald. Smith asked if the list meets a qualified list of vendors.

Mr. Saley explained the comparisons of LED and other lighting sources.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

- a. Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #1 and 2, Fund 10, FY15.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #1 and 2, Fund 10, FY15. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

- a. Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$24,812.67.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$24,812.67. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consideration of Suspense List in the amount of \$210,705.10.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Suspense List in the amount of \$210,705.10.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee - Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met prior to this meeting and voted unanimously to forward this to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation. He stated basically it eliminates the previous Sunday schedule and that Section B regarded holidays Ald. Smith also stated what came out of the Committee was that modifications had been made to the flying models which significantly reduced noise levels.

1. Ald. Smith and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation Article VI, Eisenhower Park, Section 16-191 (B) (6) (Motor-Operated Model Airplanes).

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would be in favor of this amendment and stated those flying would have a permit from the city. He stated in the past there had been some noise complaints, but adaptations to the models have alleviated that. He stated he wanted the Board to be aware that any citizens can go down there.

Ald. Vitali asked about the no fly Monday through Friday and also on specific holidays. He also asked if there is a size limitation to fly in the area.

Mr. Fava stated the Monday through Friday is a holdover from the previous Ordinance. He stated the holidays were added by the club since they are now flying on Sundays. He stated any holiday that falls on a Sunday was noted, not just religious holidays.

Ald. Vitali stated his point is that solemn holidays should be respected.

Mr. Fava stated as to size, it is the size of the engine, not the plane itself.

Ald. Vitali stated he wished to amend the Ordinance by adding other solemn holidays to include all religions.

Ald. Shaw asked Ald. Vitali if he was talking about holidays that fall on Sundays.

Chairman Vetro stated if they were incorporating every holiday, that perhaps they needed to table this matter to come up with a list of the holidays to be included.

Ald. Smith commented while he understood what Ald. Vitali was referring to, the reality is that on Thanksgiving and Christmas people are not likely to be out flying. He suggested deleting Section B which may be a suitable resolution.

Ald. Bier and Anderson moved to amend the Ordinance by removing section 6b altogether.

On the amendment, motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.
- c. Public Works Committee – no report.
- d. Claims Committee – no report
- e. Rules Committee – no report.
- f. Personnel Committee – no report.

Ald. Anderson stated he wished to take a point of personal privilege and recognize Chairman Vetro who was being honored as the Italian American of the Year and that he would be honored next week. He stated he would be happy to act as liaison for any alderman that wished to attend and needed tickets.

Ald. Vitali extended congratulations to Chairman Vetro. He also pointed out there are three events happening that evening and thus the need for a community calendar.

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 – no report.
- 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 – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- o. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- p. Human Services Commission – no report
- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.
- s. Liaison – Milford Progress, Inc. – no report.

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. Consideration of Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and Milford Police Union, Local 899, AFSCME Council 15, AFL-CIO.

Chairman Vetro announced those individuals entering Executive Session would be the full Board, Mayor and City Attorney.

Ald. Golden and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session as announced by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:36 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:59 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement agreement Re: Consideration of Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and Milford Police Union, Local 899, AFSCME Council 15, AFL-CIO in accordance with the

recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Sessoin. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vitali read a statement from Ald. Fontana, who wrote in light of Milford becoming a community of compassion she wished to let residents know that the Victims Rights Enforcement Advisory Committee is holding public hearings throughout the Connecticut. She stated if anyone is interested in attending one of the hearings they should contact a victim's advocate at 888-771-3126.

There being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary