

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
E. Beatty
K. Fortunati
C. Gaynor
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
J. Grant
M. Hardiman
F. Smith
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
S. Fournier, Mayor's Assistant
J. Rohrig, City Clerk
P. Erodicti, Finance Director

Excused

D. German

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.

Curran Bishop - 51 Housatonic Avenue – spoke regarding the parking measure that was adopted at the last Board of Aldermen meeting. He stated there was an aspect of the discussion he wanted to bring attention to, specifically very large vehicles and to make sure those types of vehicles can be parked legally. He continued reading from a prepared statement.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on November 8, 2018.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 8, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting. None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro extended everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated he hope everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving as we head into the holiday season with warm spirits. Mayor Blake recognized his assistant, Steve Fournier who was retiring after 7 years in the Mayor's Office and 37 years with the Milford Police Department. Mayor Blake stated Steve had invested his career in public service and asked the Board to join him in wishing Steve well in his well deserved retirement.

Mayor Blake stated he would ask the Board's consideration for items 8a-8c. He stated he would be happy to answer questions as they come up.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between Corporation Service Company ("CSC") and the City of Milford for the purpose of electronic recording on the Milford Land Records and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the Memorandum of Understanding between Stratford Health Department and the Milford Health Department for mutual aid for surge capacity and public health preparedness and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and Health Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. 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 27, 2018, for the acceptance of the Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2019-2023.

Ald. Vitali commented about school improvements, specifically roofs, windows, etc. He stated there are six (6) elementary schools with a current enrollment below 300 students. He also pointed to the enrollment in the middle schools that has seen a decrease as well. He stated there seems to be no plan in place from the Board of Education, a plan he has asked for several times. He stated it was difficult to vote on additional improvements to schools when there was no plan in place and enrollment continues to decline. He cited Milford's total school enrollment at 5,593 students. He stated it is time to think differently and smarter. He stated he would not be in favor of the plan for the Board of Education.

Mayor Blake explained the annual 5-year Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP") does not commit this Board to one penny of money spent, but that it is simply a planning tool. He stated before any monies are spent for the Board of Education they would come before this Board for bonding. He reiterated the plan before the Board is simply a planning tool and makes the city eligible for grants, etc. He invited the Board to speak with the Board of Education regarding their long term goals. Mayor Blake added this plan gives some sense of where planning lies.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it is best practice with the CIP to reevaluate what is on it and get a cost update.

Mr. Erodici stated this makes the city eligible for grants. He also stated the financial reporting and rating agencies also look to this report and that it is best practice to have the plan in place.

Ald. Giannattasio asked who the responsibility falls on for putting the plan together.

Mr. Erodici stated it is not his direct responsibility, but that he is a part of it. He stated when the city does apply for grants it is important those agencies, such as LOSCIP see these items in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Ald. Giannattasio stated there are items that carry over year after year. He mentioned the police department. He asked when the numbers are updated for these proposed projects.

Mayor Blake stated all departments are asked to update their CIP forms each year and if there are changes in costs they are asked to update those numbers. Regarding the police department, the costs proposed were substantially over budget for this project. Mayor Blake also pointed out there are always fiscal restraints a city or any business must abide by. He stated this is a planning tool and it comes with fiscal responsibility and a balance that must be struck.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was simply looking for an up to date plan. He stated with regard to the police department it did go out to bid. He stated this package needs to be adjusted to reflect the current costs for construction for a police department. He stated those numbers are not currently reflected.

Mayor Blake corrected Ald. Giannattasio and pointed out this project did not go out to bid. He stated the number in the CIP is much closer to the cost of a new police station. He stated this was updated in 2009 and then again in 2015 to reflect the cost of construction, FF&E and design of a new police station.

Ald. Giannattasio asked when this would be revisited again.

Mayor Blake stated it would be in conjunction with the charge of the building committee.

Ald. Grant asked about the Tumblebrook Flood study, he referenced recent flooding in Milford. He stated if a study like this is done, it should be all throughout Milford, especially the shoreline area.

Ald. Vitali asked about bonding and what they look at, especially due to the significant decline in enrollment in the schools.

Mr. Erodici stated the rating agencies do long at the CIP, but they realize it is the product of numerous departments. He stated they realize the CIP is a planning tool. Mr. Erodici stated they also look at previous bonding as well.

Ald. Anderson wanted it known that the Flax Mill Lane bridge replacement work is well underway and asked if additional details could be provided to the Board.

Mayor Blake stated the Flax Mill Lane Bridge is part of a State DOTD project. He explained the reimbursement. Mayor Blake stated the project should be done in the next month.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there is any projects of urgency on the CIP.

Mayor Blake stated the digesters at the Wastewater Plants would come before this Board sooner than later. He stated the removal of wastewater materials from the tanks would also be taken into consideration for this project. He stated at this point it is the removal and diagnosis which is the most recent recommendation of the Sewer Commission

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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$99,991.38. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee

Ald. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier in the evening to consider An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation, Article I, In General Sections 16-1 and 16-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford. (Building Fires or Cooking Food on Public Beaches Prohibited and Prohibited Activities on Public Recreational Areas. He stated this is an Ordinance that brings into conformance areas in the Fowler Field area and brings it into conformance with

existing parks in Milford. He pointed out what has been added to the Ordinance. He stated this Ordinance was forwarded to the full Board of Aldermen unanimously from the Ordinance Committee.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Parks and Recreation, Article I, In General, Sections 16-1 and 16-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford. (Building Fires or Cooking Food on Public Beaches Prohibited and Prohibited Activities on Public Recreational Areas).

Ald. Veccharelli expressed concern with the inclusion of the boat ramp. He stated if it were included it would make it subject to the closing hours.

Mayor Blake pointed out if you look further on in the Ordinance; even though it may be within the boundary of the park there is a sub-section that deals with the boat launch area that is governed by Section 16-97.

Ald. Giannattasio commented there are so many moving parts; he did not feel this could be called a park.

Mayor Blake stated this is simply a housekeeping matter that clarifies the hours of the park which is spelled out in all other language. He also mentioned the baseball fields that have hours set, the tennis courts, the pavilion, which is determined a license agreement, etc. There was some ambiguity as to where Wilcox Park stopped.

Ald. Giannattasio commented about history and tradition. He asked if the neighbors were notified and if they were aware of this becoming a park.

Mayor Blake clarified the designation and pointed out the meets and bounds had not changed.

Ald. Giannattasio stated his concern his the change as far as all that happens done there, especially with parking.

Mayor Blake stated events would not be affected by this designation.

Ald. Anderson stated his concern is with the roadway system, specifically a roadway that goes through a designated park. He asked if there would be any changes.

Mayor Blake stated there have been discussions, but no specific discussions. He spoke of a grant they received from the realtors' association for a study. Mayor Blake stated road reconfiguration is not on any priority list at this point.

Ald. Veccharelli pointed to the second to last page, number 13 where it appears "b" was added. He stated at one point there were grills, similar to that of a hibachi grill, then suddenly they disappeared. He stated he has asked in the past what happened to those, but he has not had a response. He stated the new language needs to be addressed.

Mayor Blake stated this language has been in this Ordinance since 1962.

Ald. Veccharelli stated it is his intention and continues to be his intention to get those grills back and that someone took them out and did away with them.

Director Piscitelli stated the original Section 16-1 specifically prohibits cooking or having a fire on the beach, adding it would create a public safety hazard.

Ald. Grant expressed concern with language, specifically Sec. 16-2 (a) (3). He stated his concern would be not being able to having animals in the parking area behind the library and also the boat ramp.

Mayor Blake stated there are other provisions in this and others.

Director Piscitelli stated animals are not allowed on the tennis courts, ballfields, basketball courts, etc.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about Sec. 16-2 (a) 10. He asked if someone has a pistol permit they still would not be allowed into a park. He also asked about the language, "with a special permit from the Recreation Department. . ."

Attorney Berchem stated he would need to obtain more information to provide a concrete answer.

Ald. Vitali expressed concern with enforcement and the timing and the ability to be out of the park at a specific time. He stated he felt more thought needed to go into this and he had concerns with loitering. He reiterated he believe enforcement would be difficult.

Ald. Vitali stated he would like to make a motion to postpone. Ald. Giannattasio stated he would second the motion for the reasons brought up by Ald. Vitali and Ald. Veccharelli.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 9 no (Anderson, Beatty, Fortunati, Golden, Hardiman, Smith, Sutton, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 yes (Gaynor, Giannattasio, Grant, Tranquilli, Vitali).

On the main motion, 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. – 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.

Ald. Anderson commented on the recent passing of President George Bush calling him a Statesman, who was bipartisan, selfless, and a man who made the United States proud. He thanked Chairman Vetro for the moment of silence earlier in the evening.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary