

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
M. Casey
D. German
S. Fontana
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
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
Joanne Rohrig, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

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.

Kim Rose – State Represented stated she was here tonight regarding two items: Founders Walk and the veteran's exemption. She expressed her hope the Board would approve the grant for Founders Walk. She encouraged the Board to accept the funding for that project. She stated the second item is regarding the veteran's. She stated this exemption is for veterans who are 100% disabled and that it will cost the city \$3,000.

Cliff Favia – President of the Radio Control Club stated they fly their model airplanes to the rear of Eisenhower Park. He stated as a history around 1989 the group approached the then recreation director, Ed Austin about the model airplanes and that he was excited that someone would be using the area. Mr. Favia also pointed out the club provides their own insurance. He stated currently the club is restricted from flying from Tuesday through Thursday. He stated he

was here to ask the Board to re-considering the summer Sunday ban with appropriate holiday exceptions. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the city for allowing the club to use the park.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – I am here regarding the sidewalks on Anderson Avenue which are in bad shape. He stated now that the kids have to walk to school the sidewalks need to be fixed. Also on Anderson Avenue, he stated the guardrails are in terrible shape and that he has been asking those guardrails be replaced. He stated what is most important to him is additional assistance to the senior citizens. He asked the Board to please think about the senior citizens.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on August 4, 2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he hoped everyone enjoyed the short summer and the recent fire muster this past Saturday. He reported he was appointing Ald. Shaw and Ald. German as the liaisons to Milford Progress, Inc.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated the first few weeks of school have been successful and that he has visited most of the schools during that first week of school. He stated students are learning, teachers are teaching and administrators are administrating. He asked the Board's consideration and action on those agenda items 8a-8d and that he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have. Mayor Blake also stated he was providing advance notice there are representatives here to speak regarding compassion Resolution.

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 Resolution Re: Milford's Charter of Compassion.

Mayor Blake stated he was happy to have with them this evening Chris Kukk, a professor at Western Connecticut State University and the Director of the Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation and Jade Ramos a graduate of our Milford schools. Mayor Blake stated this

initiative is celebrating the golden rule that you learn from kindergarten on about compassion. It is something no one can disagree with. He stated in every aspect of our local community we want to make compassion our local theme. He stated this charter is invaluable.

Ms. Ramos stated she first heard about the compassion charter in a classroom lecture and heard about it again after the Newtown tragedy. She stated after the events that occurred at Law she wondered why Milford did not have this and wanted to bring it to Milford. She stated compassion is who we are and should be a every way of life. Ms. Ramos stated she has received incredible support from the Milford community and provided the Chairman with over 1,000 signatures in support of this Resolution.

Mr. Kukk conveyed the definition and its use and went on to explain the science. He spoke regarding the difference between compassion, which he stated requires action and empathy. Mr. Kukk stated compassion gives and keeps on going. He stated this past summer they had high school students paired with college students to work in their communities to convey the message. He stated they also came together to help the homeless by collecting personal size bottles of shampoos, tooth paste, tooth brushes, etc and distributed them. He stated when the City of Danbury became a city of compassion they were the 13th city to do so, now there are over 250 cities of compassion and they continue to grow. Mr. Kukk commented once compassion gets rolling it keeps on going. He stated, Milford known as the “Small City with a Big Heart” can now walk its big heart down the street.

Ald. Smith read into the record the Charter of Compassion.

Ald. Giannattasio read the Resolution in its entirety.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Pursuant to Article II, Section 16 (7) of the Charter of the City of Milford, Board of Aldermen approval for the appointment of (D) Carl S. Moore, 172 Snow Apple Lane, 06460, to complete the unexpired term of Terrence Copeland (resigned) on the Planning and Zoning Board representing the Fifth District and for the appointment of (D) Anthony D. Sutton, 8 Lynmoor Street, 06460, to complete the unexpired term of Carl S. Moore (resigned) on the Planning and Zoning Board representing the Fourth District. (Terms to expire 12/31/18). Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Rohrig swore in Mr. Moore.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for acceptance of the Founder’s Walkway Improvement Grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the amount of \$300,000 and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and Community Development Director, to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant.

Mayor Blake stated this initiative was brought forward by State Representatives Maroney and Davis. He stated both were in attendance to provide an update.

Representative Maroney thanked the Mayor, Governor and the Board for its support. He stated it would be a lasting memory to the City. He also stated the hope was it would help memorialize Milford's founding leaders. Representative Maroney stated the Mayor formed a steering committee, which he is proud to Chair, with Pete Smith as Vice Chair. He stated the Committee has worked with a design group. He explained after the Board of Aldermen accepts the grant monies it would enable them to sign the contract and then go out to bid phase.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Agreement between the United Illuminating Company and the City of Milford and Municipal Energy Opportunities Standard Agreements and to authorize the Mayor, Community Development Director and Public Works Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. German asked the mayor to explain where they are with this,

Mayor Blake explained in order to formally take receipt of the monies they needed to approve this agreement. He stated the public works director was present to provide an additional update.

Mr. Saley stated a number of the energy programs were started by Tom Ivers, who recently retired. He stated he along with Julie Nash, Community Development Director are working to continue moving these programs forward. He went on to explain the incentives. He stated the work at Parson would include changing over the lighting to LCD's and also an energy management system in place, i.e. lighting, heating, etc. He stated there are numerous opportunities for savings. He also pointed out there is no capital expenditure to the city, therefore no costs to the city.

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.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

None.

11. Refunds

a. Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$52,804.55.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$52,804.55. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee - Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening to consider two Ordinances. He explained the first Ordinance is a simple clause for open fires requiring a permit and that they be no closer than 20 feet to an adjoining structure. He stated this is in addition to the existing Ordinance and allows the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal to have enforcement.

1. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Kubek made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Fire Prevention and Protections, Article V, Open Burning, Section 7-82 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Conditions on Open Burning Requiring a Permit).

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ald. Shaw and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20.5, Taxation, Section 20.5-7 of the Milford Code of Ordinances (Property Tax Exemptions – Veterans).

Ald. Smith stated this expands the eligibility of for veterans in the community, by around 72.

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 – Ald. F. Smith stated he attended the meeting of the Library Board this month. He spoke of the needs at the library in making technology available to residents. He went on to speak about the Markerbot replicator, VHS, DVS's, 3d printers, digital scanner, etc. He stated there are a number of these technologies that are not available to our citizens and that it is the mission of the library to make these available to our community. He

stated Milford Library Board has been looking at this with the hope it will be self-sufficient. He stated if anyone has any questions they should contact Chris Angeli, Library Director.

- 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 Crown Milford, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 470 Wheelers Farm Road.
- 14b. Consideration of settlement of Alliance Energy v. City of Milford, RE: 118 Plains Road and 17-25 Bridgeport Avenue.
- 14c. Discussion concerning the sale of real estate RE: 204 Melba Street (Station 6).

Chairman Vetro announced those individuals entering Executive Session for items 14a, 14b and 14c would be the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney and City Assessor.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford 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 8:22p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:50p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Crown Milford, LLC v. City of Milford Re: 470 Wheelers Farm Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session.

By roll call vote the motion carried 14 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Anderson).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to authorize the City of enter into settlement RE: Alliance Energy v. City of Milford Re: 118 Plains Road and 17-25 Bridgeport Avenue, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary