

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman B. Blake called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Chairman Blake asked those present to join in saluting our flag asking David Sulkis to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Rosen (7:57 p.m.)
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
S. Willey

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
W. Smith, Jr. City Attorney
J. Doneiko, Finance Director

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. Chairman Blake commented with the late hour he would ask all speakers to please keep to the three-minute time.

R. Dunphy – 109 E. Broadway – congratulated the Democrats for keeping their promise and thanked them. He spoke regarding the first mayoral election in 1959 and the comparison as to the number of voters. He also commented regarding the pledge of allegiance and the words “one nation under God” and asked the members of the Board to follow that rule together. He also commented with the Republicans now having the majority they would have to do the same as the Democrats did in savings. He mentioned several ways each department could save. He stated he hoped the aldermen needed to do this to save the taxpayers' money. He thanked Ald. Toohey and the other individuals who worked hard and all the learning they did why on the Board. He also asked that everyone not forget our troops.

J. Agro – 55 Brewster Road - extended everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and that spirit thanked the aldermen for giving of their time to serve as aldermen. He spoke of the commitment of serving as well as knowledge gained

and expressed hope those who were leaving the Board for whatever reason would enjoy time with their families and would return in some capacity to continuing serving our city. He offered congratulations to the mayor. He also thanked those who run, but were unsuccessful. Finally, he offered a special thank you to Mr. Jepson, who he stated has worked with every aldermen and brought so much to the City and thanked him for making everyone a better citizen.

M. Lofthouse – 54 Maple Street – stated he too wished to thank Mr. Jepson for his years of service to the city, noting he himself could learn from his temperance. He stated he felt compelled to speak tonight as he had last month concerning KRIT. He stated the meetings that were held were not held in a public hearing. He referred to the time he spent on the Eisenhower Park Study Committee and that their meetings were held in very public places. He expressed his anger over the KRIT process. He stated a land use change was approved without thinking about the process. He asked the aldermen remaining on the Board to consider amending its approval and asked them to remove the Land Use Director or “czar” as he more likened the position. He stated there is no reference in the Kimball report for this type of position. He stated this position is just another figurehead. He also commented the impact these changes would have for Inland Wetlands. He reiterated his earlier request to the Board to please remove the Land Use Director position.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Lane – stated last month he sent changes to the demolition delay Ordinance and that he had hoped it would have been taken up tonight. He stated he was too hasty in agreeing to go along with the changes when he met with the City Attorney. He stated he would have preferred the 50 years as compared to the 75 years that was approved. He stated another topic he wished to discuss regards the KRIT report and that the Board was told that he had approved it when in fact he stated he never say a copy and had not expressed an opinion. He also noted the KRIT approval was done without a public hearing. He stated the KRIT Ordinance should be appealed or put to a referendum. He extended a thank you to all of those aldermen who would be going off the Board and stated their service was greatly appreciated by him.

M. Kramer – 104 West River Street – stated he wished to speak out against the KRIT Ordinance. She stated while it is widely acknowledged the need to streamline the building process, this Ordinance was put together too hastily and broad. She also stated it was not made available to the public and that the public should not have had to scramble to find information. She questioned why the conservation groups were not consulted. She also questioned the hurry to get it done. She stated she was here tonight to request the Ordinance be rescinded, tweaked or if possible, restart the process.

B. Milton (no address stated) – stated she is the former Chairman of the ECC and the current Chairman of the Conservation Commission. She stated she is here tonight to ask that the KRIT Ordinance be rescinded. She continued reading from a prepared statement regarding numerous reasons this needed to be done and that the Board needed to consider re-examining the entire KRIT report.

J. Cervin – 3 Central Avenue – stated she is the current Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board. She stated she has already voiced her concerns with the KRIT team and how the implementation of this report was arrived at and what happened. She stated the process was wrong, very wrong and that there are a number of incorrect and unsubstantiated information in that report. Reading from a prepared statement she continued on regarding the neglect in the report to consult with the Finance Director regarding the budgetary reorganization, some of which is questionable. She also questioned the political appointment of a director with the responsibility of managing a number of individuals. She questioned the charge of the KRIT committee adding it is well known it is the building process that needed to be examined. She continued reading asking the Board to consider

rescinding the Ordinance. She also stated there is a need to begin a technical implementation as well in order to move forward.

B. Wright – 20 South Street – stated she is the former Chairman of the ECC. She stated she has never been so upset by anything as she is with this report and its blanket bias. Reading from a prepared statement she cited the numerous problems with the report. She also commented regarding the “kid” problem in the building department. She stated with adequate technology a person could look up the building process, but here in Milford it’s a mystery. She stated she wanted change but she wanted a playing field with a similar hierarchy and ability to serve. She stated they need to acquire 20th century technology. She expressed her hope the Board was listening and would learn and do something with this Ordinance that needs to be changed.

A. Berman – 77 Pelham Street – stated she is the Chairman of the ECC. She acknowledged the Mayor and congratulated him on his election win and also acknowledged Mr. Jepson for his years of service and thanked him. She stated she is not against change, but would like to see more input. She stated she was referring to the KRIT Ordinance and that it is a drastic governmental change. She continued reading from a prepared statement

B. Bell – 24 Winthrop Place – stated she is a member of Inland Wetlands as well as the Clean Energy Task Force and the ECC. She stated last month this Board made a major change in the City and gave an analogy as to what this change could mean. Reading from a prepared statement she cited a number of reasons why this is wrong. She stated the Engineering Department should be a full fledged department and not fall under Public Works. She asked the Board to consider leaving Planning and Zoning the way it is.

S. Lawless – 41 Pauline Street – stated she takes issue with KRIT because of how it was carried out. She read from a prepared statement she addressed how this is all a big plan and that school, sewers, road all require careful planning here in Milford. She asked the Board to amend its decision regarding the KRIT implementation.

S. Shaw – 31 Point Beach Drive – expressed her support of all of those who have already spoken. She stated she too just wanted to ask the Board to take another look at their decision.

C. Spector – 35 Elm Street – stated she is in favor of amending the KRIT.

S. Kraffmiller – 37 Sycamore Road – stated he is a member of the Open Space Committee. He stated this new position scares him and that there are no checks and balances in place. He asked the Board to reconsider what they did last month.

K. Liddy – 55 Knobb Hill Road – commented regarding the 60 day requirement that has been implemented. He cited as examples Milford Marketplace and the Connecticut Post Mall. He stated it would be more beneficial if the 60 day requirement were in the Ordinance and asked the Board to consider that.

B. Genovese – 19 Belmont Street – wished those members of the Board not returning the best of luck. To those staying she wished them luck as well. She stated she was here tonight concerning the demolition delay Ordinance. She stated the night this was discussed the City Historian was in favor of this with changes. She also stated it was pointed out the City Historian had been left out of the language and asked if an amendment had been made putting him back in. Reading from a prepared statement she expressed her hope the Board would look into this Ordinance before there is another Cadley property issue and it is too late. She stated

tonight is the Board's lame duck session and that she hoped the new aldermen in the audience had heard what she said. She asked the Board to please review this. She stated the taxpayers are losing control of their city and implored the Board to please protect our City. She also reminded the Board to look into everything handed to them.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – extended his thanks to the members of the Board. He stated he would have a lot to say at the upcoming meeting.

R. Masaud – 18 Intervale Parkway – stated he wished to echo the sentiments of the previous speakers concerning the KRIT. He also stated the aldermen make a personal sacrifice when serving on the Board and that sometimes it is a thankless job. He stated he wished to thank the members remaining on the Board and wished those members that were leaving well, adding they would be missed.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on October 5, 2009.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on October 5, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen held.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Blake extended a Happy Veterans Day to our veterans acknowledging Mr. Jepson, Mr. Vetro and Mr. Hardiman. He also thanked the Board for its accomplishments over the last two years, such as the building process, school improvements, tax decrease and so much more. He also commended Mr. Jepson for his years of service on the Board noting he has been to over 300 Board meetings.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated on the agenda tonight under New Business were items 8a-8f which he stated he was prepared to discuss and answer any questions the Board might have as they come up. He stated he also wished to make the Board aware of two mayor's appointments as follows:

Milford's Representative to Housatonic River Estuary Commission
(R) Lori J. Romick, 10 Valery court, 06461, reappointment, (two-year term to expire 7/1/11)

Mayor Richetelli stated Ms. Romick had been sworn-in.

Milford Redevelopment and Housing Partnership
(R) John P. Fowler, 50 Pine Knob Terrace, 06461, new appointment, to complete the unexpired term of
(R) John Amenta (resigned) (five-year term to expire 11/30/10)

Mr. Jepson stated he swore-in Mr. Fowler.

Mayor Richetelli also thanked Chairman Blake and the rest of the Board for their work over the last two years. He stated it had been a privilege and that although they did not always agree, they accomplished a lot. He stated he also wished to echo all the praise of City Clerk Alan Jepson, and the affection the entire community has for him.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business:

8a. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve a request for the appointment of Reverend Karl Duetzmann, 6 Hickory Lane, Ansonia, 06401, new appointment, as the Milford clergy Association's representative on the Board of Directors of the Milford Department of Human Services (three-year term to expire 12/31/11). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jepson swore in Reverend Kuetzmann.

8b. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Extension and Renewal of Operating Agreement between the city of Milford and the Aqua Jets Swim Club, Inc. for McCann Natatorium, 70 Park Circle on the Milford Academy Community Campus site. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 5 (per request of the Golf Course Commission). Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Authorization, Issuance, and Sale of Not Exceeding \$25,000,000 City of Milford General Obligations Refunding Bonds (Bond Refinancing).

Ald. Patterson asked what percentage on the bonds.

Mr. Spoerndle responded they look at the industry guidelines. He explained the percentages and where they are with them. He stated the goal tonight is to get into position to be able to act.

Chairman Blake asked if there is a specific percentage point in which they would act.

Mr. Spoerndle responded it would be up to the City. He stated generally you would like it to be over 2%, but that rests with the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for License Agreement between the City of Milford and the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley, Inc. for non-exclusive use of the West Shore Neighborhood Center. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve the request to allow the Milford Columbus Committee to donate and install two bocce ball courts at the Milford Academy Community Campus site at the location depicted on the engineer's drawing dated September 22, 2009 (per approval of the Parks, Beach and Recreation Commission at their meeting on October 7, 2009). Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Blacketter requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:45 p.m.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board at 8:55 p.m.

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. Vetro and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$19,742.37. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the Suspense List in the amount of \$206,980.45. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Patterson stated the Committee met earlier in the evening to consider two Ordinances:

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blacketter made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance (12a (1) in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article VII, Sections 18-90 and 18-91 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Planning and Zoning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Fees). Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Amending and Ordinance establishing Compensation of City Officials and employees in the service of the City of Milford.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance (12a (2) in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to amend the Ordinance to include Article V.

Mayor Richetelli explained Article V includes a provision for a \$300.00 contractual wage to all City employees. He gave the history going back to fiscal year 1992/1993. He stated it is a contractual adjustment and that since that time every contract has included this provision. Mayor Richetelli also explained there are 46 non-represented employees that are affected by this. He stated the U2 Ordinance before the Board spells out the contracts for those employees not represented by a union. He stated the goal here is to be fair to all City employees and treat all members of bargaining units fairly. Mayor Richetelli also pointed out this Board has already approved contracts for fiscal year 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, which include this \$300 provision. He stated those individuals affected by this are the ones that are not represented, adding it would be short sided to remove this, as well as the human side to single out these 46 employees. He stated it just is not fair. He pleaded with the Board to be fair and treat all City employees equally.

Ald. Nunno asked if all 46 employees currently receive this bonus.

Mayor Richetelli replied it is approximately.

Ald. Nunno asked about the Board of Education and if they received this bonus.

Mayor Richetelli responded they did not, but pointed out they took at 4.5% increase.

Ald. Bier stated it was his understanding this has been a part of their salary for 18 years and that in essence you would be cutting their salary.

Ald. Blacketter stated this has been a long standing bonus; however at a time of zero pay increase this is difficult. She stated she needs to take into consideration the people who are having hard times and the people who have not taken pay increases or lost their jobs and that they too are having a hard time.

Ald. Manning questioned why this was on the agenda to begin with since it had already been denied twice during the budget session.

Mayor Richetelli explained the compensation package for all City employees is arrived at through the collective bargaining units and that there is still one that is outstanding. He state those other employees have their compensation spelled out by Ordinance rather than contract. He stated this is before this Board because it is an Ordinance. They are not represented, so there is no contract.

Ald. Manning stated it seemed odd to her that this is before them since they are seemingly taking up which this Board has already decided.

Mayor Richetelli explained this Board has not approved the wage and benefit package for non-representatives and that is why it is before this Board.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 9 no (Blacketter, Blake, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Toohey, Vitali, Willey).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.

c. Public Works Committee –no report.

d. Claims Committee – Ald. Hardiman reported the Claims Committee met earlier this evening to consider one claim.

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Employee Mark Freeman, former Milford Police Officer (Full & Final Award), in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney (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. – no report.

d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no rept

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 – Ald. Nunno stated he was pleased to report the Law addition is moving forward.

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 – Ald. Hardiman thanked the Board for their vote tonight to move forward with the renovations for the bunkers.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – no report

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report.

p. Liaison Health Department – no report.

q. Milford Legislative Action Committee – no report.

r. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.

s. Human Services Commission – Ald. Vetro read the minutes from the Commission's last meeting.

t. Liaison Police Commission – no report.

u. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.

v. 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.

Chairman Blake stated he wished to take a moment of personal privilege and recognize and thank Mr. Jepson for his countless hours of service to this Board and the City.

Mr. Jepson stated he was at a loss for word after so many wonderful tributes he has received. He stated he has come to love and respect all the members of the Board of Aldermen and that he was never ashamed to be in the company of any one. He stated there were some contentious meetings, but he considered it a privilege to serve with both parties.

Ald. Vitali thanked Mr. Jepson and that it was an honor to work with him over the last two years. He also thanked Chairman Blake for his strong leadership and keeping decorum and civility through the last two years.

Chairman Blake stated he wished to thank the members of the Board with a reception following the conclusion of the meeting.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he has served on this Board for 12 years, through two administrations and numerous meetings. He stated he also wished to thank his constituents, as well as the members of this Board and previous Boards for their service. He also extended thanks to those individuals who have put their name out there over the years. Finally, he thanked Mr. Jepson for his time.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary