

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING
MAY 3, 2021**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021 via video / teleconference Zoom meeting. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:35 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
G. Harla
S. Marlow
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. Erodict, Finance Director
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused

J. Golden
M. Hardiman
M. Parente

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 Art Gosselin, 40 Odell Avenue and Kristyn Liebelt, 94 Monroe Street and copies are available on the City's website.

Amy Fino, 35 Art Street, PTA president, thanked the Board for the planned project. She stated parents hope for upgrades to ventilation and air condition. Ms. Fino stated it has become an issue over the past year to ensure children are breathing clean air. She stated the ventilation on the second floor is poor.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on April 5, 2021.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 5, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro wished everyone a happy mother's day.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake thanked everyone for their patience with Zoom meetings. He stated budget discussions will continue on May 5th. Mayor Blake stated things are opening up with more adjustments coming on May 19th. He asked for the Board's consideration of agenda item 8(a)

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

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

12a.1 An Ordinance appropriating \$12,915,000 for improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of \$12,915,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating \$12,915,000 for improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of \$12,915,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Vitali discussed air condition being an important piece in education during fall and early summer. He stated it is aesthetically unpleasing to see air conditioning hanging out the windows. Ald. Vitali stated his hope that with federal funding and sharpening the pencils the add alternate for air condition the entire school can be added to the project. He reiterated the importance to education. Ald. F. Smith discussed touring schools and various improvements over the years. He stated the improvements to Pumpkin Delight are long overdue and he agrees that air condition for the entire building should be a priority. Ald. F. Smith state his hope for an affirmative vote on the motion. Ald. Giannattasio stated he supports the bonding before the Board. He echoed the concerns of Ald. Vitali. Ald. Giannattasio stated he believes air conditioning is a quality of life and is

needed in a public building. He asked that in the future air conditioning all schools should be considered. Ald. Giannattasio stated he is in favor of the ordinance. Ald. Parente asked for an outline of how bonding funds will be applied and why the air conditioning was not applied. Mayor Blake stated air conditioning is part of the new construction, including older portions of the building. He stated the bid documents will incorporate an add alternate for air conditioning. Mayor Blake stated federal grant opportunities may allow for funding the air conditioning. James Richetelli, Chief Operations Director Milford Public Schools, provided an overview of the project. Mr. Richetelli discussed security upgrades being incorporated in the project and code compliance updates. Ald. Parente if students need to attend school during the summer should the air conditioning be included. Mayor Blake stated this project would not be complete for the coming summer. He stated activities are planned in the schools during the summer. Ald. Harla stated he supports the bonding and supports looking at climate control for the entire building. Ald. Marlow stated is support of the project. He echoed statements concerning air conditioning the entire school. He stated there is benefit to doing the work during the project in order to obtain the best value. Ald. Marlow asked if the air conditioning is enough of priority that it could replace something else in the project. Mr. Richetelli stated the Permanent Schools Committee spent many hours prioritizing the project. Ald. Marlow asked if the contingency could be used to pay for the air conditioning. Mr. Richetelli asked that Principal McNeil be permitted to address the Board. Mr. McNeill, Principal Pumpkin Delight, stated the school community is appreciative of the Permanent Schools Committee, Board and Mayor. He stated the well-being of the children is at the forefront. Mr. McNeill echoed the need for air conditioning throughout the entire building. Ald. Beatty stated she would like to see the air conditioning more in the foreground. Ana Cutaia, Superintendent, discussed federal funding and how it can be utilized. Ald. Vitali stated based on Mayor's comments he believes the City will be able to provide the air conditioning through an add alternate. Ald. Sutton thank Dr. Cutaia for the explanation of federal funding and how they can be used. Ald. Giannattasio stated an amendment should be made to include additional 5% to ensure the air conditioning will be completed with the project.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Vitali made a motion to amend to increase bonding by 5%, \$645,750, to include air conditioning.

Ald. Gaynor asked if the amount is increase will it be specific to air conditioning. Mayor Blake stated this is an estimate at what bids will be received. He stated once the building is opened there may be other issues discovered and an 8% contingency is planned. Mayor Blake stated add alternates are going to be incorporated show bids come in lower or other funding sources become available. Mr. Richetelli stated the project will be managed by the Permanent Schools Committee. He stated should bids come back too high, some items may need to be removed but there is a consensus that air conditioning is an important component. Matthew Woods, Chairman Permanent Schools Committee, discussed the budget which included air conditioning the entire school and that it had to be cut back. He stated air conditioning will be included should funding allow. Ald. Marlow asked if financing is included in the amount. Mayor Blake stated 5% financing is included. Ald. Beatty stated she does not want to slow the process down and is not in support of the amendment. Ald. Vitali stated the additional 5% will not slow the process down. He stated that only the amount used will be bonded and finance charges will only be on the amount bonded. Ald. Harla stated the project needs the air conditioning and ventilation and the project should have come with those items included.

Amendment carried 13 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Sutton, Vetro, Vitali, and Willis) 2 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Tranquilli and Golden).

Main motion, as amended, carried 14 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis, 1 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Golden).

(8a) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve an amended Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School. Motion carried 14 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, and Willis) 1 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Golden).

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. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Refunds in the amount of \$224,275.58. Motion carried 14 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, and Willis) 1 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Golden).

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. 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

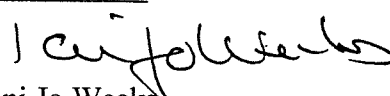
14. Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item to be considered in executive session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into executive session.

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.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 14 in favor (Beatty, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, and Willis) 1 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Golden).

The Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary