

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2014**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
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

B. Bier
S. Fontana

Chairman Vetro deferred to Mayor Blake for a special presentation to Milford's Garden Club regarding the city's official flower adopted by the Board of Aldermen earlier in the year.

Mayor Blake stated the garden club held a contest in which there were three winners. First Place to Fran G., second place to Candace P. and third place to Liz Kennard.

Ms. Bunny stated as part of the 375th celebration they had hundreds of submissions for their contest. They can be found on their website.

Mayor Blake congratulated the winners and went on to read the proclamation.

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.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – been here in Milford since 1954. He went on to read an article that recently appeared in the newspaper. He also spoke about how taxes continue to go up and up and how difficult it is for many, especially those on a fixed income. He stated he will continue to fight for senior citizens. He wished the Board a Happy Holiday and good health.

B. Poutray – 25 Willow Street – chair of Milford Conservation Committee – stated he supported item 8b regarding the land manager. Open space acquisitions are not being depleted as has been said by some. Continued reading from a prepared statement in support of keeping this position. He also spoke of the work that has been done on numerous parcels in the city. He stated it would be preferable in his opinion to fund this position through the city's budget. He urged the board to support this.

D. Crego – 43 Gunn Street – also a member of the commission. He urged the Board to vote in favor of supporting his position.

B. Bell – 24 Winthrop Court – 375th anniversary. Years ago people came to Milford for the abundance of natural resources. She stated Milford is fortunate to have a steward who looks over Milford natural resources. She also stated this is a position that should be made permanent in the future.

A. Berman – Pelham Street - past chair environmental concerns coalition. Whatever the ECC wanted we always go support. It has always been my wish that we have an environment department. A lot of important decision is made on a regular basis. She stated Milford is fortunate to have Steve Johnson and urged the Board to support the item on tonight's agenda.

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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 6, 2014.

Chairman Vetro noted the following corrections: p. 5, 3rd paragraph down, the correct spelling of *Erodicti*. Also in the same sentence a typo, the word "*upon*." And in the same paragraph the word "*mandated*" should be removed and also the word "*cobra*" should read "*COLA*."

Motion carried with the corrections noted above.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he hoped everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving Holiday, He stated he wished everyone a happy holiday, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza. Enjoy and be safe.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated the Toys for Tots program is celebrating 49 years. He stated anyone can bring a new toy and drop it off at any of the fire houses. He also stated checks can be sent as well made out to "Toys for Tots."

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-8c)

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated November 19, 2014 to approve the sale of Old Point Road, Map 20, Block 254, Parcel exclusively to the abutting property owners at 36 and 44 Old Point Road with the condition that the parcel not be used as a separate building lot.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this was just being conveyed and the city realizing the taxes.

Attorney Berchem stated this is similar to the Colonial Avenue situation. Effectively it is an unbuildable lot and the owners will be splitting the lot.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it was the homeowners that contacted the city attorney's office.

Attorney Berchem replied yes, the property written request was made.

Ald. Casey asked if the property was currently categorized as open space.

Attorney Berchem stated it may fall in the open space catalogue but it is surrounded by various homes.

Mayor Blake stated Mr. Johnson is working on better defining "open space". He stated there are various types of open spaces areas so it is something the open space agent will likely come to this Board in the future to clearly define this.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated November 19, 2014 to use available funds in the amount of \$55,000 from the Open Space Fund, Account #0040-4142-0434, for the purpose of continuing the service of an Open Space and Natural Resource Agent; and to

authorize the Mayor and Finance Director to take all steps necessary for the continuation of such Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

Ald. Casey stated this position was created some time ago with grant money. He asked if that was still feasible.

Mayor Blake stated in the packet it lists some of those grants. The total tally associated with open space is above and beyond. This is one example of monies that justify this position, but above and beyond that we heard many people speak during public comment of the numerous initiatives of Mr. Johnson. Mayor Blake also stated it is important to protect and preserve the open space Milford has. He stated they are using the P&Z account because it allows for acquisition and maintenance.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was in support of this. He stated it was his understanding there was a time when Milford leased some property near the tennis club.

Mayor Blake stated the property near Key Hyundai was leased to them.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the other grants that were realized by Mr. Johnson and if they go into other open space accounts.

Mayor Blake stated the recent \$1.4 m grant would go into the general fund if this board so desires. That will come to your board in the future.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this account will pay for this position moving forward.

Mr. Erodici stated he could not speak to this in perpetuity but he stated the monies were available

Ald. Anderson stated he strongly was in favor of this. Spoke of a walk he took with Mr. Johnson back in the fall. He stated Mr. Johnson has done an extraordinary job with Milford's open space. He heard from a number of articulate individuals and we need to continue to fund this.

Ald. Vitali stated he was in favor of funding the salary, adding he has done a yeoman's job. He asked if the amounts of each of the open space accounts could be provided to the Board.

Mayor Blake stated Fund 0040 1234 has a balance of \$274,741 which account is where the monies are being drawn for this resolution. He stated there are several others open space fund accounts such as Mondo Ponds with a balance of \$27,102, Golf Course Open Space \$87,000 and several others.

Ald. Vitali asked if each of the funds has criteria in which the funds can be used.

Mayor Blake stated they require different approval, i.e. Mayor, BOA, golf, etc.

Ald. Vitali asked if the Planning and Zoning Board had to agree to this first,

Mayor Blake stated the recommendation came from Planning and Zoning.

Ald. Shaw commented the city has gotten more than it could imagine. She spoke of the value that has accrued from the creation of the position of Open Space and Natural Resource Agent and as a condition of that approval of use of open space funds to be used for the purpose of continuing the services of an Open Space and Natural Resource Agent. She stated this should not have to come before two boards each year.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion to recommend that the Mayor and Board of Finance place in the 2015-2016 budget the position of Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

Ald. Vitali commented “perception is reality.” He referred to the concerns of the public speaker regarding residents and stated now was not the time to add another position. He stated he would be in favor of keeping this as a grant for another year and then have further discussion at a later time.

Ald. Smith stated it isn’t always what you spend, but what you don’t spend. He stated he realized this Board would have this discussion again during budget time, but believed the intention of Ald. Shaw’s amendment recognizes the importance of this position that serves the community so well and expresses this Board’s position to make this permanent.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he agreed with Ald. Vitali that this continue to be funded through the Planning and Zoning open space account and that it certainly could be discussed down the road.

Ald. Stanford stated she was in favor of Ald. Shaw’s motion. She stated this Board was very careful in selecting the person for this position, adding he has done a yeoman’s job and it was time for this Board to give him a permanent position.

Ald. German stated Mr. Johnson has done a tremendous job and that he should continue to be funded through the open space account, but have further discussion down the road.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would like to see this as a permanent position and that he hopes the Mayor and Board of Finance will recommend it in their budget. He stated this individual is doing a tremendous job and has brought millions of dollars to Milford and helping so many partners in our city. He stated he would like to see this person become a member of the family of the City of Milford where he has permanent position. He stated he hoped this position would be in the upcoming budget.

Ald. Casey asked about expenditures in the past year or two.

Mr. Erodici stated there have been no other expenditures for the past several \years to his knowledge.

Ald. Casey commented the Board should continue to fund this position and continue on the course they are taking right now,

Ald. Giannattasio commented the Board is in agreement it wants to support the position, but it is just a matter of how.

Chairman Vetro stated Mr. Johnson has done a tremendous job. He stated this is his second year and it would be a more comfortable fit if this were funded by a budgeted position and not open space. He stated he was in favor of the amendment.

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

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 2 (Wastewater Computer System Upgrade).

Ald. German asked where this was coming for.

Mayor Blake stated the monies come from the Wastewater fund.

Mr. Erodici explained it is a Fund 12 – sewer account. He explained this is an unassigned account as compared with an assigned account.

Ald. Vitali asked if the monies were for terminals and a whole computer system for Wastewater.

Mr. Cooper stated it is for 8 computers that run each of the plants, including alarms, shut downs, etc. He spoke of the computer life.

Ald. Vitali asked if it was for both hardware and software and if it had gone out to bid.

Mr. Cooper stated no.

Ald. Anderson suggested some alternate dates to tour the wastewater treatment plants.

Mr. Cooper stated they are open 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Ald. German asked the amount in the reserve fund.

Mr. Erodici stated the current balance is \$259,549 in equipment reserve.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if they had gone out to bid.

Mr. Cooper replied no.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there was an urgency to get this done.

Mr. Cooper stated they have had several terminals fail.

Ald. Vitali asked why the proposal amount was for \$90,000. He suggested they wait to see how the bids come in.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it could be less than \$90,000

Mayor Blake 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 \$5,900.55

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$5,900.55. 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. Ald. Smith stated it was the Committee's unanimous decision to postpone both and convene another meeting of the Ordinance Committee in the coming month.

Ald. Giannattasio asked when this meeting might take place.

Ald. Smith stated it should be before the January meeting or possibly that same night.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if those on the list distributed tonight could be notified so they could attend.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he hoped before the Ordinance Committee meets that the city attorney could render some type of decision as to whether or not this is a voluntary for those on this list or whether grant money could be used to move these properties into the state or federal program. Can these individuals voluntarily opt out.

Attorney Berchem stated by law a property cannot be listed if the homeowner does not wish to be considered. He went on to read that section of the law.

- 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 – Ald. Anderson reported they have opened up the housing list and noted there are income guidelines.

- 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. Kubek stated the Humans Services Department is looking for people to adopt a family. She provided each of the aldermen with a flyer. She stated they are also accepting monetary donations as well. She stated if any of the aldermen know of any families that require assistance to contract the department

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

Ald. Anderson reported regarding 375th celebration that they would have commemorative items for sale on December 13.

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 for item 14a would be the full Board, Mayor and City Attorney. For items 14b and 14c, Chairman Vetro stated, the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney and Assessor would enter Executive Session.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would be recusing himself as he is a retired firefighter.

Ald. Anderson 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 8:59 p.m.

Note: Ald. Veccharelli entered Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Note: Mr. Thomas and Ald. Veccharelli exited Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:22 p.m.

14a. Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to accept Consideration of Pension 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 12 yes (Anderson, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 recused (Veccharelli).

14b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to accept the Property Tax Payment Agreement between the City of Milford and Milford Power Company, LLC, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Settlement of Louise Partners, et al v. City of Milford Re: 1799 Boston Post Road in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:24 p .m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Kennedy Huber", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Kennedy Huber
Recording Secretary