

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 4, 2016**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2016 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:32 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

B. Anderson
E. Beatty
B. Bevan
B. Bier
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
J. Grant
M. Hardiman
S. Shaw
F. Smith
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
J. Rohrig, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
D. Kelly, Asst. City Attorney

2. Public Statements

Chairman Vetro opened the meeting for public statements. He stated that 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.

June O'Connell - 102 East Rutland Road - asked for the status of the foreclosure against Wheelers Woods. She implored the City to move forward against pointing out they are in default for failure to plead. She continued reading from a prepared statement, asking the City to consider purchasing the property as open space, delinquent taxes, etc.

Paula Smith - 62 Hauser Street - spoke regarding the embarrassment to the City of an article that appeared in the newspaper regarding the marijuana dispensary. She spoke of the presentation to the Mayor by the Milford Prevention Council. She stated Milford should not be the Guinea pig for this proposal and asked the Board to look into it.

Michele Kramer - 104 West River Street – stated she was speaking tonight regarding Milford's demolition process. She explained the current process where the Milford Preservation Trust, Milford Historical Society and the City Historian receive notices of intent to demolish. She continued reading from a prepared statement that was distributed to the Board. She stated the Milford Preservation Trust was addressing the Board of Aldermen because there is no public speaking at the Planning and Zoning Board meetings. She stated they plan to address this issue with the Planning and Zoning and Building Departments.

Michael O'Connell - 102 East Rutland Road - asked the Board to ask the City to proceed as quickly as possible with the foreclosure action against Wheelers Woods

Paul Deprov (sp) - 166 East Rutland Road - stated he too wished to speak regarding moving forward on the foreclosure of the Wheelers Woods property.

Richard Platt - 132 Platt Street - stated he agreed with previous speakers that the City purchase Wheelers Woods and use it as open space with trails and more. He stated by purchasing the property it would provide possible protection for the historic parcel. He also spoke regarding the demolition delay process. He stated the Ordinance specifically states a demolition must be in writing. He asked the Board to tighten up their enforcement of the Ordinance.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 1, 2016.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 7, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated he wished to address issues brought up during public comment. With regard to Wheelers Woods, he stated the matter is being handled through the City Attorney's office in a timely fashion. Also, regarding the marijuana dispensary on West River Street, he commented it is important this type of business be located in appropriate locations. Mayor Blake stated he has been in touch with the Department of Consumer Protection and asked them to look into this. He noted Milford Prevention Council presented to the regulations sub-committee of the Planning and Zoning Board, however, they have not acted. He stated proposed regulations would be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board at their meeting tomorrow evening. He went on to provide background of the 2013 moratorium.

Ald. Vitali commented regarding the drug free zone which was changed by the Planning and Zoning Board. He stated the applications had to be signed off and that they were, in his opinion, a poor decision.

Mayor Blake stated he agreed and that stricter regulations have been passed and pointed out to Ald. Vitali that it was his party that made the decision.

Ald. Vitali remarked it had nothing to do with political parties, but everything to do with kids, people and their lives.

Mayor Blake asked for the Board's consideration regarding items 8a-8b. He stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

(6a) The Mayor made the Board aware of the following appointment:

(R) Barbara Genovese, 19 Belmont Street, 06460, as Milford's representative to the Regional Mental Health Board and its Catchment Area Council.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) James Trowbridge, 18 Audubon Close, 06461, as a member of the Ethics Commission, to fill the present vacancy (three-year term), term to expire 12/31/18. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk J. Rohrig swore in Mr. Trowbridge.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the lease between the Davis Hold Company and the City of Milford for the purpose of a law enforcement firearms training system.

Ald. Casey asked if this a shooting range being leased out

Mayor Blake deferred to Deputy Chief Rahn to provide the background.

Deputy Chief Rahn stated it is a property they have had an agreement with and entered into a lease with the property and gives then he ability to manage the property.

Ald. Casey asked if it is solely firearms training.

Deputy Chief Rahn stated it is firearms and entry training.

Attorney Berchem stated the shoot house was acquired through a Emergency Management Grant several years ago. This Board approved this as a regional facility as well. He also explained the request for insurance for the leased property.

Ald. Bevan asked the amount of the lease.

Attorney Berchem stated there are no dollars for the lease, however, they negotiated with the tax assessor a slight reduction. He stated it is approximately \$3,700 per year it is reduced.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it was Mr. Beard that prompted this lease.

Attorney Berchem stated it was his understanding his predecessor was approached numerous times.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the assessment.

Attorney Berchem stated it is moving forward.

Ald. Bevan asked if it was currently being used by the police department and how they keep the general public out.

Deputy Chief Rahn stated there is a fence that has been erected.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for a grant program for Distracted Driving – High Visibility Enforcement and to authorize the Mayor, Police Chief, and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant.

Ald. Vitali asked about the grant and specificity of the grant. He asked if other distracted drafting was included, such as people driving with dogs in their lap.

Deputy Chief Rahn stated he did not have the language in front of him, but that it was up to the discretion of the officer.

Ald. Bevan asked about

Rahg

Ald. Grant noted the grant goes into effect tomorrow.

Rahn

Ald. Giannattasio asked about additional overtime.

Rahn spoke of the parameters in the statute.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was his recollection the police department received this grant last year.

Rahn replied yes, but could not provide specific data.

Ald. Vitali asked about the fines collected.

Mr. Erodici stated the fines go through his office.

Ald. Vitali asked if those monies were used to offset the overtime costs.

Mr. Erodici stated he did not have those numbers, but could provide them to the Board.

Ald. Bevan asked what money the city receives from a ticket.

Rahn stated that was what Mr. Erodici explained that the portion goes to the general fund.

Mayor Blake stated he would report back to the Board

Motion carried unanimously.

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. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$18,390.32. 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 – Anderson reported they would be meeting to tour the Winter Brothers facility.

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.

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.

t. Liaison – Police Department – no report.

u. Liaison – Fire Department – no report.

Note: City Clerk J. Rohrig left the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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.

14a. Consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the United Public Employees Union, Local 434, Unit 96 Milford Public Works Employees.

Chairman Vetro announced those going into Executive Session would be the full Board, Assistant City Attorney, Human Resources Director, Public Works Director and Mayor Blake.

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

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:21 p.m.

14a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and Untied Public Employees Union, Local 434, Unit 96, Milford Public Works Employees as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary