

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2012 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence to honor our troops and veterans.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
G. Gasper
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno.
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney
Linda Stock, City Clerk
Peter Erodici, Finance Director
Steve Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

P. Smith (ill)

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated the time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents, taxpayers, and electors may address the Board at this time. He stated the Board encourages speakers not to express derogatory, insensitive, or offensive statements or to engage in personal attacks against individuals. He stated in order to allow everyone an opportunity to speak; he would ask that everyone limit their comments to three minutes.

R. Smith – 59 Sixth Avenue – stated he came tonight to personally thank the Mayor for his leadership over the last 12-13 days. He stated this Mayor, although relatively new has proven to be quite a leader. He spoke of the daily statewide task force meetings, as well as daily meetings with police and fire officials. Mr. Smith also praised the efforts of Chief Keith Mello and his staff who he noted was a daily presence in his neighborhood. He also thanked Chief Robert Healey and Public Works Director Bruce Kolwicz. He stated from day one, Mr. Kolwicz had crews and front loaders picking up debris every day. Mr. Smith stated he was very proud of the City's response to this storm and very proud to be a Milford citizen.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on October 1, 2012.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 1, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro reminded everyone Sunday is Veterans Day. He stated he wished to thank all of the veterans who have served our country. He also invited everyone to attend the Veterans Day Parade this Sunday, November 11, 2012 and asked those attending to meet in the Parson Complex parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Chairman Vetro stated he would like to see as many people that attended the Saint Patrick's Day parade attend the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated it has been a busy, busy two weeks. He stated he had a storm report to give to the Board. He stated he wished to acknowledge the recent retirement of Fire Chief Lou LaVecchia who he stated has retired after a 40 year career with the fire department. He recognized Chief LaVecchia and his wife who were applauded with a standing ovation. Mayor Blake also recognized acting Fire Chief Robert Healey who entered the chamber, having just returned from fighting a structure fire. Mayor Blake stated he looked forward to Chief Healey's leadership.

Mayor Blake reiterated it has been a busy week and recalled it was just last week in this chamber he was meeting with Chiefs Mello, LaVecchia, Healey and Kolwicz, as well as the UI in preparation of Hurricane Sandy, now coined Super Storm Sandy. He stated because of the efforts of the fire, police public works and health departments, in addition to the UI, the City stood toe-to-toe. He continued reading from the report updating the Board of the happenings over the last week, speaking of the devastating damage and the City's response to the storm.

Mayor Blake also stated he was respectfully asking the Board to take action on items 8a-8a in their agenda.

7. Unfinished Business.

None.

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

Chairman Vetro stated members of the Planning and Zoning Board were present tonight to present the Plan of Conservation and Development. He stated he would entertain a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 8g.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 8g. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro recognized Mark Bender, Chairman, Planning and Zoning Board, along with Emmeline Harrigan, Assistant City Planner.

Chairman Bender stated the Plan of Conservation and Development was before the Board tonight and that he looked forward to the Board's approval to move forward. He stated he would answer any questions.

Ald. Vitali stated the plan was tremendous and congratulated Mr. Bender and their Board for an extensive plan.\

Chairman Bender stated staff worked very hard on the plan and collected all of the information.

Ald. Shaw agreed it was a great job and thanked the entire Planning and Zoning Board, as well as the staff.

Ald. Vitali raised a point of order and stated to continue questions a motion needed to be put forward.

8g. Ald. Vitali and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Capital draft of the Milford Plan of conservation and Development (Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 8-23(g), the Board "shall endorse or reject such entire plan or part thereof or amendment and may submit comments and recommended changes to the commission.")

Mr. Bender explained this is an action plan of things that are recommended to be done. He stated he would like to see the Board put this out and get it to the departments. He added they would look at all the regulations, but he would like to see action from all of the Boards, Commissions and Departments.

Ald. Shaw asked if there is a priority list.

Mr. Bender explained the quick hits, which he stated are low cost and then they would move onto those more costly items.

Ald. Shaw commented she looked forward to hearing more.

Motion carried unanimously.

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Emergency Resolution RE: Storm Sandy.

Ald. Vitali asked about the Fund 76 and the caveats that go with it, as well as policy, Ordinances, etc. He stated process was his greatest concern. He asked if there is another storm. . .

Mayor Blake interjected stating he believed Ald. Vitali was referring to item 8i. He stated this is item 8a.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the rate of reimbursement on the money they were receiving and if it was negotiable.

Mayor Blake stated the money they are hoping to collect is generally 75%. He stated that is the number that has been represented to him, although it could be as much as 100%, but generally it is 75%.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it is the labor that could be 100%.

Mayor Blake stated officials have represented during briefings that it could be.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer #2 (Storm Sandy). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City of Milford to participate in community revitalization programs pursuant to the Joint Federal-State National Mortgage Servicing Settlement and to authorize the Mayor to sign all associated documents to effectuate the City's participation in said programs.

Ald. Shaw asked for a brief recap of these programs.

Mayor Blake explained this would allow the city to apply for those programs that Milford may be eligible. He stated the program is for non-profits and municipalities and that Milford may or may not elect to accept these properties. Mayor Blake also stated it would come back to this Board for approval. He stated this motion only allows the city to apply.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Establishment of an Economic Community and Sustainability Account for donations to the City of Milford and Authorizing Expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to accept the 2012 America the Beautiful Urban Forestry Grant in the amount of \$8,000.00 to be used for the project entitled "Urban Forestry Guided by Community Values and Engagement"; and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director, and Chair/Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the acceptance of this grant and implementation of the project.

Ald. Anderson noted the presence of the Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission and asked if he could provide a brief synopsis of the grant.

Mr. (Steve) Johnson stated this grant application was an opportunity for Milford to take advantage of some grants that are available. He also referenced the report which he stated references the challenges that exist. He stated this is an opportunity to build on those studies. Mr. Johnson stated the premise is to reach out and qualify those grants.

Ald. Giannattasio mentioned the trees that were lost during the recent storm and if these monies could replace those.

Mr. Johnson replied not with this grant. He stated this grant is specified to urban forestry in north Milford. He stated there are other programs outside of Eisenhower Park and the Solomon property.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request, per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated October 18, 2012, for the acquisition of proposed drainage easements on properties located at 395 Burnt Plains Road and "0" Robert Dennis Drive (Map 108, Block 836, Parcel 66AA), Milford, as shown on the maps, and to authorize the Mayor, Director of Public Works and/or City Engineer to sign any documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said easements.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Capital Improvement Plan 2012-2017 (per recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board at their meeting of October 16, 2012).

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Establishment of a City of Milford Assistance Account for Donations through the City of Milford and Authorizing Expenditures therefrom.

Ald. F. Smith commented he wished to be clear this Resolution differs from the earlier Resolution because it is disaster relief.

Mayor Blake stated this fund is designed to help victims of Storm Sandy. He stated there have been dozens and dozens of people from across the state seeking to make donations. He stated there is a fund with the United Way, but there are those who wish to donate directly to the City. He stated the funds will pay for those who need food, clothing, shelter, even diapers.

Ald. F. Smith noted the language in this Resolution is almost identical language to that Resolution in 8d. He stated this is part of the effort and item 8d is to economic development and for a check from the movie company that filmed here at City Hall.

Ald. Vitali questioned the new account. He stated there are already means available.

Mayor Blake stated 8d is specifically for those monies and 8i is for Storm Sandy.

Ald. Vitali expressed concern with the Fund 76 and wondered what would happen if a person attempts to tap that fund it would take the Mayor to authorize. He also expressed concern with policies and Ordinances. Ald. Vitali also asked about the process if a storm occurs on a Saturday night and someone needs immediate housing.

Mayor Blake cited as an example an incident which occurred last night where they sent someone to a hotel for housing. He explained the fund has a limit of \$2,000.

Ald. Vitali reiterated his concern someone would need housing, etc during the event and expressed concern as to the process and stated this seemed to be adding unnecessary layers for that fiduciary money.

Mayor Blake stated this fund will not required Board of Aldermen approval.

Ald. Vitali thanked the Mayor and applauded his efforts, but stated he was still skeptical as to an occurrence in the middle of the night and someone being available to assist that person or persons.

Ald. Anderson spoke to the points addressed by Ald. Vitali and stated he wished to offer an amendment adding an additional sentence to the last paragraph. Ald. Anderson moved to add the sentence “All funds received or disbursed from this account shall be reported to the Board of Aldermen on a regular basis.” He stated this language would follow the last sentence in the last paragraph.

Ald. Dickman seconded the motion.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the Board should be setting a limit or if restrictions were needed.

Ald. Anderson stated his amendment only adds a level of accountability. He stated he was not looking to tie the Mayor’s hands.

On the amendment, motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, 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. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #1, Fund 10, FY 13. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$22,877.61. 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 – no report.
- d. Claims Committee – no report
- e. Rules Committee – no report.
- f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

Chairman Vetro asked if any of the aldermen had a Report for any of the 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 – Ald. Nunno also thanked the Mayor and noted many departments are working with Human Services to help during this difficult time. He stated the department extended many of its services. They can be reached at 203-783-3253

Ald. Anderson also reminded everyone about the Storm Relief event this Saturday, November 10, 2012 at the Parson Gymnasium.

- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.

Ald. Vitali stated he would be remiss if he did not thank all of those departments who have worked so hard over the last week. He recognized the Public Works Director, Bruce Kolwicz and his department as well as Chief Keith Mello and the Police Department, the Fire Department and all of the neighbors who helped each other out. He also commended the Mayor for all of his work. He stated everyone came together as a community and we are all better for it.

14. Relative to Item 14 of the Agenda, “Executive Session”, I respectfully submit the following for your consideration and action.

Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any items 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.

Chairman Vetro stated he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to consider items 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d and 14e as follows:

(14a) Consideration of Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. Chairman Vetro stated the full Board along with the Mayor, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and Personnel Director would attend.

(14b) Status report and consideration of settlement of Stop & Shop Supermarket Company v. City of Milford, RE: 851 Bridgeport Avenue, 855 Bridgeport Avenue and 1360 East Town Road. Chairman Vetro stated the full Board, along with the Mayor, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and City Assessor would attend.

(14c) Status report and consideration of settlement of Connecticut CVS Pharmacy, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 989 Boston Post Road. Chairman Vetro stated the full Board, along with the Mayor, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and City Assessor would attend.

(14d) Status report and consideration of settlement of Brian McLaughlin v. City of Milford, RE: 315 Old Gate Lane. Chairman Vetro stated the full Board, along with the Mayor, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and City Assessor would attend.

(14e) Discussion concerning negotiations for the purchase of 701 North Street as recommended by the Golf Commission. Chairman Vetro stated the full Board along with the City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and Bill Healey representing the Golf Commission would attend.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would not be going into Executive Session for item 14a as that matter directly affected him.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Dickman made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss items 14a-e as announced by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. (The Personnel Director exited the Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. at which time Ald. Veccharelli and the City Assessor entered Executive Session.)

The City Assessor along with Mayor Blake exited Executive Session at 9:14 p.m., at which time Commissioner Healey from the Golf Commission entered Executive Session.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 9:39 p.m.

14a. Ald. Nunno and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 944, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion carried 13 yes (Anderson, Bier, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 abstention (Veccharelli).

14b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Stop & Shop Supermarket Company v. City of Milford, RE: 851 Bridgeport Avenue, 855 Bridgeport Avenue and 1360 East Town Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Connecticut CVS Pharmacy, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 989 Boston Post Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Brian McLaughlin v. City of Milford, RE: 315 Old Gate Lane, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary