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MILFORD CITY CLERK

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 via video / teleconference Zoom meeting. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:34 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. Grant
G. Harla
M. Hardiman
S. Marlow
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. Erodi, Finance Director
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused

J. Golden

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the Board of Aldermen regular meeting. He reviewed how the meeting will be conducted via Zoom and guidelines to be followed. He further stated a recording of the meeting will be available on the City's website.

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 Vetro stated letters were received from Shawn Wheeler, 4 Shagbark Lane, Milford and Mary Lyon, address unknown, and that both letters were provided to the Aldermen and are available on the City's website.

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

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

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro reported that a wreath laying will take place on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the monument in the park directly in front of City Hall. Chairman Vetro asked everyone to take a moment to thank those who served, including those who made ultimate sacrifice.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake asked the Board for their consideration and action on items 8a through 8f. He wished everyone a happy Veterans Day and stated the tribute from this past weekend is available for viewing on the City's YouTube channel. Mayor Blake also thanked the City Clerk, Registrars, respective staff and poll workers for their hard work and dedication during the election. He also thanked all the candidates and stated he looks forward to working with them. Mayor Blake stated he is pleased to announce that Milford continues to maintain its AAA bond rating. He stated that most recently older bonds were refinanced saving the City approximately 1.4 million in interest costs. Lastly, he congratulated Peter Erodici, Finance Director and his staff for once again receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Scott F. Marlow, 353 West Main Street, 06460, to complete the unexpired term of Jeremy Grant on the Board of Aldermen representing the Second District.

Ald. Sutton stated it with great pleasure that he makes this motion. He further stated he worked with Mr. Marlow on the Planning & Zoning Board where they served as Chairman on alternate years. Ald. Sutton stated that the professional Mr. Marlow brings is very welcome.

Ald. Giannattasio also congratulated Mr. Marlow on his appointment. He stated Mr. Marlow is no stranger to services and mentioned the various boards and commissions Mr. Marlow previously served.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve for a Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid for Surge Capacity of Public Health Preparedness between the Milford Health Department and the West Haven Health Department and to authorize the Mayor, Health Director and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said Memorandum of Understanding.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for example of when resources were received from West Haven or visa versa. Deepa Joseph, Health Director, stated that the last time this agreement was executed was 2014. She further stated that since there is no Assistant Health Director, by statute the City is required to have a backup plan in the event of absence or inability of the Health Director to serve.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated October 21, 2020 pursuant to CGS §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the acquisition of a sidewalk easement on property located at 73- 109 East Broadway and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said easement. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated October 21, 2020 pursuant to CGS §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the acquisition of a sidewalk easement on property located at 49-71 East Broadway and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said easement. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated October 21, 2020 pursuant to CGS §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the acquisition of a sidewalk easement on property located at 0 East Broadway (Map 16, Block 145, Parcel 6A) and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said easement. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Allocation Transfer No. 2.

Ald. Giannattasio asked what account is #2812. Peter Erodici, Finance Director, stated it is the unreserved, unassigned sewer fund balance. Ald. Giannattasio asked why it was being used for construction and storm resiliency. Mayor Blake stated they are all wastewater and sewer projects. He discussed the types of digester projects. Chris Saley, Public Works Director, stated this is the sewer reserve account and part of the monies are from the fuel cell project. He stated \$250,000 had been put into the reserve account for work on the digesters and it ended up costing less so they are now looking to take funds back to perform additional work. Mr. Saley discussed the pavement work at

Walnut Beach and that the force main was found to be in poor shape. Ald. Giannattasio stated he had no concerns with the work but where the money was coming from. Mayor Blake stated the funds are being transferred from the Sewer reserve fund. Ald. Giannattasio asked if the fund rebuilds. Mr. Erodici stated it does every year. Ald. W. Smith asked if the funds can only be used for storm resiliency and paving. Mayor Blake stated the funds must be used for wastewater or sewer related projects and all of it may not be used. Ald. W. Smith asked if funds are left over can they be used for any other project unrelated to the specific purpose. Mayor Blake stated they can be used for projects associated with sewer and/or wastewater. Ald. W. Smith asked how much will be left in the fund after the transfer. Mr. Erodici stated approximately \$5 million after transfer.

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

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #1 and #1, Fund 1005, FY 21. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

a. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Refunds in the amount of \$70,389.50. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Suspense List in the amount of \$392,337.71.

Ald. W. Smith asked if the suspense list is uncollectable taxes and what has been done to collect, why are they uncollectable. Mayor Blake stated individuals may have moved and their new address cannot be verified. He stated the tax office does search for addresses and attempts to make contact. Mayor Blake also stated the Tax Office utilizes local constables and marshals to assist in the collection of delinquent taxes. He also stated the City periodically sells its tax liens. Mayor Blake mentioned that although an individual is on the suspense list, the Tax Office does not stop its collection activities. He asked that if any of the Aldermen know the whereabouts of anyone on the list they could assist by providing that information to the Tax Office. Mr. Erodici stated that the Tax Office also utilizes the services of a tax collection company and their efforts have been successful. He stated that although on the list collection efforts continue. Ald. W. Smith asked if collection efforts continue why place on the list. Mr. Erodici stated it is required by statute. Ald. W. Smith stated he cannot support the motion.

Motion carried 13 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis) and 1 against (W. Smith).

12. Report of Standing Committees:

Ald. Giannattasio stated that Ald. Marlow will be serving on the Public Safety and Welfare Committee as Vice-Chair replacing former Ald. Jeremy Grant.

- 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:

Mr. Giannattasio stated that Ald. Marlow will be serving as liaison to Library Board, Inland Wetlands Agency and MGAT replacing former Ald. Jeremy Grant.

- 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. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Veterans Ceremony & Parade Commission – no report
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fine Arts – no report
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Liaison - Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Liaison - Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Board of Health – no report.
- o. Liaison – Human Services Commission – no report.
- p. Liaison Sub-Committee - Pension & Retirement Board – no report
- q. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.
- r. Liaison – Economic Development Commission – no report.
- s. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Arts Council – no report.
- t. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Progress, Inc.
- u. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fire Commission
- v. Liaison Sub-Committee – Police Commission
- w. Permanent School Facilities Building Committee

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 Vetro recognized Ald. Grant. Ald. Grant stated this would be his final Board meeting as he has accepted a position with the City as the Open Space & Sustainability Agent. He stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Board of Aldermen and looks forward to continuing to work with them in his new position. Ald. F. Smith congratulated Ald. Grant on his new position. He further stated that Walnut Beach will be holding its annual holiday gala at the end of this year and information may be found on the Walnut Beach website. Ald. Giannattasio congratulated Ald. Grant on his new position and thanked him for his service to the Board of Aldermen.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Gaynor and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", with a horizontal line above it.

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary