

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 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.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

E. Beatty
C. Gaynor
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
G. Harla
M. Parente
F. Smith
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
N. Sutton
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Mayor's Admin. Asst

Excused

J. Grant
M. Hardiman

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.

Krystyn Liebelt, 94 Monroe Street, PTA President Pumpkin Delight School read a prepared statement stating she, together with the other parents present, supports the school bonding ordinance. She stated Pumpkin Delight is one of the oldest schools without any improvements. Ms. Liebelt urged the Board to approve the bonding ordinance.

John Drapp, 41 Jackson Drive, stated he had hoped to speak at the January meeting but was unable to be present. Mr. Drapp stated he had wanted to thank everyone who serves on Boards and Commissions for their dedication. He further stated those that serve do so without compensation and for the benefits of the City.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 6, 2020.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 6, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he hoped everyone enjoyed the Super Bowl and wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day. He also stated he wished to inform the Board that he has appointed James Santa Barbara as the citizen representative to the Permanent Schools Committee.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated with Valentine's Day approaching he wanted to remind everyone that Milford is a City of compassion. He asked the Board's consideration regarding items 8a-n and stated he would be happy to answer any questions as they come up.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Ilya Eliashevsky, 225 Gulf Street, 06460, as a member of the Transit District to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/23). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointments of (I) Mike O'Neil, 9 Sentinel Hill Road, 06460, as a member (term expiring 12/31/22) and (U) Kevin Frank, 167 Meadow Street, as an alternate member (term expiring 12/31/21) of the Pension and Retirement Board (Local 944) to fill the present vacancies. Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Grant Application for Department of Human Services. Motion carried unanimously.

(8d) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Grant Application for Youth and Family Services Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

(8e) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Grant Application for Office of Early Childhood.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the grant has changed in anyway. Deep Joseph, Health Director, stated the only change has been administration by the State. Ald. Giannattasio asked who handles the grant. Ms. Joseph explained it is a pass-through grant to the early childhood center.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Allocation Transfer #3 (Motorola System Upgrade - Police). Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve per the attached recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated December 5, 2019 pursuant to CGS §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the sale of 122 Kings Highway, and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said sale.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the course of action taken on this property. Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney, stated this property was acquired by way of tax lien foreclosure wherein the City received the property via strict foreclosure. Attorney Berchem further stated the Borough of Woodmont would like some control on this property restricting to a single-family use. Ald. Giannattasio asked how long the property has been delinquent. Attorney Berchem stated last payment was 2001. Ald. W. Smith asked if the property was being sold restricted only to single family use. Attorney Berchem stated the property is a pre-existing, non-conforming commercial garage use and it is requested that the property be deed restricted to single family use.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8h) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the attached resolution Re: South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Sutton made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward items 12a-1, 12a-2 and 12a-3. Motion carried unanimously.

12a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening to consider the three (3) Ordinances concerning bonding which were forwarded to the full Board with a favorable recommendation.

12a-1. Ald. Smith and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve an ordinance appropriating \$11,827,000 for various public improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$11,827,000 bonds of the city to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he a member of the Public Works Committee and at their meeting last week they discussed rolling stock of vehicles and the possibility of adding additional plow truck. He further stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of adding \$200,000 to the bonding to allow for the purchase of an additional truck. Ald. Giannattasio stated he believes this is a good time to add as the bonding is light compared to prior years.

Ald. Beatty requested a 5-minute recess. Chairman Vetro stated the Board would stand in recess for 5-minutes. The Board recessed at 7:58 p.m. Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:10 p.m.

Note: Ald. Golden left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Blake discussed funding of plow trucks. He stated how trucks need replenishment. Mayor Blake stated the bonding is for refuse trucks and that other vehicles are funded through the vehicle acquisition program that will come before the Board later this year. He discussed the town aid road grant and how it must be used for capital purchases. Mayor Blake stated the plan is to purchase two 6-wheel vehicles for the 2021 season. He stated he would recommend that the purchase be made through the grant which provide no financing costs. Ald. Giannattasio thank Mayor Blake for his comments and stated he is satisfied with that approach. Ald. Tranquilli asked if with the purchase of new vehicles, it will cut down on the use of subcontractors. Mayor Blake stated with more vehicles there will be more employees plowing. He also stated that it is dependent on the storm event as to whether subcontractors are utilized. Ald. Vitali stated he is in favor of the vehicle acquisition program.

Ald. W. Smith stated he agrees with the purchase of a pumper and inquired about the multi-purpose fields. Mayor Blake stated that each February is devoted to bonding and the amount of authorization differs year to year. Mayor Blake state the multi-purpose field will be located on the east side of town and is used by Foran soccer. He also stated that the Law fields are part of the bonding authorization. Ald. W. Smith stated the he supports the fields but has concerns on road paving. He stated the constituents have expressed concerns that they roads have not been paved in several years. Mayor Blake discussed the asphalt management program and how it is utilized to determine what gets paved each year. He also discussed how road paving can be delayed due to planned utility work. Ald. W. Smith stated he cannot support road paving when constituents are complaining their roads have not been paved. He also stated he has concerns with building maintenance improvements and asked if the improvements are part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Blake stated the various building maintenance improvements are in the Capital Improvement Plan that was approved in January. Ald. Smith asked if everything on the Capital Improvement Plan was in the bonding. Mayor Blake explained the Capital Improvement Plan is a wish list and that at the right time it may come forward for funding.

Ald. Gaynor asked if specific projects are earmarked for erosion control. Mayor Blake stated that the last 10-15 years resources have gone into sanitary sewers and stormwater has received much less. He stated that there have been flooding issues in other areas of town away from the shoreline and this will go toward there areas where infrastructure is failing.

Ald. Beatty stated that when she was first elected to the Board she too had concerns about paving, but she is very satisfied with the asphalt management program and believes Public Works should have the flexibility necessary to manage the program.

Motion carried 11 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Harla, Parente, F. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali and Willis), 1 against (W. Smith).

12a-2. Ald. Smith and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an ordinance appropriating \$5,005,000 for various school improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$5,005,000 bonds of the city to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. W. Smith made a point of order and asked if the ordinance approvals included items 8l through 8n. Mayor Blake stated the resolutions allow reimbursement for school projects.

Ald. Vitali stated that he applauds the Pumpkin Delight parents who came out to support the bonding. He stated enrollment is declining and he has been requesting a long-range plan from the Board of Education and without one he cannot support the requested bonding. He further stated that he cannot support funding for buildings that may not be used in the near future. Ald. F. Smith stated the proposal before the Board is for Pumpkin Delight School. Ald. F. Smith stated he toured the school last fall and it appeared to him that the school has not had any significant improvements since 1967 when he attended. Ald. F. Smith further stated that it is his understanding that should schools need to be closed Pumpkin Delight would not close. He stated he agrees a long-range plan is needed, but he has faith in the Board of Education and Dr. Kutaia. Ald. F. Smith further stated that he supports the bonding request and that Pumpkin Delight needs improvements. Ald. Tranquilli asked what is needed at Pumpkin Delight. James Richetelli, Board of Education Chief Operations Officer, stated the request will allow for a multi-purpose room and dedicated media center. He stated Pumpkin Delight has the smallest gym/cafeteria and does not have a media center. Mr. Richetelli stated the gym/cafeteria will be converted to a media center and a new multi-purpose room will be constructed. He also stated that security vestibules will be part of the project. Ald. Tranquilli asked for an explanation of the traffic project at Live Oaks School. Mr. Richetelli stated the traffic is an issue and for safety reasons it must be addressed. He explained that where parents would drop off in the circle was not designated as a fire lane which took away approximately 12 parking spaces and a staging area. Mr. Richetelli discussed how the traffic will be corrected for safety purposes. Ald. Parente thanked everyone for coming out in support of the ordinance. She also stated new census data should provide some information on population and schools. Ald. Vitali stated he applauds those who came out tonight, but a long-range plan is needed. Ald. Beatty stated her are concerns about enrollment and a long-range plan may be necessary. She also commended the parents for coming out in favor of the ordinance. Ald. Willis thanked everyone for coming out in support of the ordinance. Ald. Gaynor asked if there is a long-range. Mr. Richetelli stated there was one from 2012/2013. Ald. Gaynor asked if one will be done in the future. Mr. Richetelli stated that the Board of Education will need to make that decision. He further stated that all projects on the bonding ordinance are projects that need to be done now. Mr. Richetelli further stated that should schools close Pumpkin Delight would not due to population in that area of town. He also stated the other projects are health and safety issues. Ald. W. Smith stated he supports education, but a long-range plan is necessary and without a plan he cannot support this request. Ald. Parente stated she believes one can advocate for the ordinance and still request a plan. Mayor Blake stated many planning tools are used for these requests and long-range is utilized when making the request. Ald. Giannattasio agreed a plan is needed but stated need to deal with the present. He further stated children are currently occupying the schools and he supports the request. Ald. Sutton stated a lot has been said about a long-range plan and everyone understands there is interest in such a plan. He commented that the budget will be for the 2020/2021 year.

Motion carried 10 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Harla, Parente, F. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro and Willis), 2 against (W. Smith and Vitali).

12a-3. Ald. Smith and Ald. Sutton made and seconded a motion to approve an ordinance appropriating \$775,000 for the design and construction of sanitary sewers and waste water facilities and authorizing the issuance of \$775,000 bonds of the city to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

(8i) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements – 2020. Motion carried 11 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Harla, Parente, F. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali and Willis), 1 against (W. Smith).

(8j) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various School Improvements – 2020. Motion carried 10 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Harla, Parente, F. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro and Willis), 2 against (W. Smith and Vitali).

(8k) Ald. Sutton and Ald. F. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Waste Water Facilities – 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

(8l) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning Renovations, Additions, Alterations, Code Compliance and Security Upgrade Project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School. Motion carried 11 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Harla, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, and Willis), 1 against (Vitali).

(8m) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning Renovations, Additions, Alterations, Code Compliance and Security Upgrade Project at Live Oaks Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously.

(8n) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning A Project to Replace Unit Ventilators/Dehumidification System at John F. Kennedy Elementary School. 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. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #3 & #4, Fund 1005 & Fund 2812, FY20. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$76,547.24. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee -
- 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.
- 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.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary