

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He called upon Scoutmaster Mark Krom to lead the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor veterans who have served, past and present to ensure and preserve our freedom.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
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
Joanne Rohrig, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

J. Golden

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. He asked that speakers not express derogatory and offensive statements and not to engage in negative statements about any person.

T. Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – stated in 2012 BOE had a plan in place for all students which would also result in reducing school costs by \$90,000. Last week the Board of Education had its first budget meeting. He stated not one member of the Board of Education asked about these concessions that had been promised. Reading from a prepared statement he stated it seems like the BOE has no intention of saving any funds. He continued reading speaking about the Long Range Plan. He also spoke about the closing of Harborside Middle School. He stated simply the Board of Education just has no idea what they are doing and spends more money per pupil than any other district in the state, except one. Mr. Jagodzinski stated Milford is an

overspending, underperforming district, but this board has the final say. He stated our kids deserve a quality education.

M. Krom (Troop 1) – stated he was here to ask the Board to reconsider selling the Point Beach firehouse. He stated after Storm Sandy they (Sandy Relief Effort) were able to utilize that building for storm relief, i.e. serving many meals to those who were out of their homes, collected clothing, canned goods, toiletries, etc. He stated all of this was through donations. He stated they put this together so quickly and with so much success they were written up by FEMA and that FEMA uses it in their training guides. He continued reading from a prepared statement. He stated the Point Beach fire station because of its location was the perfect location during such a storm. He stated it would be foolish to get sell it at this point. He stated it is likely there will be such a storm again. It is perfect to help those individuals who need somewhere to go. Mr. Krom stated they are all volunteers and can be ready before a crisis occurs. He asked the Board to please reconsider the sale of this property, at least for a few years. He also pointed out that Troop 1 has been a part of Milford since 1919. He stated they do what they do because it is their city too.

M. Lofthouse – 54 Maple Street – spent entire sandy relief cooking pasta. He stated Mr. Krom said it perfectly. Mr. Lofthouse also spoke of a personal incident that occurred during the storm when an elderly woman came in and was so incredibly thankful for the Point Beach firehouse. Mr. Lofthouse stated this is the type of place that is needed for relief during these types of storms. He also spoke of his cert training he is going through as well as his fellow troop leaders. He reiterated that building is perfectly situated and an asset to that area. He stated it is a great facility, and asked the Board to please not sell it or at least wait. He asked the Board not to give it away because of its value to the neighborhood,

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – here to speak for the senior citizens and veterans. They need incentives. He also stated he is still fighting Hartford regarding compensation for World War II veterans. He asked the Board to open up their hearts.

T. Mercaldo – 154 Herbert Street – also here to address the question about selling the firehouse. Generally I am not in favor of the city holding onto properties, especially when we were looking at a \$600,000 figure. I think the city should at this point wait. He stated he did the math and if the firehouse is sold taxpayers would save \$1.53. He stated there are numerous opportunities that can be done with that property, i.e. Sandy Relief, training, daycare, etc. Urged the Board to take some time and consider alternative uses.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on October 6, 2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro reminded everyone the City of Milford is celebrating Veterans Day this weekend with the 375th Committee hosting Red, White and Blue. He stated it would be a day filled with thanks for our veterans and asked every to come out and show support to those who have served. He also, reported the wreath laying ceremony would take place on Tuesday, November 11th beginning at 10:45 a.m. in front of City Hall.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Early this week the citizens of Milford and the United States went to the polls to exercise their rights to vote. He stated he wanted to thank all the candidates that ran and whether win or lose it was their participating in democracy. He stated these are the citizens that make our city and community so great. In addition to Red, White and Blue, events on Saturday, he stated on Sunday, prior to the parade paratroopers will descend on Wasson field with a special show followed by the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Mayor Blake asked the Board's consideration and action on those agenda items 8a-8e and that he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Richard Shea, 79 North Street, Apt. #1, 06460, as a member of the Veterans Graves Preservation commission to fill a vacancy. Term to expire 12/31/14.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was brought to his attention that Mr. Shea has been very active in our community and commended him for his service.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Rohrig swore in Mr. Shea.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Resolution regarding the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant Program.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the background of the grant and who drafted the request for application.

Mayor Blake stated the City has not received the grant at this point. He stated this is the application which will hopefully get the city some seed money to improve the downtown area,

especially with regard to parking. He stated the City's Economic Director, Julie Nash was present for additional questions.

Ald. Giannattasio noted that parking is mentioned over and over and asked if any parcels had been identified.

Mrs. Nash stated about half dozen had been discussed.

Mayor Blake stated they have actually identified more than half dozen, but it is all subject to funding. He stated the hope is grants like this will help the city to acquire those parcels.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the language also mentions creating a parking authority.

Mrs. Nash's response was inaudible.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there was a measure in place for the transit.

Mrs. Nash explained to be considered transit oriented it is usually half hour.

Ald. Giannattasio stated for clarification that this was just the application.

Mrs. Nash responded yes. She also stated they were applying for a market analysis as well which would be helpful.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is in favor of moving forward, but that he does have some concerns. He spoke of the idea that has been talked about of closing Harborside Middle School and questioned if that parcel is being considered for parking. Ald. Giannattasio stated he felt it prudent to mention that tonight especially since there have been numerous conversations with closing Harborside.

Mayor Blake stated that Harborside has never been considered for parking. He stated it is just too far out of the mix and too far from walking distance to downtown shops, train station, etc. He reiterated the city has never looked at Harborside for parking.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he just wished to share that with the Board because he has had many of his constituents ask him.

Ald. Casey asked if the study contemplated taking parcels through eminent domain.

Mrs. Nash replied no.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Pension and Retirement Board dated October 17, 2014, concerning increases for current retirees.

Ald. German asked for background on this.

Mr. Erodic explained every three years the pension study is discussed and voted upon by the Pension Board. He stated they looked at all the data and the majority voted against a mandated cobra. He stated the next step is approval by the Board of Aldermen.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution regarding the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Omnibus Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion the request per the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board dated October 23, 2014, for the sale of 2 Bittersweet Avenue and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to sign any documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate said sale.

Ald. Smith asked for some background on this property.

Attorney Berchem stated it is a property that was cited back in December 2011. He explained a blight notice was issued; eventually the city perfected the lien and commenced a foreclosure lien. Attorney Berchem noted there were many conversations with the bank. He stated the City took title to the property and went on to explain the values on the lot. He noted the property is in a flood zone. He stated conducted a site walk through with the Public Works Director and DPLU Director and although it is in disrepair it has value. Attorney Berchem stated because the property is in a flood zone it will need to be raised. The recommendation from PZ was to sell the land. The city acquired the land through the foreclosure process which gave us the approval to sell it.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the property would be sold as is.

Attorney Berchem replied yes.

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

None.

11. Refunds

- a. Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$20,007.93.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$20,007.93. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee - Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening and voted unanimously to forward this to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation. This basically is an amendment adjusting the fees at the transfer station as requested by the public works director. It is a much needed adjustment especially in light of the heavy commercial traffic at the transfer station by contractors.

1. Ald. Smith and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Garbage, Trash, and Refuse, Article III, Solid Waste Disposal, Division 1, Generally, Section 9-27, Definition and Division 2, Licenses, Permits and Fees, Sections 9-45 and 9-46.

Ald. Giannattasio noted and added that the other component to this is that the public works director has lowered the tonnage level which will recognize more revenue for the city.

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.

s. Liaison – Milford Progress, Inc. – Ald Shaw noted the signs downtown and work at the train station and the initiatives of MPI.

Ald. Vitali commented the signage looks nice and asked if the public works department was now taking over the signage.

Mayor Blake stated they are working with public works. He explained public works is doing the manufacturing of the signs and MPI is funding some of the initial materials which were used. He stated at the end of the project there will be approximately 50 wayfinding signs directing visitors and residents to key places around Milford.

Ald. Vitali asked if MPI would be reimbursing the city for the signage.

Mayor Blake stated they are working through that.

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 Memorandum of Understanding to Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and Milford Police Union, Local 899, AFSCME Council 15, AFL-CIO.

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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson 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 8:18p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:29p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to accept Consideration of the Memorandum of Understanding to Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and Milford Police Union, Local 899, AFSCME Council 15, AFL-CIO, 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. Hardiman moved to adjourn at 8:34p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kennedy Huber
Recording Secretary