

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 5, 2017**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:44 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
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
J. Rohrig, City Clerk

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.

L. Cuzco - 20 Brookdale and 168 Broadway – stated she was here to address the Board regarding the Wildemere Beach Association. She stated one of the reasons she is here is to request a noise ordinance. She also was looking for clarification from City Attorney that Air B & B is legal. She stated there have been several issues, one being a rental property which resulted in a party of over 200, which went into the early morning hours. She stated she is asking this Board to consider an ordinance so that enforcement by the police department can be done (50 Air B & B's in Milford, several located in Wildemere Beach). She stated they are an active community and that they are looking to their elected officials for help.

J. McAllister - 197 Maplewood Avenue – expressed her concerns about the upcoming installation of LED street lights. She thanked the Mayor and Ald. Anderson for meeting with them. Reading from a prepared statement she spoke of some of the concerns which included many medical conditions, as

well as the destruction of wildlife. She stated her concerns are warranted. She recommended the use of 300K lights instead, softer illumination and can be requested. She continued reading why the change is necessary. She stated it is also a wonderful opportunity to reduce the carbon footprint and a savings in the long run. Don't want to find out down the road that there are several consequences. Encouraged a more feasible and prudent alternative and asked that the 3000K bulbs be installed.

E. Pinsince - 11 Briggs Court - read from a prepared statement (distributed to the Board) concerning the LED streetlights.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 1, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro extended a Happy Father's Day.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake wished everyone a Happy Summer! Mayor Blake stated he was pleased to inform the Board the City of Milford has once again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). He stated this achievement is the highest form of recognition, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Mayor Blake extended congratulations to Finance Director Peter Erodici, Jr., and the dedicated members of the Finance Department. Mayor Blake also extended congratulations to Board secretary, Kathy Kennedy, named as the Foran High School - Parent of the Year. Mayor Blake stated he wished to address issues that came up during public statements. He stated regarding Wildemere Beach, he has been working with the President of the association. He stated regarding the UI concerns, UI covers 17 municipalities. He stated some of what was stated tonight was true, most not. He stated he is the Chairperson and spoke of the work of the group, which is comprised of a host of people across the state involved in environmental matters. Mayor Blake continued with an explanation of some of the studies that have been conducted. 4000K light is the industry standard, 13/14 communities opted for this, energy efficient and a huge savings. He also stated for clarification that Eversource does not install the 3000K, only the 4000K. School system was ahead of us in this endeavor. There are positives and negatives, but this is about the environment and moving Milford into the future. He stated he is able to provide any Board member with the full scope of the study, which is substantial.

Ald. German stated he would like to opportunity to discuss this further.

Mayor Blake stated he would be happy to sit down with Ald. German and any other alderman.

Chairman Vetro stated the month of June is also dog licensing. All dogs over 6 months old must be licensed and have a current rabies vaccination.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (U) Gloria Lanna, 823 East Broadway, 06460, as a member of the Council on Aging, to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/18). Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Master Agreement between the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation and City of Milford, Public Works Department for Readjustment, Relocation, and/or Removal of Utility Facilities on Highway Projects and to authorize the Mayor and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said Agreement.

Ald. Bevan asked for clarification of the 76 page document.

Attorney Berchem provided a brief overview which he stated is a form contract that the State has provided to all 69 municipalities in the State; it is the general agreement where the State will reimburse cities where the State is doing work on a state road. This contract is the vehicle for reimbursement.

Ald. Bevan asked if this is a resigning and if it had been signed in the past.

Attorney Berchem stated there have been similar contracts, reiterated it is a State contract that ensures reimbursement.

Ald. Bevan questioned legalities and asked if this is something this Board should vote yes on.

Berchem opinion this Board needs to so that the city can be reimbursed.

Ald. Beatty asked about the maintenance agreement which is signed by the PW Director. She asked if it should be the mayor or other.

Mayor Blake stated there are ordinances and state statutes that give the authority to the public works director in some instances for those authorities.

Ald. Beatty asked about liability in the case of damages.

Berchem Not a liability in so much as it is a cost that is reimbursed.

Ald. Anderson referred to 8b with a technical question regarding the signature

Attorney Berchem explained the original contract was executed in 2006, and that individual may have been the commissioner at that time.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Maintenance Agreement between the State of Connecticut and City of Milford and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works Director and City Attorney to take all steps necessary to effectuate said Agreement.

Ald. Bevan asked if this is for the sidewalks at Parsons.

Mayor Blake stated this contract is identical to one approved by this Board previously. He explained the installation of high visibility crosswalks on Broad Street.

Ald. Bevan stated the high visibility crosswalks at River and Daniel Street have not lessened cars from going through the stop sign.

Ald. Grant commented to the contrary that it is making a difference.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about maintenance to these crosswalks.

Director Saley stated the only issue they have had was the tar drippings when the State did some work in that area. He stated otherwise, the longevity is 7-10 years down the road. He stated he believes it does improve the situations. He spoke of the quality of the product.

Ald. Casey asked what happens when a road needs to be replaced.

Director Saley explained the process repaving around the area.

Ald. German asked the cost.

Director Saley stated it is \$16 per square foot.

Ald. Bevan asked the cost if the crosswalks were just painted.

Director Saley stated it is an epoxy, but does not make a difference.

Ald. Bevan stated he wished to clarify his earlier statement regarding the high visibility crosswalks - people see them, but keep going through them.

Ald. Anderson commented his calculations total approximately \$5,800.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli an Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission dated April 7, 2017 pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the acquisition of a portion of the acquisition of a portion of the property located at 625 Bridgeport Avenue, consisting of 0.12 and 0.02 acres, and a 20 foot drainage easement as shown on map and to authorize the City Attorney and Mayor to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said acquisition. 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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #7 and #8, Fund 10. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$35,084.06. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee

Ald. Smith reported the Committee met earlier the evening to consider two ordinances. Bicycles - addresses a growing problem in the city with regard to young bicyclists using the city streets in a dangerous and reckless manner. He stated the other ordinances and statutes already on the books, but that this gives another tool for enforcement. He stated the Ordinance came out of committee with a 3-2 vote.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 20, Street, Sidewalks and Public Places, Article I, Division 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Bicycles).

Ald. Vitali spoke of the public awareness to get kids to understand. He expressed hope a program would be put in place where officers could go into the schools for education. He also spoke of the idea of relocating the existing bicycle racks.

Capt. Alexopolous stated the police department is all about community. He stated they have been working with the school SROs in taking with the kids. He stated the Ordinance parallels State Statute. One of the programs addresses Milford residents specifically. He also explained the Diversion Program in place, which includes not just the child, but the parent who must participate in the

program. He stated the department has been sensitive to the calls they have received regarding bicyclists.

Ald. Vitali stressed the importance of getting to the parents. He suggested partnering with the Milford Prevention Council.

Capt. Alexopolous stated they are addressing the issue with parents.

Mayor Blake commented Milford is a walkable/biking city and this Ordinance just gives police officers another tool.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke of the gangs of riders who have often been threatening to motorists. Expressed his hope this Ordinance would give the department the ability for enforcement. He was thankful for being proactive.

Ald. Smith asked if impounding the bicycles and bringing parents in was effective.

Capt. Alexopolous asked if having this Ordinance on the books was helping.

Ald. Smith asked if having this on the books is preemptive in the event of an unfortunate incident.

Attorney Berchem stated the concern is the kids who are performing these reckless acts. He stated this Ordinance simply provides law enforcement with a tool to help curtail these actions.

Ald. Beatty in favor, impressed with Chief Mello's focus on prevention with the understanding that we are trying to do what is right to give the department the tools for enforcement, but not necessarily a reason to seek out these children. Sentiment is sincere and expressed her appreciation for addressing.

Ald. Golden asked what a concerned citizen should do.

Capt. Alexopolous stated a call should be made to the police right away, with a detailed report. He stated with detailed information they are able to provide it to their SROs.

Ald. Bevan stated this ordinance is an extra measure that provides means to correct a growing situation. He stated his concern is the language regarding riding on a sidewalk. He stated he would prefer to remove riding on sidewalk and that he was making that in the

Ald. Bier seconded.

Mayor Blake stated he would caution this Board strenuously from putting in this language. He stated as a father of 3 children under the age of 8, it is not safe for a youngster to ride anywhere but the sidewalk.

Ald. Veccharelli echoed the sentiments of the Mayor. He reiterated riding on the sidewalk for much younger children is much safer. We need the sidewalks for the safety of our citizens.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he would agree with Ald. Veccharelli, as well as Ald. Bevan. He stated he would not be in favor of the amendment. He stated that is not what prompted this ordinance. He stated he would prefer to see the amendment rescinded.

Ald. Smith stated he wished to clarify Ald. Bevan wants this amended because of the State's Statute.

Ald. Bevan stated that was his original thought, but that he would like to rescind.

Ald. Bier withdrew his second. Ald. Bevan rescinded his amendment.

Ald. Vitali commented regarding respect of riding a bicycle. In favor of the Ordinance but would love to see some differentiation - specifically more safety.

Ald. German commented what he has observed in the Woodmont area, 4th district.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Golden requested a 5-min recess. The Board recessed at 9:22 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board back in public session at 9:32 p.m.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Employment Conditions and Benefits, Article III, Unclassified Officials and Employees, Section 19-17 (B)(3) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Employee Benefits).

Mayor Blake stated this is a longstanding city ordinance that brings parity to what the bargaining units receive. He also stated it cleans up the Ordinance and removes the assistant city attorney and trial counsel and adds positions that were not in existence, ie. DPLU Director, as well as the renamed position of Human Resources Director from Personnel Director.

Ald. Bevan stated asked if this additional to the vacation these directors already receive or is it outlining what they already receive.

Mayor Blake read the language from the Ordinance.

Attorney Berchem stated his position is not eligible for comp time or overtime.

Ald. Vitali asked if this ordinance relates to full time employees. He asked if the city attorney is part time.

Attorney Berchem stated the Ordinance before the Board is only adding positions, not the person.

Ald. Vitali asked if the number of vacation days has increased.

Attorney Berchem referenced Sections 19-17 b(3) and 19-B(4).

Ald. Vitali stated he is opposed to the Ordinance. He spoke of compensation the directors receive. He also asked about carryover of days. He also questioned the comment of the mayor that days are not carried over. Directors are well compensated, salary involve, choice, etc.

Mayor Blake stated the proposed ordinance - all at well employees. No fiscal impact, they will not receive any additional pay.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would support the Ordinance. He stated this does not cost the taxpayers any money. He added this is reasonable and eliminates people that should not be on it. It's not about the dollars.

Ald. Grant asked for clarification - adding 5 director positions.

Mayor Blake stated the positions that did not exist or renamed and brings them to parity with other parties.

Ald. Bevan stated in the private sector this would be bargained at the time of hire. I was lead to believe this is an additional vacation, that this just gives a vacation schedule for these directors. Thanked the mayor and city attorney for the clarification.

Ald. Giannattasio the people being added are being benefited 5 extra days.

Attorney Berchem stated a vacation is a benefit.

Ald. Giannattasio questioned why these individuals were being added if it is in its ordinance.

Attorney Berchem spoke with the current HR director regarding negotiating vacation time. He stated it was requested by some of these directors to put their benefits on par. It is a benefit.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it is in fact an increased benefit, which will cost the taxpayers more money.

Attorney Berchem explained it is an increase in benefit.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he just could not support something that in the long run would cost the taxpayer.

Mayor Blake explained the Kronos time clock which all employees are required to clock in and out.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he understood there is a process in place, but that some of these individuals do not clock in or out.

Ald. Smith commented regarding the ordinance. He also recalled prior to hiring the current library director, there were three people who they negotiated with and those deals fell through.

Ald. Giannattasio raised concerns.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order.

Ald. Anderson recalled the recent budget votes were party line.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 10 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 no (Bevan, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

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.

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

The Board adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary