

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 5, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. asking everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance lead this evening by Girl Scout troops 8320 and 8337.

Mayor Richetelli took the opportunity to thank the ladies from Troops 8320 and 8327 and their leaders Gail and Bob White. Mayor Richetelli stated this is the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouting in the United States and in honor of this 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary he gave a proclamation, which he proceeded to read.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith  
T. Beirne  
B. Bier  
B. Blake  
V. Ditchkus, Jr.  
J. Garbus  
B. Genovese  
M. Hardiman  
J. Patterson  
J. Politi  
K. Rowland  
J. Toohey  
N. Veccharelli, Jr.  
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.  
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.  
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Excused

B. Lambert (vac.)

Ald. Blake reported Ald. Lambert was on vacation.

Chairman Beirne stated there was an adjustment to the agenda. On a personal note he spoke of his father who spent his business day behind the back of a horse and wagon delivering milk. Chairman Beirne stated his father formed the first union, Local 757 and explained how he did it. He spoke of how they attempted to dissuade him and finally killed him. He stated if the matter on the agenda would have an adverse affect on the union he would be the first to knock it out. He also commented there was a lot of mis-information about 8j. He stated it had been pulled from tonight's agenda.

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three minutes. Residents, taxpayers or electors may address the Board. Chairman Beirne also explained the Board does not respond to questions.

A. Wheaton – thanked the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Richetelli and the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities and the Mayor’s Youth Committee. He stated he hoped this ramp would be ready for his graduation from Harborside Middle School. He stated he has been in a wheelchair his entire life and has been an advocate for disabilities. He also commented regarding a recent newspaper article, which brought awareness all over Connecticut regarding handicap accessibility. He thanked the newspapers and Channel 12 for their support in this issue.

D. Civitello – 39 Candlewood Road – stated he was speaking in favor of the accessible ramp at Parson’s Complex noting accessibility was the key. He stated he has worked in this City for a number of years and spoke of the many events that have been held at this complex. He stated he has worked hard with many concerned citizens in achieving this ramp and asked the Board to please for this plan.

R. Vitali – 48 Founders Way – stated he is the Principal at Harborside Middle School and a member of the Mayor’s Youth Committee for People with Disabilities and Chairman of the Mayor’s Youth Committee for Disabilities. He asked the Board for their support on this item and stated without speaking presumptuously he wished to thank the Board as well for voting positively. He commented about having Austin participate with this graduating class from Harborside. He also thanked the Mayor for his untiring work in making this possible and all those who have worked so hard to accomplish this.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – he commented tonight he is Joe O’Prisco. He asked when these meetings would be televised and stated it has been a long time. He asked the members of the Board to speak closer to the microphone when they speak so everyone could hear them and reminded them when they speak to turn off the red light. He expressed his concern over the senior citizen’s tax freeze and spoke of what the mayor in New Haven is doing. He stated he was also worried about taxes and stated he was afraid they would be too high. He stated he also believes in payback and asked why spend it all and implored each city agency to give it back to the taxpayers. He concluded his remarks by reading a quote from Harry S. Truman.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 5, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007 meeting as presented.

Ald. Rowland noted a correction and that the Saint Patrick’s Parade should read *March 10, 2007* and not March 20, 2007.

Motion carried as amended.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman’s Report and Communications.

Chairman Beirne deferred to Ald. Toohey. Ald. Toohey stated she wished to make the Board aware of several items. She reported Bruce Kolowicz, Public Works Director was awarded by CASHO. She explained for many years Public Works has been a part of the rodeo and that they won the Snowplow Safety Rodeo. She

commented this it is a great moral booster for those who keep our streets safe. Ald. Toohey also reported she had the opportunity to meet with Chief LaVecchia regarding an article that appeared in a recent fire magazine. She spoke of the vehicle access to more than 500 pre-fire plans and also of the department's Class 1 rating and that they are 1 out of 3 in New England and of 44 in the nation with this ranking. She spoke of new technology for managing data the department has been using and explained the department's GIS system and the amount of work that goes into this and how it helps the vehicles responding to calls. She spoke of the critical pre-incident planning information and integration of these systems as well as dispatch software and AVL equipment as well as the mobile GIS system for the vehicles and building data. She stated there is a footprint of every building in this City and that it is an invaluable tool. She stated all of this has been implemented by grant money and that it did not come out of tax money.

Chief LaVecchia thanked Ald. Toohey for bringing this to the Board's attention. He commented it is not yet digitalized and that it is still in paper.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to suspend the rules and bring forward items 8e and 8f. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request to amend the City of Milford's Capital Improvement Plan for 2006-2002 (originally approved as revised by the Board of Aldermen on August 7, 2006) by including two necessary and worthwhile projects – 1) Parsons Auditorium Stage Handicapped Accessible Ramp and 2) Senior Citizens Center, Divider Wall Replacement as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board on February 20, 2007.

Ald. Rowland spoke on behalf of Ald. Lambert (vac.) who sent word she had toured the senior citizen and noted the partition that separates the cafeteria and multipurpose room was deplorable. She noted the partition is the original from 1978 and that it is unsafe as well. She urged the Board members to support this.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution RE: State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant Application Authorization – Parsons Auditorium State – Handicapped Accessible Ramp and Repayment of Advanced Funding Authorization. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Genovese commented to Austin that the ramp had been passed and congratulated him on getting the ramp.

Chairman Beirne wished Austin good-luck at his graduation.

## **6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations.**

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to bring several items to the Board's attention. He reported they had a new City Engineer. He stated Robert Brinton, currently in Bloomfield since 2000 had been hired. He stated Mr. Brinton brings with him a well-rounded background and cited the numerous degrees he holds. Mayor Richetelli stated it was his pleasure to welcome him to the City and commented he had to follow in the footsteps of our beloved John Casey. Mayor Richetelli also commented several months ago he asked the Ordinance Committee to look into two option tax programs passed by the State of Connecticut. He explained the Assessor's Office

would look into the impact of these tax abatement programs. He stated they have completed their study and he would be forwarding it to the City Attorney to draft two ordinances. He spoke of the Ordinance this Board passed several years ago giving \$10,000 per veteran and also explained the law that is allowed for veterans which allows you to double that threshold. He stated he would ask the Ordinance Committee to look at this as to whether it should be raised to 14%. He also stated he would propose to the Board at a future date increases of two city billboards.

#### 7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request by Tax Collector Judy Gabrysewski for a Waiver of Bid to allow Arga Co., 33 Business Park Drive, Branford, CT, the City's longtime and flawlessly reliable vendor for printing, processing, and mailing of tax bills, a period of a three-year extension on the grounds that the small savings which may be generated by switching vendors is not outweighed by the risks associated with going to an out of state vendor where tax bill services need to be accurate and extremely timely. Further, it is very important to retain our current vendor this year because of several reasons: 1) this is a revaluation year, 2) revenues will not be finalized until very late in the budget process because it is a long legislative session, among others. It is most important that our vendor understand our system and be close by so any last minute glitches can be worked out immediately and tax bills can be processed and mailed with very little lead time. Arga has agreed to keep it unit prices for this service stable for the next three years.

Ald. Blake commented he is always concerned with they don't have the lowest bidder. He noted he read the letter. He asked about when the request for proposals goes out that they be specific and define what they are asking for. He also asked if they can impose some kind of sanctions for liquidated damages.

Ms. Gabrysewski gave a history of the tax bills and commented this is a service that should be done within State. She stated they have no control of the billing process. She explained the bid was up last year and it was a company that lost the bid a few years ago that asked to be considered.

Mayor Richetelli commented he takes the recommendation of the tax collector very seriously. He also stated the problem is compounded because every year the state gets later and later and they don't know how much revenue they will get. He stated this year is going to be one of the more difficult years because it is a revaluation year. He also noted the Governor has proposed some dramatic changes and that they don't expect the budget to come out until early June. He explained the difficulties that could be incurred if they have to go to an out of state firm or one that is not familiar with this system. He also spoke of the set-up fees that would be incurred with a new firm. He stated he would respectfully ask this Board to consider this.

Ald. Ditchkus stated it was his understanding Arga was close by.

Ms. Gabrysewski replied yes.

Ald. Ditchkus asked what would happen if they went out of state and how that would work.

Ms. Gabrysewski explained it would be done either by Federal Express or email. She also commented she does not like the idea that some taxpayers could receive their bills late.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if she personally hand delivers the.

Ms. Gabrysewski replied she has done it before. She explained how the preparations for the July tax bills are done in April.

Ald. Rowland thanked Ms. Gabrysewski for being here. She asked how long they have been with Arga.

Ms. Gabrysewski explained back in the 1980's there was an individual that worked for Oliveria and then Arga and that in-between that he worked out of state. She explained they had many problems when they went out of state and that it has been about 10-15 years. She stated before that it was bid. She also explained how the system worked with the previous tax collector.

Ald. Rowland asked if she could define small savings.

Ms. Gabrysewski commented she did not support going out to bid.

Ald. Rowland stated the motion indicated there could be a small savings and she was asking what that would be.

Ms. Gabrysewski replied it was possible there could be a \$3,000 savings, but reminded the Board there would be set up fees and costs with a new company so you may not even recognize any savings.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if there were any instances of towns going out to bid and then the company is no longer there.

Ms. Gabrysewski replied that had actually happened to them and that it has happened to others as well but she could not speak as to who they were.

Ald. Ditchkus commented you could go out to bid and be a reputable company but you could also get a low bid and have problems.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if they go out to bid what they have to take the lowest bid.

Mayor Richetelli stated they did not have to take the lowest bid. He explained by statute they have to take the lowest responsible bid. He stated if the lowest responsible bidder is out of state it is not grounds to dismiss them. He also commented that on a surface any company may be responsible but being out of state you may not know.

Ald. Veccharelli commented regarding the lowest bidder and asked why they aren't able to pick and choose.

Mayor Richetelli stated the whole purpose for the bidding process is the integrity and reiterated there are laws on the books. He stated you want to protect the bidding process and make sure the citizens get the best. He also noted there are only a handful of waiver of bids that come before this Board.

Chairman Beirne commented he had calculated it to be about a nickel a piece.

Ms. Gabrysewski stated she had never determined by piece. She also explained the way it is currently done they are able to consolidate tax bills into one envelope. She stated this company has saved them money over the years. She also spoke of the number of tax bills and noted it was explained in her letter to the Board.

Ald. Blake requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 8:46 p.m.

By roll call vote the motion carried 9 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Bier, Ditchkus, Garbus, Genovese, Hardiman, Politi, Toohey) and 5 no (Blake, Patterson, Rowland, Veccharelli, Vetro).

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution Re: Acquisition of 72 and 92 Old Field Lane, more commonly known as Cadley Estate, Lots 1-5 Merwin Estates Cluster Subdivision; and Sale of Lots 3-5 Purchase: Map/Block/Parcels: 37-588-2, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E and Including 2F (Open Space) Sale: Map/Block/Parcels 37-588-2, 2B and 2C.

Ald. Vetro noted there was a correction regarding 92 Old Field Lane and that that family wishes to retain this. He stated it should only be 72 Old Field Lane.

Mayor Richetelli stated Ald. Vetro was correct and thanked him for pointing it out. He explained the subdivision looked at by Planning and Zoning was 72 & 92 more commonly known as the Cadley Estate. He stated the purchase does not include 92 Old Field Lane. He stated to be clear they should omit 92 from the wording.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order during roll call. He stated there needed to be an amendment in order to vote on this.

Chairman Beirne pointed out they had corrected an error.

By roll call vote the motion carried 11 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Bier, Blake, Ditchkus, Garbus, Genovese, Politi, Rowland, Toohey, Vetro) and 3 no (Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli).

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 6. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request to approve the release of two (2) easements in favor of the City of Milford dated April 9, 1969, to maintain and construct sanitary sewers and storm drains as shown on Map AB-409 as approved by the Sewer Commission on October 26, 2005 pursuant to the Milford MarketPlace Project Site Plan Review, and as further approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on September 5, 2006 pursuant to the same Site Plan Review with revisions and clarifications approved on behalf of the City of Milford by Robert Wheyway, P.E., Codespoti & Associates, PC on January 5, 2007 and administratively approved by City Planner David Sulkis, on property located at 1620-1634 Boston Post Road known as Map 100, Block 804, Parcel 8A and 1650 Boston Post Road known as Map 109, Block 804, Parcel 9 (collectively "Milford MarketPlace") and to authorize the Mayor to sign any documents necessary to effectuate

the releases (to ratify action taken by the Board of Aldermen on January 8, 2007 with revised language – i.e. Release vs. Abandonment).

Ald. Ditchkus commented this Board has done this before and basically it is a language change.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution RE: State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant Application Authorization – Parsons Auditorium State – Handicapped Accessible Ramp and Repayment of Advanced Funding Authorization. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request for allocation Transfer No. 7. Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution Re: Agreement Concerning Walnut Beach Boardwalk.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to waive the reading of the motion in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Blake as how the revised Resolution differed from the original Resolution received in their packet.

Mayor Richetelli noted after reviewing them it was the same.

Ald. Rowland asked that Park, Recreation and Beach be updated so that they can know for those attending their meetings.

Mayor Richetelli stated Speaker Amann was the driving force behind this. He explained they were looking at this as a Public Works project and that any meeting they have had included the Recreation Director and that they would continue to do so.

Ald. Ditchkus thanked Speaker Amann for getting the money for this project but stated he had some concerns. He stated he supported this but was concerned when this goes through from Walnut Beach to Silver Sands how they would address it if the State decides to charge a fee on the State side. He asked if down the road that could be a possibility and if so how would it be addressed

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. REMOVED

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. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #11, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Rowland noted they were moving \$90,000 and asked if that was how much they were over.

Mayor Richetelli explained that is what the Police Department expects will carry them over through they ear.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #12, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$32,054.60. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Ditchkus reiterated what the Mayor had stated earlier about some Ordinances that would be coming forward. He also spoke regarding an article requesting an Ordinance for banning hunting south of the Post Road. He stated only DEP can control where hunting is allowed and not allowed but that concerns could be addressed through the Police Department and through DEP.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Garbus stated they are now looking for funding for the mailing of the poster put together.

c. Public Works Committee – no report

d. Claims Committee –

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.

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 – Ald. Toohey spoke regarding the divider at the senior center as discussed earlier. She thanked the Board for working with the senior citizens and finally after 30 years replacing that divider.



- 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 – Housing Authority – no report
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency
  
- n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Beckwith reported a contractor had been selected and that they hoped to get started in march after the permitting process.
  
- o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report
- p. Liaison Health Department
  
- q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Politi reported the next meeting would be held on March 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall.

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.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland moved to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Board Secretary