

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 1, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2009 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman B. Blake called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Chairman Blake asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance lead by City Historian, Richard Platt.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr. (8:24 p.m.)
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Rosen
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
S. Willey

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
W. Smith, Jr. City Attorney
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Excused

B. Bier (medical)

Mayor Richetelli noted that Ald. Ditchkus called to say he would be late. He also stated Ald. Bier is recovering from a medical procedure and doing well.

Chairman Blake on behalf of the Board wished Ald. Bier well. Chairman Blake announced that State Representative Barbara Lambert had a proclamation to present tonight but unfortunately was unable to be here as she is at the Capitol in the final days of legislative session. He deferred to Ald. Manning for the presentation to the Jonathan Law Interact Club. Chairman Blake recognized Mr. Ulmann, the Club advisor and Devon Rotary member, Greta Stanford. He asked each member of the club to introduce themselves to the Board and audience to be properly recognized. Chairman Blake stated although the club is in the infant stages they have done a tremendous amount of work.

Ald. Manning read the proclamation introduced by Representative Lambert.

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.

G. Stanford – 32 Spice Bush Lane – thanked the Board for the presentation to the Interact Club and commented as to the amount of work these young people have done and the time they have given to many groups and organizations, etc. She stated she also wished to speak regarding the Board of Education budget and the \$1,000,000 cut they face. She noted this is what they are faced with after \$850,000 had already been cut by the Board of Finance. She stated they are working hard to work with this budget. She stated unfortunately that people would be hurt by this and expressed her hope the kids would not because that is who they are there for. She also spoke concerning the problem of losing a patrolman, stating that although she did not wish to admit it, that she is a senior citizen and she had concerns about safety and the safety of people in this town. She asked the Board to reconsider if things should change.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Lane – stated he spoke to the Board a month ago concerning two items; the demolition delay Ordinance, which he stated he thought he would have met with the Krit Committee to discuss this. He stated he just heard from them and will have that meeting next week. He stated the second item is the Historic Properties Study. He stated this is found in the general Statutes and would be the same process. He explained this is for the properties not with any district. He reiterated the whole procedure is clearly spelled out in the Statutes and would be exactly the same. He stated he did not see the problem with this not moving forward and stated this is something he would like to see done before he retires as City Historian.

J. DaCruz – 17 Foran Road – stated he wished to speak concerning parking stickers in the City of Milford and the difficulty in obtaining one. He stated he recently received a parking ticket at the beach for not having a city sticker. He stated he wished to make a few recommendations such as instead of a ticket for a first time offender that they be given a warning and 5-10 days to obtain a sticker; he also suggested that the sticker be mailed to those who are unable to come to the Parsons to pick one up; that there be something written on an 8 ½ x 11 paper stating the rights and responsibilities of procuring a sticker; that the information be posted on the City web site as to how to obtain a sticker and finally that educational material be provided to the taxpayers so they can have a better understanding of what is required of them. He also addressed the issue of letting an officer go in the police department. He stated he has lived here for 10 years and safety is very important to him and should be to the town. He asked the Board to please help with educating the citizens to facilitate getting a sticker.

R. Smith – Sixth Avenue – reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Smith commented taxes would go down due to a determined majority on the Board. He stated it did not happen by accident, but because the Democrats called upon all department heads to sharpen their pencils. He also commented as to remarks over the past week in which it has been stated over and over again from this administration and the police department that the reduction to the police department would threaten public safety. He questioned how safe it would be to stay in your home if you can't afford to do so. He also pointed out in his comments that every union came to the table except the police department. He asked about the fire department. He also commented he would hate to think that public safety could be compromised and Milford sit on the brink of danger from this one \$52,000 slot and that it would make a difference between law and lawlessness. He stated these are just fear tactics. Mr. Smith continued reading also pointing out the police department the police department is about to transfer \$75,000 of

unused wages back to the city and that in April 2008, \$70,000 was transferred out of that same account. He expressed his hope the taxpayers would pick up the phone and thank the aldermen for what they have done to reduce taxes stating the people of Milford deserve nothing less.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – thanked the Board of Aldermen for helping the constituents, although he stated he does not always agree. He asked for the Board for their help with Anderson Avenue and also on Naugatuck Avenue, where monies were bonded 4 years ago and still nothing has been done. He asked the Board to listen closely to the constituents that come here to talk and that the Board should help them and not ignore them. He also noted this is the first time taxes have gone down.

T. Ivers – 224 Broadway – stated he wished to make the Board aware the Clean Energy Task Force completed its clean energy purchase and has been recognized for its efforts with a plaque. He stated the contract ends this month and that they are working on another.

Chairman Blake offered congratulations on the recognition.

Mr. Ivers stated the draft of the energy plan will be reviewed before it goes into its final form and to the Board.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 4 2009.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 4, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Budget Meetings of the Board of Aldermen held April 20, 2009 and April 22, 2009 (Budget Deliberation sessions).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Meetings of the Board of Aldermen held on April 20, 2009 and April 22, 2009 (Budget Deliberations session). Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Blake recognized KRIT Committee members Mr. Novack and Mr. Rubin for an update as to the process of the team.

Mr. Rubin stated they have been very busy and have talked not only with staff, but have been visiting other towns. He stated they have also spoke with community members and staff and will be traveling to Farmington this week. He stated they would keep the Board informed as to their recommendations.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated he respectfully was submitting items 8a-8e for the Board's consideration. He stated he also wished to provide the Board with item 9 and request the Board's 2/3 vote to add to the agenda Consideration of Ratification of Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) (Milford Police Dispatchers). Mayor Richetelli

explained they have requested all municipal unions take part in the solution and take a zero percent increase. He stated this is the seventh union of the eight to do so.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business:

8a. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City to apply for the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$45,000, of which the cost share to the City would be 20 percent of \$9,000, for the purchase of three (3) Lucas Automatic Chest Compression Devices and to authorize the Mayor and Fire Chief to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the application of this grant (per attached memo from Battalion Chief Alan J. Zingaro dated May 8, 2009).

Chairman Blake stated Chief LaVecchia was unavailable and recognized Battalion Chief Zingaro and Battalion Chief W. Healey.

Ald. Blacketter asked if they would continue purchasing these for every unit.

Battalion Chief Zingaro stated they don't have any.

Ald. Manning asked if these items were in the current budget.

Battalion Chief Zingaro responded no.

Mayor Richetelli explained the request authorizes the City and Fire Chief to apply for this grant. He stated there is a 20% match if they are awarded the grant and if that were to happen the grant would then come back to this Board for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Purchasing Agent to arrange for the disposal of an obsolete an unusable 1988 inflatable rescue boat and associated equipment formerly known as Marine 2 (per request of Fire Chief Louis LaVecchia dated April 28, 2009).

Chairman Blake asked if a date had been set for the auction.

Battalion Chief Healey explained if the Board approves this tonight they would then turn it over to the Purchasing Agent and he would put it out.

Ald. Blacketter asked the board had been out of service.

Battalion Chief Healey stated they received a new one about a year ago. He stated they have been storing it but it has fallen into disrepair.

Chairman Blake recalled last year Animal Control had made a request for a small boat and asked if this might be something they would be interested in.

Mr. George stated with the cooperation of the fire department they have been working together utilizing their equipment.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the Milford Fire Department to donate the unusable scrap remnants of the former engine 8 (1988 Pierce Pumper) to the New Haven Fire Department (per attached memo from Battalion Chief William Healey dated April 28, 2009).
Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for an underground utility easement and for passage and access to Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. on a portion of land known as Map 121, Block 901, Parcel 9 a/k/a Field Lane per attached Easement Agreement as modified by Planning and Zoning Board recommendation dated May 21, 2009.

Ald. Patterson asked how the \$7,500 figure was arrived at for this easement and if it is in line with others.

Mayor Richetelli explained the figure is based on the numbers they received from the City Assessor.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Programs. 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.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to add new business to the agenda as follows: Board of Aldermen approval is requested for consideration of ratification of Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) (Milford Police Dispatchers). Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of ratification of Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Milford and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) (Milford Police Dispatchers).

Ald. Patterson commented the past six that have come before the Board have been done in Executive Session. He asked if there was a reason why this one is not in Executive Session.

Mayor Richetelli explained it was put on the agenda for reasons of expediency. He stated if the Board wished to go into Executive Session they certainly could, otherwise this agreement is the same as the others.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer 17, Fund 10, FY 2008-2009. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer No. 18, Fund 10, FY 2008-2009.

Ald. Veccharelli started he would like to divide the question with regard to Planning & Zoning line item 0010 4142 0000 4977 Office Furniture and that he was making that request in the form of a motion. Ald. Patterson seconded the motion.

Ald. Manning asked if someone were present from the Planning & Zoning Office.

Mayor Richetelli replied no. He explained Mr. Sulkis asked if he should be present but because of the small amount in this line item and the fact is cost money to have him there he told him it was not necessary.

Ald. Manning asked if this had been removed from the budget line.

Mayor Richetelli stated this refers to a desk that has been put together from several other desks. He stated at this point the desk is at a point where the employee using the desk could get hurt because it is in such disrepair.

Motion to divide carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$9,126.59. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Chairman Patterson reported the Committee met earlier in the evening to discuss one Ordinance and that it was unanimously forwarded to the full Board with a favorable recommendation.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (General Government Retiree Adjustments).

Ald. Manning asked if someone from the Pension Board was present.

Mayor Richetelli responded no.

Ald. Hardiman stated he would be recusing himself from voting on this Ordinance.

Ald. Blacketter referred to p. 3 regarding exhibit 7 concerning the value of investments and accumulated losses. She asked for background as to what lead to the decision to increase the values.

Mayor Richetelli explained this item is the result of an Ordinance, Section 17.1-45, which was adopted by this Board in 1988. He stated it required the Pension and Retirement Committee to order a study every three years and pass on any cost of living adjustment. He stated this does not include police or fire. He continued this happens automatically in January and that the actuary performs the study and makes the recommendation to the Pension Board. He stated this covers approximately 400 retirees. Mayor Richetelli explained the recommendation was that retirees would receive a 3% cost of living, one time and that the same amount stays in affect for 3 years. He explained how the computation was arrived at and that it excludes retirees after 2007.

Ald. Manning asked the Mayor if he was at the meeting this was approved.

Mayor Richetelli responded no.

Ald. Manning stated what they received is not a breakdown. She stated she was concerned with the pension being self-funded and being \$300,000,000 behind. She also stated current employees are receiving 0% this year and then 2% next year and that this would fall on these individuals later on. She also spoke about the freeze on social security. She asked how the Pension Board arrived at these numbers.

Mayor Richetelli stated the pension system did not lose \$300,000,000 and pointed out the fund was full funded prior to the economic turn. He stated the fund is still 103% funded and assured the Board it is still very healthy and reiterated it is more than 100% funded.

Ald. Manning stated the notes reflect the anticipated amount at the end of June.

Ald. Toohey stated in the aldermanic packets there is a page which follows the written Ordinance and details the years of retirement as well as the increases.

Ald. Blacketter stated she was not sure what Ald. Toohey was referring to as there were a number of breakdowns in the packet.

Ald. Vetro requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:24 p.m.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board in public session at 8:34 p.m.

Ald. Blacketter stated she wished to clarify as a follow up to Ald. Toohey's comments where she cites tables that are actually proposals as opposed to actual.

Mayor Richetelli stated the table starts on the page following the language of the Ordinance and went on to explain the table. He also pointed out there is no minimum per the Pension Board. He stated this recommendation is simply 2% for 3 years until the next actuary study is done.

Ald. Toohey noted the increase amounts to less than 1% per year.

Motion carried 13 yes (Blacketter, Blake, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willey) and 1 abstention (Hardiman).

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Vetro reported the beaches and ball fields are ready. He also reported asphalt patching is continuing as scheduled.

c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Vetro reported the ball fields are ready. He also reported as to paving.

d. Claims Committee – Ald. Hardiman reported the Committee met earlier this evening to discuss one claim.

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve the claim of former employee Timothy Pasioka (Full and Final Award) per the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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 – Ald. Vetro reported they approved two temporary tents on the Boston Post Road for Pilgrim Furniture. He also reported the old Bridgeport Steel has been approved for renovations and also will be adding a new parking lot.

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 – Ald. Hardiman reported the Golf Commission met last month, however, he was unable to attend because he was directing a play and deferred to Ald. Toohey.

Ald. Toohey reported the golf course is up and running and that the Commission would be meeting next week. She reported they selected a new color for the clubhouse and that painting would start shortly. She stated the

Commission is also addressing what they will be working on in the upcoming year. She stated this Commission puts a lot of work in and addressing the needs of the course.

m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.

n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – no report

o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report.

p. Liaison Health Department – no report.

q. Milford Legislative Action Committee – no report.

r. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.

s. Human Services Commission – Ald. Vetro reported on the housing and units still available. He also reported a Family Fun night would be held at Walnut Beach, also the Police and Youth graduation is being held on June 30, 2009. He reported the Social Expedition Program has been cancelled for the summer as well as the Rent-A-Kid program.

t. Liaison Police Commission – Ald. Vetro reported Chief Mello is the recipient of the Distinguished Police Chief's Award.

Chairman Blake offered congratulations to the Chief.

u. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.

v. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – 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.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary