

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021, 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
A. Giannattasio
G. Harla
S. Marlow
M. Parente
F. Smith
W. Smith
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

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

Excused

C. Gaynor
M. Hardiman
J. Golden

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.

Walton Rollins, 49 Shadows End Road, stated he and his wife have resided in Milford for 57 years and he is a retired history teacher. Mr. Rollins read from a prepared statement regarding his concern critical race theory being introduced into the City's school curriculum under the guise of social and emotional learning.

Chairman Vetro noted letters had been received from the following and are available for viewing on the City's website.

Jennifer Duarte 66 Maples Street; and
Richard Rizza, 35 Spice Buch Lane.

Terry Smith, 90 Snow Apple Lane, stated she was speaking in follow up to Mr. Rollins statement. She stated her concern that students are being removed from public schools due to what parents are seeing regarding critical race theory. She provided a handout of assignments recently sent home from school. Ms. Smith asked why the Board of Education is still meeting remotely when the Board of Aldermen can be in person.

Richad Rizza, 35 Space Lane, spoke concerning ordinance section 9-14 concerning rate of reimbursement for condominium associations and requested a review and increase of the rate provided.

Jeff Cartwright, address unknown, spoke concerning the opening of the southern border.

Jennifer Fiorello, Bridges, 949 Bridgeport Avenue, spoke concerning the designation of a public place for consumption of cannabis and potential impact on those in recovery.

Sara Bromley, 27 Norway Street, read from a prepared statement expressing her appreciation for schools introducing critical race theory.

Erin Coyle, 55 Commodore Place, stated her concern that City schools are teaching critical race theory. She discussed assignments that her children brought home. Discussions she had with Dr. Cutaia. Ms. Coyle stated as a result she has removed her children from the public school system.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on August 2, 2021.

Ald. Sutton and Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 2, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on August 30, 2021.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 30, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications

None

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Blake thanked all who attended the 9/11 ceremony held this past Saturday. Mayor Blake stated he was respectfully asking for the Board's consideration of items 8a-g and those items in Executive Session.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Thomas Jackson, 336 West River Street, 06460 as a member of the Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission (American Legion) to fill the present vacancy, term to expire 12/31/21.

Ald. Giannattasio stated Tom Flowers had been in this position for many years. He thanked Mr. Flowers for his service and time spent in organizing parades and events. He stated he will be missed.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Tara Carroll, 36 West Main Street, Apt. 2, 06460 as a member of the Sewer Commission to fill the present vacancy, term to expire 12/31/21. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the re-appointment of (U) Julie Nash, 224 Woodruff Road, 06461 as a member of the Central Regional Tourism District, Inc.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked Ms. Nash for all the work she does on behalf of the City. He commented that recently New 8 reported tourism is up in Connecticut and he hopes to see more visitors coming to Milford. Aldermen Harla, Broesder and Vitali echoed Ald. Giannattasio's comments.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$6,000,000 for the Costs Associated with City of Milford General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

Ald. Giannattasio asked what cost savings would be realized by approval of the resolution. Peter Erodici, Finance Director, stated approximately \$500,000. Ald. Giannattasio asked why the amount was not reflected on the agenda. Mr. Erodici stated this is the preliminary first steps to authorize the sale. Ald. Giannattasio asked if there will be more sales in the future. Mr. Erodici

this is it for calendar year 2021. He further stated that refunding in November 2020 yielded approximately \$1.4 million and clean water fund loans in December 2020 approximately 1 million in savings.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA) Between the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) and the City of Milford and to authorize, the Mayor, City Attorney and Flood Plain Administrator to take all steps necessary to effectuate said Agreement, including the signing of all documents.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if residents in flood zone are realizing full savings potential on flood insurance. Mayor Blake stated all 169 municipalities participate in the flood program with only 4 or 5 municipalities taking advantage of the CRS rating system. He stated there are approximately 4,000 properties in the flood plain areas within the City and by participating in the CRS residents realize approximately 10% in savings. Ald. Giannattasio asked the program provides credit for storm resiliency projects. Joseph Griffith, DPLU Director/Flood Plain Manager, stated there are many components including storm resiliency that contribute to CRS scoring.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to CGS §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes for the acquisition of a public access easement as depicted on a certain map entitled "Topographic Survey, 167 Hilldale Road, prepared for Phyllis Boynton, a.k.a. 167 Morningside Dr. - Parcel B" dated 7/20/15 and revised 9/7/21 by Codespoti and Associates, P.C.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why this item is before the Board again. Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney, explained there was an error in the prior drawing with regard to the public access easement. He stated the prior map only showed public access 10 feet into the property and it has been corrected to span the entire width. Ald. Giannattasio asked if the property owner is in favor of this easement. Atty. Berchem stated she is as it protects her property as well as infrastructure.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to open the floor for consultation with Board of Aldermen Re: Designation of Location for Public Consumption of Cannabis pursuant to Milford Code of Ordinance §15-3(b). Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blake discussed ordinances passed at special meeting of August 30, 2021. He stated that state law requires the City to designate a public location for consumption of cannabis by October 1st. Mayor Blake further stated that if it is later determined that a designated area is not

appropriate there is nothing in the law that prevents relocation of such area.

Chairman Vetro reminded the Board that this is only consultation concerning a designated area and there will be no voting.

Ald. Tranquilli stated there are two locations proposed, Boston Post Road near Barnes & Noble and 130 Boston Post Road. He stated after speaking with the Police Chief he agrees 130 Boston Post Road is not an appropriate location as there is no bus service. He stated the designated area should not be near a residential area.

Ald. Marlow stated he would not be in favor of 130 Boston Post Road due to proximity to skate park and ball fields. He asked Mayor Blake what improvement would be made to any designated area. Mayor Blake stated signage describing the area. He discussed lighting and ability to be patrolled. Mayor Blake stated public transportation as well as adequate parking is available at Boston Post Road near Barnes & Noble. He also discussed that similar to zoning for alcohol it should not be near residences, schools, churches and such.

Ald. Smith asked Mayor Blake which location he was inclined to designate. Mayor Blake stated the location referred by Ald. Giannattasio and preferred by the Police Chief is Boston Post Road near Barnes & Noble. Ald. Smith thanked the Board for acting on the amendment to provide consultation. He further stated he has not located a better area and agrees the located preferred by the Police Chief is most likely the best. Ald. Harla echoed Ald. Smith's comments. He stated the Board worked together and achieved the goal of making recommendations to the Mayor.

Ald. Vitali stated he is no in favor of the law and commented on the vulnerability of children and asked how this is to be enforce. Captain Garon Delmonte stated there are ongoing discussion at the police department and he will bring all comments back to the Chief. Ald. Giannattasio echoed Ald. Vitali's comments. He stated that although he too disagrees with the law he feels this is he best location under the circumstances and that an area within the selected location, further away from Barnes & Noble should be designated.

Ald. Sutton thanked the Board for their comments and Ald. Giannattasio for his groundwork in providing a location. Mayor Blake stated he has heard all the comments and should any Board member have any questions or further comments to call him to discuss.

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

10. Budget Memo Transfers

None.

11. Refunds

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$50,976.22. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees

- 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:

- 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.

14a. Consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro announced the full Board, along with Mayor Blake and City Attorney J. Berchem would enter Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to adjourn Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:59 p.m.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve settlement of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary