

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2011**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 6, 2011 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman G. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. He asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for those men and women serving our country.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bevan
B. Bier
B. Blake
D. German
F. Goodrich
A. Giannattasio
J. Patterson
G. Smith
P. Smith
P. Staneski
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
P. Erodici, Acting Finance Director
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
L. Stock, City Clerk

Excused

B. Joy

Ald. Giannattasio read a statement from Ald. Joy who was unable to be at the meeting due to a family obligation

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. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – stated he had hoped the tax cut would have been more. He spoke of the graduating high school seniors and whether they would have the tools necessary in this world. He stated it is getting out of hand in our state and people are simply leaving because they just can't afford it. He wished everyone well.

W. Field – stated he is a taxpayer and was speaking tonight regarding item 7a, property on Westmoor Road. He went on to explain the two maps he brought with him and his interest in these lots. He stated he will make the lots more conforming to the area. He also stated this recommendation has already been through all the Boards in the city.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – spoke regarding the guardrails on Anderson Avenue. He stated they are getting old and need replacement and in some areas there just isn't one. He stated it is a dangerous part of Anderson Avenue. He wished everyone well and luck on the election. He also wished the members of the Board a great summer. Before concluding he also mentioned the playground at Anderson Avenue and that the basketball court pavement is uneven. He also noted Public Works did a great job on the tennis courts and commented they seem to favor tennis. He asked that they think about all kids.

T. Burns – 87 Atwater Street – stated she has resided there for 18 years. She stated she along with her neighbors are disappointed about the end of Westmoor. She referenced an article that appeared in the New Haven Register on May 20, 2011, which mentioned the declining school enrollment. She also noted there are 118 foreclosures in Milford and many more homes for sale. She questioned why the wetlands on Westmoor would be destroyed for more building. She stated her children play at the end of Westmoor. She also stated she had been there when it rains and when it doesn't rain. She stated she is concerned where the rain will go if that area is filled in. She stated she just doesn't see the need to destroy the woods and wetlands and reiterated they will be very disappointed if this goes through.

R. Cleary – 95 Atwater Street – stated he is opposed to the selling of the property at the end of Westmoor Road. He asked what happened to preserving open space. He stated this small street would now have trucks going up and down it. He asked the Board to please consider what is rare in the city.

S. Cleary – 95 Atwater Street – stated she too is opposed to selling this property. She stated her children and her neighbor's daughter play. She stated she is concerned with their safety. She stated she is also concerned about the wetlands and what will happen if that area is filled in. She also stated the planned road runs across the marsh. She stated there are a lot of homes for sale as well as new developments.

C. Field – commented he has no problem with water in his home.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 2, 2011.

Ald. Goodrich and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 2, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman G. Smith commented regarding the recent Memorial Day parade in Milford. He referenced the article in the New Haven Register and stated he was happy to see such a positive article about something that is special to many. He also extended congratulations to the graduating high school seniors. He also reminded the Board that due to the 4th of July holiday, the next meeting would be held on July 11, 2011.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated he would respectfully ask for the Board's action regarding items 8a and 8j and that he would be happy to discuss each as they come up on the agenda. He asked the Board to recognize Frank Matthews. He explained this Board appropriated monies to begin the process of dredging and revitalizing the ponds and waters in Milford. He stated a committee was formed comprised of concern citizens, business leaders and other.

Mr. Matthews stated it was a pleasure to be before this Board. He stated he was here tonight on behalf of the Milford Pond Revitalization Committee (J. Agro, M.R. Palumbo, A. Dennis McBride, R. Swift, R. Vitali, B. McCarthy, B. Kolwicz, J. Richetelli, R. Conine and J. Beard). Mr. Matthews stated he was here tonight to advise the Board of the Committee's concerns and keep the Board updated as to what they are doing and trying to do. He thanked the Board for their commitment of the \$50,000 for the environmental study, which he reported would start shortly. He stated a recent article in the Milford Living magazine referred to the waters in Milford as the "jewels of the city". He stated it has been nearly four decades since the ponds have been dredged and went on to describe what has been going on in the ponds. He stated a part of the plan would include replacing benches and that they are working with Mr. McCarthy from the Recreation Department and their "benches" program. Mr. Matthew also reported they implemented a goose egg oiling program thanks to Dr. McBride and that they are also maintaining the flood gates. Mr. Matthews commented he realized everything begins and ends with this Board and reiterated his thanks to the Board for their support and perseverance. He recognized Mr. Swift for further update.

Mr. Swift stated it is amazing how grateful people who come to Milford's harbor are. He stated he always receives compliments about Milford's waters and the harbor and offered his thanks to this Board and previous Boards. He went on to explain the meaning of the name "Milford" stating the name was based on our founding fathers who decided on this location because of the water, naming the Wepawaug River. Mr. Swift stated the mouth of the harbor was dredges several years ago. He stated how important it is to get the other waterway done as soon as possible, indicating they were likely one storm away from the harbor flooding away. He encouraged the Board to maintain its dedication to the harbor.

Chairman G. Smith thanked Mr. Matthews and Mr. Swift and stated it really starts and ends with the dedication of people like these two gentlemen. He expressed his appreciation of their work and that of the committee.

7. Unfinished Business:

7a. Board of Aldermen approval is requested for the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation (2/15/11) to sell a city owned parcel of Westmoor Road known as Map 30, Block 644, Parcel 8 as follows:

1) sale will be to the highest bidder with a minimum price of not less than the appraised value as listed on the Assessor's records;

2) the parcel cannot be used as a separate building lot nor combined with any other property to create a new building lot, but it may be combined with other property to make a more conforming lot size. (Adjacent property owners notified.)

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation (2/15/11) to sell a city owned parcel of Westmoor Road known as Map 30,

Block 644, Parcel 8 as follows: 1) sale will be to the highest bidder with a minimum price of not less than the appraised value as listed on the Assessor's records; and 2) the parcel cannot be used as a separate building lot nor combined with any other property to create a new building lot, but it may be combined with other property to make a more conforming lot size. (Adjacent property owners notified.)

Ald. Goodrich commented the property being spoken about tonight by the neighbors is actually private property. He stated the plan is to make three large more conforming pieces of property. As for the wetlands, he stated the plans have been reviewed by the Inlands/Wetlands Agency and they have received approval from Planning and Zoning. He stated this Board only has jurisdiction to see or not sell the property and not tell people how to building.

Mayor Richetelli raised a point of order. He stated a motion should have been made to remove this item from the table.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to remove this item from the table. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Bevan questioned the pictures they were shown. He stated the maps were confusing and appeared to show two different sides. He stated he was not sure which was correct. He stated at this point he could not vote to sell these properties based on information he did not have. He stated one of the photographs shows and body of water and one does not.

Ald. Blake stated a portion of city owned property is being used by the children in the neighborhood as a playground. He stated the neighbors are asking that this particular parcel being maintained as city owned really resonates with him.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 8 yes (Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, G. Smith, P. Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bevan, Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Vitali).

7b. Board of Aldermen approval is requested to accept the donation of a parcel of land (0.34 acres+/-) on Westmoor Road known as Map 30, Block 613A, Parcel 37 from Christopher Field (Field and Son) to be combined with abutting City property, designated as open space and protected wetlands per Planning and Zoning Board recommendation (4/5/11).

Ald. Goodrich and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to remove item 7b from the table. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept the donation of a parcel of land (0.34+/-) on Westmoor Road known as Map 30, Block 613A, Parcel 37 from Christopher Field (Field and Son) to be combined with abutting City property, designated as open space and protected wetlands per Planning and Zoning Board recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

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

8a. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (U) William J. Evasick, 15 Maple Street, 06460 from an alternate member to a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to complete the unexpired term of Nanci Ann Seltzer (resigned). Term to expire 12/31/12. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Thomas A. Piskura, 433 Welches Point Road, 06460 (IAFF – Local 944) as the City Labor Representative on the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund. Term to expire 12/31/13. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 8j, which is another appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) John C. O'Neil, 86 Cherry Street, 06460 to the Economic Development Commission to complete the unexpired term of Susan Ashelford (resigned). Term to expire 12/31/12. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Linda Stock swore in Mr. Evasick and Mr. O'Neil.

8c. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the United States Department of Justice in the amount of \$15,307 to be used to purchase a License Plate Recognition (LPR) System for the Milford Police Department, and to authorize the Mayor and the Chief of Police to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate this grant program (per memo from Deputy Chief Steven Fournier dated 5/24/11).

Chairman G. Smith recognized Lt. Timothy Connor and asked if he could explain the program.

Lt. Connor explained it is a vehicle mounted system, inside and outside. He explained as the officer patrols it captures an image and then it is matched to the data base.

Ald. Staneski stated she was trying to visualize if the officer has to have some reason of suspicion.

Lt. Connor explained the physical equipment is that equipment on the outside of the vehicle and inside which captures the image. He stated there is no interaction with the office and it then goes into the data base.

Chairman G. Smith asked if it electronically manipulates and also how the police use the data and why they store it for a year.

Lt. Connor responded to the second question, stating it is required by the State to maintain for one year. He stated an officer would only take action if asked to.

Chairman G. Smith expressed concern for privacy issues for citizens, although he does trust the police.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about patrols and how it covers the entire city.

Lt. Connor stated they have not developed a policy as yet as to how it will be deployed.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about hit, would it be unregistered vehicles, missue of plates, etc.

Lt. Connor stated he believe it would be both.

Chairman G. Smith asked if the database would be located here in Milford.

Lt. Connor responded it would be maintained here in Milford or they could participate with other departments, but it has yet to be determined.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Programs – 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Agreement of Transfer between Bodie's Place, Inc. and the City of Milford.

Mayor Richetelli made the Board aware of a correction in the language in paragraph 6, second sentence.

Ald. Blake recognized Mr. Vaccino who was present and commented the place is awesome. He stated he has been there a number of times with his son and it exceeds all of his expectations. Ald. Blake called it a great addition to the City.

Ald. Staneski agreed. She stated she had one concern regarding the bathrooms that were not open. She stated given the nature of the playground, she asked if there is a plan in place to have those bathrooms open.

Mayor Richetelli stated they cannot leave the bathrooms open when the park is not open and someone is supervising the park. He stated there is a handicapped port-o-let which is being moved.

Ald. Vitali extended a thank you to the Vaccinos for their perseverance in completing the project. He stated it is a welcome addition to the city and for the kids.

8f. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the renewal of the Employment Contract between the City of Milford and Dr. Andrew Dennis McBride, M.D., MPH.

Ald. Staneski stated this was her first contract since becoming a member of this Board. She asked if all department heads have contracts.

Mayor Richetelli responded no.

Ald. Blake asked if there was any material difference from the previous contracts.

Mayor Richetelli replied no, only the dates were changed.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the sale of certain delinquent tax and sewer use liens to a third party in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12-195h and 7-258 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the conditions as contained in the Request for Proposals. The minimum sales price shall be the full amount due the City. The Mayor, in consultation with the City Attorney, Finance Director, and/or the Tax Collector shall review the proposals and award the bid in accordance with the conditions as set forth in the aforementioned Request for Proposals.

Chairman G. Smith asked the Mayor to provide an explanation for the Board.

Mayor Richetelli first noted the presence of the Tax Collector, Assistant City Attorney, Acting Finance Director and City Attorney. He stated after consultation with the tax collector, they came up with this proposal which is basically directed at offenders who are notoriously delinquent. He stated even with payment plans in place, the amounts just don't catch up. He explained these are the top 5 or 6 most delinquent accounts and are individuals or entities that have been delinquent for a period of time. He stated the RFP requires not less than 100% owned to the City. He stated there is quite a market for municipal liens and that this would be a win win for Milford.

Ald. Blake questioned the RFP as opposed to putting it out to bid to the highest bidder.

Mayor Richetelli stated that is what they are doing. He explained it would be put out and would be sold to the most qualified bidder. He explained it would be a sealed bid and then it would be opened and awarded to the highest qualified bidder.

Ald. Blake asked the specifications to make the bidder qualified.

Mayor Richetelli stated to Ald. Blake he was not sure what he was asking. He explained they are soliciting the bid and it would be sold to the highest qualified bidder.

Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Establishment of Accounts Related to the Municipal Animal Control Agreement Between the City of Milford and the Town of Orange.

Ald. Blake asked if the additional costs of taking in Orange had been addressed, i.e. workers compensation, potential for more claims, pensions would likely increase because a person would be earning additional monies. He asked why they were not allocating additional monies to the general account for costs that will be incurred by the city.

Chairman G. Smith asked Ald. Blake how he thought workers' compensation would be affected.

Ald. Blake stated the additional \$75,000 which will pay additional time. He stated the employees will be working 75,000 more than they would have been. He also stated with the additional work in Orange there is more of a chance of becoming injured.

Chairman G. Smith stated he did not believe that was the testimony of the department head. He recognized Mr. George, Animal Control Officer he was present and asked him if they anticipated an increase in overtime.

Mr. George stated he did not see a change in insurance costs. He stated overtime may increase slightly.

Mayor Richetelli stated like Milford, if there is a call in Orange on the weekend, it would require overtime. He stated Orange is no different from Milford. He stated there is the potential for an increase to some from Milford, but the bulk to cover other costs like animal food, veterinarian costs, etc. He also stated if a call comes in during normal working hours there would be no overtime.

Chairman G. Smith commented it was his understanding there would not be much of an increase in overtime.

Mayor Richetelli stated any costs with/or by the Town of Orange, will be paid by the Town of Orange.

Chairman G. Smith asked if a Milford worker is injured in Orange, if it would be covered by Orange.

Mayor Richetelli replied yes. He stated that is part of the \$75,000.

Mr. George spoke of the mutual aid statute and the cooperation level.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Goodrich and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: City of Milford Support of Connecticut State Department of Transportation Project No. 83-XXX1 – Major Drainage Improvements on Naugatuck Avenue from Bridgeport Avenue (U.S. Route 1) to Beaverbrook – City of Milford.

Ald. Goodrich commented over the years he has seen Saint Ann's Church flood on the roadway and has seen the water when there has been as much as a foot of water. He stated there is a safety issue and there have been a lot of costs associated with property damage in that area.

Ald. P. Smith stated she and Ald. Goodrich attended the public hearing. She stated she was dismayed to hear the application and permit process is around three months. She stated although it is a frustrating process this work is a long time coming.

Mayor Richetelli stated he couldn't agree more with Ald. P. Smith. He stated it is very frustrating, but because of State and Federal rules, it takes time. He likened this to what happened with Old Gate Lane. He stated they could achieve the same and in a much shorter time if we were doing the work ourselves. He stated the split is 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local.

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

(a) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfers #10 and 11, Funds 10 and 12 FY11. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$9,110.12. 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 – Ald. German reported on behalf of Ald. Joy. He reported the East Broadway sewer project was halted until Labor Day, the McCann pool was due to re-open in June, the boardwalk connection opened, the town dock plans and construction should be starting shortly and Gulf Beach sand is due in June.

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.

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. Patterson moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary