

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023, in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. Chairman 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

E. Beatty
B. Broesder
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
G. Harla
S. Marlow
J. Moffitt
H. Mulrenan
R. Pacelli
M. Parente
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodici, Finance Director
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused:

M. Arciuolo

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.

Jeanne Cavallaro, 109 Seemans Lane, Unit 25, spoke regarding trash and recycling reimbursement for condominium associations. She requested the ordinance be updated to include all condominiums.

Mary Dalton, 21 Southwick Court, stated she supports Ms. Cavallaro's request. She stated she lives in a 55 and over community and represents all condominium owners. Ms. Dalton suggested the possibly of public works picking up trash and recycling for condominiums that do not use dumpsters.

Lisa Gregory, 311 Zion Hill Road, spoke on behalf of Matthewson PTA spoke in favor of a new playground for Matthewson School.

Joe Simoncek, 61 Governors Avenue, spoke concerning sewer upgrades that will impact Athletic Brewing Company, a private company.

Diane Phelan, 281 Plains Road, spoke in favor of a new playground for Matthewson School.

Kristin Magazine, 32 Sumner Avenue, spoke in favor of a new playground for Meadowside School.

Sean O'Neill, 77 Robert Treat Drive, spoke in support of amendments to the trash and recycling ordinances.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 9, 2023.

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Organizational Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications

Chairman Vetro stated the ground hog predicts and early spring and hopes for the same.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Blake requested the Board's action on item 8a through 8n.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Julie Valvo, 169 Oronoque Road, 06461, as a member of the Inland Wetlands Agency to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/25). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Timothy Phelan, 95 Kings Highway, 06460, as a member of Milford's Economic Development Commission to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/23). Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

(8e) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Grant Application for Office of Early Childhood. Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Maintenance Agreement between the City of Milford and Schneider Electric and to authorize the Mayor and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to reorder the agenda to bring Items 12a-1 through 12a-3 forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Parente reported the Ordinance Committee meet earlier this evening and voted to refer items 12a-1 through 12a-3 to the full Board.

12a-1 Ald. Parente and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating \$4,675,000 for the design and construction of sanitary sewers and wastewater facilities and authorizing the issuance of \$4,675,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Vitali asked the current total bonding indebtedness. Mr. Erodici stated the total indebtedness is approximately \$170,000,000. Discussion ensued concerning bonding rate. Mr. German asked for detail on bonding for Athletic Brewing and how it impacts City budget. Mayor Blake stated the proposal is unique as the debt service will be funded by a private organization. Upgrades are required for the Housatonic Treatment Plant and Athletic Brewing is requesting increased capacity which would require upgrades to the treatment plant. Athletic Brewing has agreed to fund the debt service until the bond is paid off. Mayor Blake discussed potential risks should Athletic Brewing go out of business. He discussed the improvements and how they benefit the community. Ald. German asked when it is anticipate the improvements will be completed. Mayor Blake stated once approval for funding is in place the design will be authorized by the Sewer Commission and then go to bid. Ald. Marlow asked if there is a time frame for the projects listed and how they are prioritized. Mayor Blake stated the Sewer Commission works with wastewater treatment plant and sewer consultants to determine which are most critical. He also discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and other needs of the community. Ald. Broesder asked how many jobs were created by Athletic Brewing. Mayor Blake stated he does not know the exact number, but he knows they are growing and believes it will total approximately 300 new jobs. Ald. Giannattasio asked if certain items from the Capital Improvement Plan are included in the bonding ordinances. Mayor Blake stated that each of the bonded projects are derived from the Capital Improvement Plan. Ald. German asked how the finance rate is derived. Discussion ensued concerning bonding ratings and finance rates.

Motion carried unanimously.

12a-2 Ald. Parente and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating \$5,857,500 for various public improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$5,857,500

bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Marlow asked how playgrounds are prioritized. Mayor Blake stated the Recreation Department reviews and makes a determination based on the condition of the playground and community needs.

Motion carried unanimously.

12a-3 Ald. Parente and Ald. Harla made and seconded an Ordinance appropriating \$8,800,000 for various school improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$8,800,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked those that spoke in favor of new school playgrounds. Ald. Willis asked if accessible playgrounds are being addressed and their longevity. James Richetelli, Operations Director MPS, stated the anticipated life expectancy is approximately 20 years and the playgrounds will be accessible. Ald. Marlow asked timing for playgrounds to be completed. Mr. Richetelli stated it is anticipated the playgrounds would be installed before start of 23/24 school year. Ald. Marlow asked if certain schools would be prioritized for new HVAC systems. Mr. Richetelli stated MPS is currently prioritizing. He stated they are currently looking at schools with second floors as those floors become very warm. Ald. German asked for an explanation on technical equipment. Dr. Anna Cutaia discussed career path expansion beginning in 6th grade. Ald. Moffitt asked if these upgrades would then compete with Platt Tech. Dr. Cutaia discussed a comprehensive school system approach for students interested in a technical school program. She stated it would be complimentary more than competitive.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution re: Cash Advance for design and construction of sanitary sewers and wastewater facilities – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8h) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8i) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various School Improvements – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8j) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning School Construction Grant for Technical Education Facility & Equipment Alterations, Upgrades & Improvements at the High Schools & Middle Schools – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8k) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning School Construction Grant for the Installation of Air Conditioning Systems at Various Schools – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8l) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning School Construction Grant for HVAC Improvements at Various Schools – 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

(8m) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Reduction and Rescission of Authorized, Unused, and Unissued Amounts Totaling \$16,388,064 per the Attached Table (Entitled “Bonds to Rescind FY23”) Identifying Projects/Acquisitions/Purposes Funded with BOND/BAN Proceeds.

Ald. Giannattasio requested an explanation of the resolution. Mr. Erodici stated periodically unused, authorized amounts needs to be cancelled and this is accomplished by a resolution of the Board. Ald. German asked if the bonds are paid. Mr. Erodici clarified the resolution is for unused funds where projects were under budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8n) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the Director of Health employment contract as required by §19a-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes and to authorize the Mayor to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said contract. Motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business not on the Agenda that may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None

10. Budget Memo Transfers

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfers #3 and #4, Fund 1005. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

11a. Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$12,577.30. 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 – 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. – no report.
- u. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fire Commission – no report.
- v. Liaison Sub-Committee – Police Commission – no report.
- w. Permanent School Facilities Building Committee – 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.

Chairman Vetro requested a motion to enter executive session.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro announced those entering Executive Session for item 14(a) through 14(f) would be the full Board of Aldermen, Mayor Blake, City Attorney, Jonathan Berchem and Assessor, Marcus Irrek and for item 14(g) would be the full Board of Aldermen, Mayor Blake and City Attorney, Jonathan Berchem

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the regular meeting at 9:40 p.m.

(14a) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of WP Properties, LLC v. City of Milford re: 185 Plains Road as discussed in executive session.

Ald. Broesder requested a 5-minute recess.

Chairman Vetro recessed at 9:40 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

(14b) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of Costco Wholesale Corp. v. City of Milford re: 1718 Boston Post Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried 13 in favor (Beatty, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Harla, Malow, Moffitt, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Parente, Vetro, Vitali and Willis), 1 abstention (Broesder).

(14c) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of 612 Wheelers Farms Road Limited Partnership v. City of Milford re: 612 Wheelers Farms Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14d) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of Merritt Corp. Woods v. City of Milford (Acct. #023710) re: "0" Wheelers Farms Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14e) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of Merritt Corp. Woods v. City of Milford (Acct. #006209) re: "0" Wheelers Farms Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14f) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of Rite Aid of Connecticut v. City of Milford re: 1360 Boston Post Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried 13 in favor (Beatty, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Harla, Malow, Moffitt, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Parente, Vetro, Vitali and Willis), 1 abstention (Broesder).

(14g) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement concerning National Opioid Litigation as discussed in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary