

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, July 7, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
M. Casey
D. German
S. Fontana
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
S. Shaw
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Jonathan D. Berchem, City Attorney
Peter Erodici, Finance Director
Bonnie Peloso, Acting City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Absent

B. Bier
J. Golden

Chairman Vetro deferred to Mayor Blake for a special presentation.

Mayor Blake stated exactly 50 years ago today a special meeting took place at which time Milford's flag was adopted. He recognized former mayor and city clerk, Alan Jepson and members of the 375th Celebration Committee. Mayor Blake stated winning flag design was submitted at the Board of Aldermen's July 1964 meeting, 50 years ago today when the aldermen were asked to consider the Ordinance. He stated the flag design was submitted by Karen Salomey, a junior at Jonathan Law High School. Mayor Blake called upon Mr. Gregory to read that Resolution. Mayor Blake stated that flag has been framed and will hang outside of the aldermanic chambers. He thanked Mr. Jepson for attending and his role 50 years ago.

Mayor Blake stated the second proclamation was to recognize the work of Newtown Kindness, a non-profit organization founded in memory of Charlotte Bacon, a victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, as well as several others for their work with the students and parents at Jonathan Law High School in the wake of the tragedy that took place on April 25, 2014. Mayor Blake stated he wished to recognize those therapy dogs and their handlers and the compassion they showed during a difficult time. He went on to read the proclamation.

Mr. Thompson, principal at Jonathan Law stated he was speaking on behalf of everyone at Law, the students, staff and parents. He stated there were no words to thank everyone for their support, kindness and efforts through their darkest days.

Dr. Feser commented what she was most taken by was the groups and groups of students who gravitated to the dogs. She stated you could see instantaneously the comfort the dogs provided the students. She expressed her deep appreciation to Newtown Kindness, Charlotte's Litter and all those involved for being at the school the week following Maren's death and also to Akita who came to the post prom. Dr. Feser also thanked the many city agencies that provided so much support.

Mr. Scalise (BOE) stated about a year ago Mayor Blake introduced him to Brad Cole. Mr. Scalise expressed his deep appreciation to the handlers and their dogs.

State Representative James Maroney and State Senator Gayle Slossberg stated they had a citation from the entire state delegation (State Reps Davis and Rose who were unable to attend). State Representative Maroney commented through tragedy the true character of our town emerges. He thanked everyone for coming to Milford to help the students and community. He went on to read the citation, which he stated was introduced by State Senator Slossberg and State Representatives Rose, Davis and Maroney.

Mayor Blake thanked Mr. Cole who approached him with this program and who was involved with the Newtown tragedy. He also thanked Mrs. Bacon who with her husband and son started Charlotte's litter in memory of their daughter, sister.

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.

T. Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – reading from a prepared statement spoke of how the Board of Education was able to accommodate the \$300,000 reduction with slight change to its budget. He also spoke about the study that was done that recommended reducing 27 positions from the budget which would equate to a \$2,000,000 savings. Mr. Jagodzinski stated schools similar to Milford spend less on education and their students perform better. He stated Milford is below average academically. He continued reading and stated it was time for Milford to get a handle on spending.

G. Slossberg, State Senator – 14 Honeysuckle – stated she was delighted to update the Board and those viewers on what has been going on in the City of Milford and the State regarding some housing laws. She stated the goal of the affordable housing statute is to encourage affordable housing. He explained the statutory definition that can mean assisted or set aside development. She also spoke of a 4-year moratorium that can be rolled over which is determined by a point system. She stated the State delegation went to the rest of the legislation regarding this moratorium, HB-55-92 which she explained is the law Milford is under and that it expires 12/31.

She spoke of the next steps which need to be consistent with the city Plan of Conservation and Development. She also spoke of the research she undertook regarding the housing stock. She continued with the lengthy explanation which included an explanation of the points required for this moratorium. She stated the State has 90 days to act on the application. Once approved the moratorium runs from the date of the application. It is a way for Milford to take control and be pro active. She stated it is an exciting and a great opportunity for Milford. She went on to thank Mayor Blake and Tom Ivers. She stated she would be happy to answer any questions.

S. Simmat – 200 Pond Point Avenue – expressed her support of the application the City would be filing. She continued reading from a prepared statement speaking to the 9-30g application of Colberg and the negative impact of this proposed project. She also expressed concern with any compromise the applicants may enter with the City. She continued reading stating she was against any compromise.

S. Bedworth – 72 Lindy Street – states she agreed with the previous speakers.

C. Volgmuth – 11 Dawes Street – stated she agreed wholeheartedly with the previous speakers.

R. Sandmann – 58 Pauline Street – stated he was involved with the Pond Point Avenue group. He spoke of the word transparency and its importance. He stated it is a word they are seeing at the federal and state level. Mr. Sandmann stated if he had not been made aware of the Pond Point Avenue proposal it could have been a different result. He stated in the future the City must be transparent about anything that would impact a small neighborhood.

L. Volgmuth – 23 Dawes Street stated she was appalled to learn 23 housing units were proposed for her backyard. She echoed the comments of the previous speakers.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on June 2, 2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 2, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro thanked Mayor Blake for the earlier presentations and all those who came out tonight.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated he was pleased to inform the Board that Milford had once again been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and was awarded the

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He stated this is the highest form of recognition and pointed out this is not the first time Milford has received this honor. Mayor Blake thanked Peter and his staff for their hard work and dedication.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request pursuant to Article II, Section 6 of the Charter of the City of Milford, Board of Aldermen approval is requested for the appointment of (R) Joanne Rohrig, 7 Flax Mill Lane, 06461, to complete the unexpired term of Linda Stock as City Clerk.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was happy to put forward Mrs. Rohrig's as the new city clerk. He stated there were a number of candidates, but Joanne emerged as their top candidate.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Katherine Lutz, 56 Platt Street, 06460, as a member of the Historic District Commission to fill the present vacancy (5-year term expiring 1/1/17). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (U) MaryRose Palumbo, 15 Stagecoach Circle, 06460, as a member (MEA) of the Pension and Retirement Board to fill the present vacancy (3-year term expiring 12/31/16). Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Peloso swore-in Mrs. Rohrig as City Clerk.

Mayor Blake congratulated Mrs. Rohrig and wished her well and stated he looked forward to working with her and was happy to assist in the transition.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Notice of Grant Award, DEMHS Grant No. 013E084A, from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director, Emergency Management Director and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Grant Application for Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan.

Ald. Anderson recognized Tom Ivers who was present to answer questions.

Mr. Ivers gave a brief background of the program. He stated basically this would assist those looking for housing. He pointed out while it is designed for veterans, it is not exclusive.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Child Care Program. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer #9 (Vehicle Acquisition Program). Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City to accept funding from the Department of Transportation's 2014 Connecticut Clean Fuel program, and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and Public Works Director, to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement. 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. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to add new business to the agenda regarding a Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning Hazardous Material Abatement/Tile Replacement Projects at Joseph A. Foran High School, West Shore Middle School and John F. Kennedy Elementary School – 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education – Concerning Hazardous Material Abatement/Tile Replacement Projects at Joseph A. Foran High School, West Shore Middle School and John F. Kennedy Elementary School – 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

a. Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #11 and 12, FY14.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #11 and 12, FY 14. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

a. Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$4,835.09.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$4,835.09. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening to consider three Ordinances. He stated the first two Ordinances are regarding the scheduled U2 and that the increase reflects a 2% increase over the current salaries.

1. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford (Registrars). Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Establishing Compensation of City Officials and Employees in the Service of the City of Milford (Mayor, City Clerk).

By roll call vote, the motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, German, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 no (Casey, Fontana, Giannattasio, Vitali).

3. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Kubek made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 13, License and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article I, In General, Section 13-2 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Renewal of Liquor Permits). 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.

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 settlement of Santo A. DeLallo, et al v. City of Milford
Re: 71-73 Point Beach Drive

14b. Consideration of settlement of Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust v. City of Milford
Re: 1357 Boston Post Road

Chairman Vetro announced those individuals entering Executive Session would be the full Board, Mayor and City Attorney.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session as announced by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:57 p.m.

14a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Santo A. DeLallo, et al v. City of Milford Re: 71-73 Point Beach Drive, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust v. City of Milford Re: 1357 Boston Post Road in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro announced there would be a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 10, 2014 beginning at 6:30 p.m. regarding the AT&T cell tower.

Ald. Vitali asked why the short notice on the meeting date.

Mayor Blake stated the hearing is in follow up to the information the Board received at the June meeting.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw moved to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary