

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence to honor our veterans.

**1. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

B. Anderson  
B. Bier  
G. Gasper  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
J. Golden  
R. Nunno  
F. Smith  
G. Stanford  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
J. Berchem, City Attorney  
L. Stock, City Clerk  
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

R. Dickman  
S. Shaw  
P. Smith

**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. He encouraged speakers not to express derogatory or offensive attacks. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – congratulated all those who were re-elected. He also congratulated the Mayor, commenting he has done a good job with the city's rating. He commented regarding drainage and sewers on his street. He also spoke of the school system and the declining student population. He also commented about roads and sidewalks that were impacted from the storms last year and stated they should be figured into the infrastructure. He also stated the Mayor should receive an increase and gave each aldermen credit for what they do for the city. He stated he was sorry not to see Ald. P. Smith tonight and stated he wanted to thank her for all of her hard work.

**3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on October 7, 2013.**

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro congratulated the aldermen that won election to a seat on the Board. He also thanked all the aldermen for the work the last two years and the time they put in, especially during budget time, which at times he stated was difficult. He also commented how proud he was of all of the aldermen and their work. Chairman Vetro also congratulated the Mayor and City Clerk for being re-elected. He reminded everyone that Sunday is Veterans Day, a day to be proud and recognize our veterans. He asked everyone to come out and support the Veterans Day parade on Sunday.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations (8a-8m)

Mayor Blake wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day. He also acknowledged and thanked the veterans for their service and a special thank you to Chairman Vetro for his service to our country. Mayor Blake stated the parade kicks off at 2 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend. Mayor Blake also recognized the City's new library director, Chris Angeli.

Ms. Angeli stated she was delighted to be here in Milford and that she hoped to get to know each of the aldermen. She commented a successful library is the cornerstone to a vibrant community and asked each of the aldermen to stop by and say hello.

Mayor Blake respectfully asked the Board's to consider and take action on agenda items 8a-8m and that he would be happy to answer any questions as they come up. He also provided recent reports from the various bonding agencies which re-affirmed Milford's AA+ rating, which he stated was fiscal responsibility. He also stated he wished to thank each and every alderman who has served the last two years and noted their service was exemplarily, adding while they disagreed from time to time, but managed to work together. He stated it was humbling to work with each board member.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Richard Merly, Jr., 120 Cheryl Ann Drive, 06461 as a member of the Housing Code Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy. Term to expire 12/31/14. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Linda Stock swore in Mr. Merly.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer #3 (Storm Sandy Reimbursement). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Public, Education and Government (PEG) Programming Signal Agreement, and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and MGAT to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said Agreement.

Mayor Blake noted two members of the MGAT Committee were present, Phil Kearney and Barbara Genovese.

Ald. Golden asked if this would include AT&T and U-Verse.

Mayor Blake stated this is to include live streaming.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the authorization for Entry for Construction, and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Mayor to notify the State Department of Transportation that, in light of environmental contamination concerns, the City does not wish to purchase State owned land located at 34 Clark Street.

Ald. Nunno asked if the City was aware of what the environmental concerns were.

Mayor Blake provided a background, which he stated dates back to 2006 when Phase I was done and there were significant concerns such that the Board of Aldermen was offered four properties. He stated the City did testing on those four properties at that time and the Board directed the City Attorney's Office to see if the State would carve out one property, which they declined to do. Mayor Blake stated this is one of the properties that was environmentally in jeopardy. He stated it was the recommendation at that time not to pursue it based on that Phase I study.

Ald. Nunno expressed concern the environmental issues could impact the neighbors.

Mayor Blake stated there is no information that there is any contamination in that area, but that they continue to look into it.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Mayor to notify the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management that funding received from the Municipal Grants-in-Aid will be used as delineated in §13a-175a(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Ald. Giannattasio asked when the money would be identified and when and where it would be spent.

Mayor Blake stated he was not sure if these are annual payments and deferred to the Finance Director.

Mr. Erodici stated there is town aid grants and LOSCIP grants, but that he was not 100% sure of the payout. He stated this is a new grant related to another.

Mayor Blake spoke of the MURF grant to help make municipalities whole from what they received two years ago.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he wished to be clear what he was hearing was it was not known where the monies were going.

Mr. Erodici stated there would be a formula, but the exact amount is not known at this point.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this Board would be made aware of the amount.

Mr. Erodici replied yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request following approval of Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the abandonment of the cul-de-sac abutting 86 Paschal Drive (Map 98, Block 801, Parcel 21F) and O Paschal Drive (Map 98, Block 801, Parcel 21 FA). Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request per recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated August 7, 2013, for approval under §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes for the abandonment of Park Lane as shown on Map F-467.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he had questions earlier, but that he had no problem now with the abandonment and expressed his hope this would pass tonight.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request authorizing the acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Program Sub-Grant No. FEMA-DR-4023-CT-18R in the amount of \$694,309 for the acquisition and demolition of 15 Blair Street and 23 Caroline Street, and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director, Director of Community Development and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant acceptance and property acquisition.

Chairman Vetro noted there was a scribes error in the agenda notice and Resolution. He stated the correct address on Caroline is #23, not 22.

Ald. Anderson noted the presence of Mr. Ivers from Community Development. He stated this was originally on the aldermanic agenda last month but was withdrawn. He asked Mr. Ivers if there would be any expense to the City, and his second question was if this is approved and the parcels become the property of the City, how they will be maintained.

Mr. Ivers stated the item had been removed last month because there were some items that needed to be clarified. He stated there had been a question as to how to balance the funds. Mr. Ivers stated he has found out it will be in the form of matching grants. He provided a background of the program. He stated the closing costs

would be paid by the seller and the demolition through flood insurance coverage. As to the future of the properties, Mr. Ivers stated they can never be developed. He noted 23 Caroline Street is at the end of the road so it would be absorbed into the area. He stated Blair Street would likely be maintained by the neighborhood property owners.

Ald. Anderson asked if the lots, specifically Blair Street could be used for parking.

Mr. Ivers stated it would not be likely for paved parking.

Ald. Bier asked how these two houses were picked and if others could have applied for this grant. He also asked about developing policy and protocols for the future.

Mr. Ivers explained the two properties on the agenda were pending applications with FEMA. He stated there were approximately 25 applicants and went on to explained the details of the process. He state it was these two homeowners that chose to exercise their option.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the City would be able to give the property to the adjoining homeowners.

Mr. Ivers replied no explaining they are public and must remain public areas.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why one of the properties is being reverted back to the State and not open space.

Mr. Ivers stated they would both be open space and classified as open space.

Ald. Giannattasio commented as to Ald. Veccharelli's point and the properties going back on the tax rolls.

Ald. German asked about problems with people parking on those areas, i.e. campers, boats, etc.

Mr. Ivers stated since Caroline Street is at the end of the street, it may be wise to eliminate the paved areas. He also stated there would likely be concrete blocks placed there. As to Blair Street, he stated that parcel is in the middle of the street.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was hearing that the city would be counting on the homeowners to maintain the properties. He asked why it would not be the City, since it is open space.

Mr. Ivers stated he only mentioned the neighbors because in the past in similar situations the neighbors would step up and maintain the parcels.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the open space manager would make sure it is being maintained.

Mr. Ivers replied yes.

Ald. F. Smith commented he has spoken with Mr. Ivers regarding future criteria for other folks. He asked if there is anything going forward for future.

Mr. Ivers stated there have been some discussion with Planning and Zoning and that he was hoping to have ideas and eventually a policy.

Ald. Anderson stated in the aldermanic rules it states and alderman can recognize their constituents.

Ald. Veccharelli recognized the homeowner from 23 Caroline Street.

Ms. W. Safyre stated she is the owner of 23 Caroline Street and that she has been out of her house for 2 years and 3 months. She stated she has lost all of her worldly goods and most of her house, which she stated is now a shell. She stated it is a very difficult situation on her street and that it has been very stressful. She also stated she has suffered physically as well as financially.

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Hazard Mitigation Program Sub-Grant No. FEMA-DR-4023-CT-18R in the amount of \$694,309 for the Acquisition and Demolition of 15 Blair Street and 23 Caroline Street. Motion carried unanimously.

8k. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Special Reserve Account – Milford 375<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mayor Blake called upon a familiar face in the audience, Bob Gregory, former Community Development Director, whom he stated would serve as Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Gregory stated he was involved with Milford's 350<sup>th</sup> celebration and noted they started out much earlier last time, but that they are trying to compress a lot of work into the next few months. He thanked the Mayor and the aldermen for their support. He stated they have a large community of about 40 or more and will continue their work.

Ald. German asked what the proposal for the funding was for.

Mr. Gregory explained the Committee is requesting the money the aldermen allocated for Milford's 400<sup>th</sup> celebration is allocated for the 376<sup>th</sup> and then similar to what was done for the 350<sup>th</sup> celebration it would be returned back to the account.

Mayor Blake stated this Resolution establishes a reserve account. He stated there will likely be an additional request possibly at the December Board of Aldermen meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

8l. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the City of Milford and authorizing the Mayor, Director of MIS and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents, to effectuate said Memorandum of Understanding.

Mayor Blake stated John Hangen from the MIS Department was present to answer any questions from the Board.

Ald. Anderson asked for a brief description.

Mr. Hangen explained it would help with data from surrounding towns for the City's emergency responders. He stated Milford does a lot of mutual aid work, so this would be a valuable tool.

Ald. Anderson asked who would own the material and how many municipalities they were talking about.

Mr. Hangen responded the State would own the equipment and the company would hold the ownership of the agreement.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there would be any cost to the City.

Mr. Hangen stated there is no charge for the agreement and that there are updates once or twice a year with no charge.

Motion carried unanimously.

8m. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request authorizing the Agreement between the State of Connecticut and City of Milford for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Naugatuck Avenue Drainage Improvements Utilizing Federal Funds under the Urban Component of the Surface Transportation Program and authorizing the Mayor, Director of Public Works and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all documents, to effectuate said Agreement.

Ald. F. Smith commented this is the area around Saint Ann's. He asked the Mayor to provide details, background and the expected timeframe of the work.

Mayor Blake stated construction is slated for the spring of 2014. He also stated the project is funded by Federal urban monies.

Mr. Wassmer added there are undersized pipes in that area which will be replaced.

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. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a Motion to Approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #3 and #4, Fund 10, FY14. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$13,546.99. 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 – no report.
- 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 – 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.

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 Settlement of William J. Auger, et al v. City of Milford  
Re: 6 Seaview Avenue



14b. Consideration of Settlement of Trans-Lite, Inc. and 120 Wampus, LLC v. City of Milford  
Re: 120 Wampus Lane and "O" Wampus Lane

14c. Consideration of Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and the Local 944,  
International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO.

Chairman Vetro announced those going into Executive Session for items 14a and 14b would be the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney and City Assessor. He stated the full Board, along with the Mayor and City Attorney would be present for item 14c.

Ald. Golden and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to enter Executive Session to consider those items announced above by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would be recusing himself from participating in the discussion and vote of item 14c because he is a retired Milford firefighter.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

City Assessor D. Thomas and Ald. Veccharelli exited Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:56 p.m.

(14a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: William J. Auger, et al v. City of Milford (6 Seaview Avenue), in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14b) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the city to enter into settlement RE: Trans-Lite, Inc. and 120 Wampus, LLC v. City of Milford (120 Wampus Lane and "O" Wampus Lane), in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14c) Ald. Nunno and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to accept Consideration of the Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Bier, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, F. Smith, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 abstention (Veccharelli).

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Vitali and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary