

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 1, 2019**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:38p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

B. Anderson  
E. Beatty  
K. Fortunati  
C. Gaynor  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
J. Golden  
J. Grant  
F. Smith  
A. Sutton  
J. Tranquilli  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

J. Berchem, City Attorney  
P. Erodici, Finance Director  
J. Rohrig, City Clerk  
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Mayor Blake stated that Marco Bruschauer, an eagle scout candidate, was present this evening to provide a presentation on his project Storywalk. Marco Bruschauer provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated he was looking for support. He stated that he has raised \$6,004 towards his goal of \$8,000. Mr. Bruschauer talked about his love for reading and how he wanted to combine it with exercise. He stated he has the support of the Milford Public Library and Public Works Departments.

**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.

A. Giannattasio, Aldermen, passed out copies of a resolution and stated he would be presenting a resolution concerning tolls in Milford at the May Board of Aldermen meeting. Ald. Giannattasio read the resolution and asked for the support of the Board.

Anna Cutaia, Superintendent of Schools, 70 West River Street, stated she was present with her team who support the ordinance. She stated that as educators they see the impact of use on teens.

Fran Thompson, Principal Jonathan Law High School, 20 Lansdale Avenue, spoke of the dangers of tobacco use and electronic devices. He stated this is a national epidemic with teenagers and it is beginning to infiltrate into middle school age children. Mr. Thompson stated it is important to educate and inform students on the dangers associated with tobacco use.

Morgan Taylor, 340 Wolf Harbor Road, read from a prepared statement. She stated she is in favor of the ordinance. Ms. Morgan stated she is a Junior at Jonathan Law High School. The use of tobacco products has infested the school. She stated the bathrooms are locked in order to curtail smoking and provided a perspective of her day and how it is affected by students using tobacco products.

Winthrop Smith, 334 Edgefield Avenue, stated he was present to endorse Ald. Giannattasio's resolution. He stated that as a prior legislator, when people speak it matters. He urged the Board to consider the resolution and vote in favor.

Walter Hagedorn, 61 Judith Drive, thank Ald. Giannattasio from coming forward with the resolution. He stated as a small business owner tolls will hurt his business. He stated that traffic will be crazy and difficult to get around. He urged support of the resolution.

Dominick Cotton, 68 Corona Drive, stated this was not proper place for such a resolution. He stated this should be presented to the State Representative and State Senators. He stated he understands the concern but believes this is misplaced. He stated he supports the ban on tobacco.

Andy Fowler, 50 Pine Knob Terrace, read from a prepared statement. He stated he support the resolution concerning tolls. He stated the Connecticut is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest state with residents fleeing and elected officials are making it difficult to stay. He stated that the Board should take action to ban tolls in Milford.

John Dixon, Executive Director, Bridges, 949 Bridgeport Avenue, read from a prepared statement. He discussed the perils of teen smoking and flavors making it more appealing. He stated that tobacco use has an adverse affect on brain development and a connection to mental health issues. He stated he support raising the age to 21.

Ed VanChot, 858 New Haven Avenue, thanked the Board for raising the age of tobacco to 21 and for the resolution concerning tolls. He stated the Board is the voice of Milford and we need to be vocal.

Daniel Bedecker, 377 Housatonic Drive, stated he does not want tolls. He has attended several meetings and has listened to both sides. He stated that not everything Ald. Giannattasio says makes sense. His father was a truck driver when there were tolls and always took the highway and did not go on the Boston Post Road to bypass tolls. He understands it will cost a little bit, but will help the infrastructure. He stated that the most all states on the eastern seaboard have tolls. He stated he is not in favor or oppose, he is listening to both sides.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 4, 2019.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 4, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he does not have a report but wanted to remind everyone that budget season is starting with the public hearing on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

None.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a Motion to approve the appointment of (D) Joy Duva, 253 West Rutland Road, 06461, as a member of the Milford Department of Human Services to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/21). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a Motion to approve the appointment of (D) Catherine Kamen, 76 Whitney Avenue, 06461, as a member of the Milford Animal Shelter Commission to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/20). Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a Motion to approve for the attached Agreement for Collection of Soft Recyclables between the City of Milford and Simple Recycling – Connecticut, LLC and to authorize the Mayor and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. Grant state this agreement had come up some time ago. He asked that the Public Works Director remind everyone what this agreement entail. Chris Saley, Public Works Director, stated this is for recycling of textiles which will be taken out of the MSW stream and the City will receive

compensation. Ald. Grant asked about the monetary benefit. Mr. Saley stated the City will realize \$0.02 per ton. Ald. Giannattasio asked how residents can use the service. Mr. Saley stated the company will provide bags and drive around the City collecting. Ald. Giannattasio asked how they will know where to collect. Mr. Saley stated the recycling drivers will have a tablet in the truck and they push a button when they see a bag at the curb. Chairman Vetro asked if bags will be dropped off to all residents. Mr. Saley stated they would. Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney, explained the contract is being revisited because the tablets and indemnification for the tables was not in the contract previously approved. Ald. Vitali asked how quickly will the bags be retrieved. Mr. Saley stated the day the company is notified.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8d) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Allocation Transfer No. 5 (Floating Docks).

Ald. Anderson state the Harbor Commission and Director of Operations have done a fantastic job a the Landing. He asked Ray Swift to provide information on the work that has been done. Ray Swift, Director of Operations, stated the Land is 25-26 years old. The redecking was done with a portion being paid by a state grant. He stated they use Ipay which does not absorb water. He stated the office and patio slates had been redone a couple years ago and new tent in on order.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Fortunati requested a recess at 8:43 p.m., Board reconvened at 8:59 p.m.

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

Ald. Smith and Ald. Gold made and seconded a motion to add a Resolution in Opposition to the Implementation of Tolls on Connecticut Highways as presented by Ald. Giannattasio to the agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution in Opposition to the Implementation of Tolls on Connecticut Highways.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the resolution should be read in its entirety. Ald. Giannattassio read the resolution in to the record.

Ald. Smith stated this is a provocative issue in Hartford and an intense issue during elections. He talked about how his Dad would bypass the tolls by getting on the highway in Stratford. He stated that every state from here to Virginia has some form or tolls. Ald. Smith states this is not a simple issue and infrastructure is in disrepair.

Ald. Vitali stated that the gas taxes were to go toward infrastructure and this is confusing for the public. He stated Hartford is not hearing the people. He stated tolls may not be bad, but the proposed number of tolls is not good. He stated constituents' voices is through the Board of Aldermen.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to amend the Resolution in Opposition to the Implementation of Tolls on Connecticut Highways as follows and the word "further" be inserted after "THEREFORE, BE IT" in the resolution presented by Ald. Giannattasio.

*Whereas, it is agreed and settled that the highway infrastructure in the State of Connecticut is in serious disrepair; and*

*Whereas, the State has an obligation to recognize the urgency of the situation and commit to the repair and rebuilding of our crumbling roads and bridges, for the safety of all who drive over them; and*

*Whereas, the cost of such investment will likely reach or exceed \$1 B; and*

*Whereas, the State of Connecticut currently maintains a burdensome and costly debt level, as a result of irresponsible bonding and borrowing over many years; and*

*Whereas, a significant and growing portion of our annual budget now goes to interest on debt.*

*RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Aldermen in the City of Milford, support and encourage the necessary investment in our state's crumbling infrastructure but while also responsibly identifying ways to fund this investment without furthering the deep financial crisis our state already faces by borrowing the funds and pushing the debt burden on to our children and grandchildren.*

Ald. Giannattasio requested a recess at 9:14 p.m., Board reconvened at 9:26 p.m.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he does not support the amendment. He indicated he walked in the St. Patrick's Day parade with the Governor and that the people along the parade route were shouting "no tolls." He appreciates the effort to the amendment, but feels it is convoluted and contradictory. Ald. Giannattasio stated Milford is in jeopardy more than any other town and is up to the legislative body to be the voice of its constituents. Ald. Smith stated he appreciates and agrees with Ald. Giannattasio, but in order to be taken seriously believes it is important to acknowledge the fiscal impact. Ald. Vitali stated if some members of the Board do not like the resolution they should vote against it rather than amend. Ald. Veccharelli stated he support the Resolution as it is in opposition to tolls in Milford, not in Connecticut. He does not believe the amendment is watering down the Resolution. He stated that the State cannot keep borrowing and does not want to see children and grandchildren strapped with the debt burden. He believes the Resolution with the amendment sends a clear message, no tolls and be fiscally responsible. Ald. Sutton stated the purpose of the amendment is to add other concerns. With the amendment the resolution is now "our" resolution.

Ald. Giannatassio requested a recess at 9:40 p.m., Board reconvened at 9:46 p.m.

Motion on the amendment carried 9 in favor (Anderson, Beatty, Fortunati, Golden, Hardiman, Smith, Sutton, Veccharelli, Vetro), 5 against (Gaynor, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Tranquilli, Vitali).

Motion on the Resolution as amended carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfers #9 and #10, funds 10 & 12, FY19. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$ 300,417.03. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee - Ald. Smith reported the Committee met earlier in the evening to consider two (2) ordinance and voted to forward the ordinance, as amended, to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 10, Health and Sanitation, Article III, Tobacco Products, §§10-22 through 10-28 of the Milford Code of Ordinances.

Ald. Anderson stated he was proud to hear the testimony given by the public. He thanked Milford Prevention Council for their hard work. Ald. Anderson read portions of the ordinance into the record. He stated he strongly supports this ordinance. Ald. Smith stated he agrees with Ald. Anderson and would like to thank Ald. Vitali for his hard work. He asked if the State can have a less stringent age than the ordinance, but if the State were raise the age beyond 21 would the City need to adjust accordingly. Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney, stated that was correct. Ald. Vitali stated he is overwhelmed with the support. He stated that educators and health providers are very aware of the harm to youth. He stated 7 states have voted to change the age and 6 municipalities with Milford being the 7<sup>th</sup>. He believes this is an important message. Ald. Veccharelli stated this ordinance was difficult for him. He believes kids will just go to other communities to purchase. He stated this is not an easy decision, but it might keep some youths from smoking. Ald. German stated is he is favor and is concerned about health care costs. Ald. Beatty stated she believes this is a very important and necessary ordinance. She stated she struggled with the ordinance because she has concerns about follow through and will be looking forward to see the impact it makes. Ald. Fortunati thanked Ald. Vitali and stated she believes this is a critical ordinance and fully supports. Ald. Grant stated the speakers gave excellent facts and believes this will help with prevention.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article II, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Division 1, Generally, Section 14-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford. (Beach And Other Restricted Parking Areas). Motion carried unanimously.

- 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. 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 – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- o. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- p. Human Services Commission – no report
- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.
- s. Liaison – Milford Progress, Inc. – 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.

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 stated he would entertain a motion to adjourn to Executive Session on the following items.

14(a) Consideration of Settlement of Peter Dreyer, et al v. City of Milford, RE: 105 Merwin Ave. He stated the full Board along with City Attorney Jonathan Berchem would join them.

14(b) Consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the Registered Professional Nurses Association of Milford. He stated the full Board along with City

Attorney Jonathan Berchem, Assistant City Attorney Debra Kelly and Human Resources Director Tania Barnes would join them.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:13 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:35 p.m.

14(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the settlement of Peter Dreyer, et al v. City of Milford, RE: 105 Merwin Ave in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14(b) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the Registered Professional Nurses Association of Milford in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and Human Resources Director as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks  
Recording Secretary