

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2019**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019 in the Ald.ic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:57 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
K. Fortunati
D. German
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
P. Erodici, Finance Director
J. Rohrig, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused

E. Beatty
C. Gaynor

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.

Barry Bonessi, 157 Gulf Street, stated that Milford is a beautiful historic city and he is concerned with the number of trees being cut down around the City. He stated that he was told they were being cut down by UI. Mr. Bonessi stated he has lived on Gulf Street for 26 years and during that time only experienced 2 outages during major storm events. He further stated he was not happy with the handling of the Gulf Street project.

Mark Shaw, Board Chairman, AAA Northeast, stated he is involved with the opening of the Milford AAA location. He stated that AAA's have consolidated with there being over 6,000,000 members in

the territory. Mr. Shaw discussed the difficulties in find companies to provided services and need for AAA to provide those services.

Richard Smith, 59 Sixth Avenue, spoke in regard to the Gulf Street project and reminded the Board of Aldermen they voted for bonding approximately two years ago. He also commented on letters that were sent to the Gulf Street residents. Mr. Smith also stated that when trees are taken down residents can ask that a new tree be replanted.

Mark Vasilescu, 26 Munston Street, stated there a many other locations in Milford with easy access to I95. He further stated that drivers will not just use Rowe Avenue and that Munson Avenue is used as a cut-through all the time. He does not feel it will be safe with the AAA building.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 6, 2019

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 6, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro reminded everyone that June is dog registration month. He also wished all the dad's a happy father's day. Chairman Vetro also commented on the recent passing of former State Representative Richard (Dick) Roy.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake thank Chairman Vetro for recognizing the passing of former State Representative Richard (Dick) Roy.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) John R. Grady, Jr., 5 Timber Trail, 06460, as an alternate member of the Pension and Retirement Board to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/21). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the the appointment of (R) Tad Weinstein, 330 Merwin Avenue B2, 06460, as a member of the Milford Government

Access Television Committee (MGAT) to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/20). Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the the appointment of (D) Richard Smith, 59 Sixth Avenue, 06460, as Milford's representative to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District Representative Policy Board (term expiring 6/30/22).

Ald. Smith stated he would be recusing himself from voting as Richard Smith is his brother.

Motion carried 12 in favor, one recusal (Smith).

(8d) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Vincent R. Zelinsky, 130 Oxford Road, 06460, as a member of the Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/19). Motion carried unanimously.

(8e) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to pursuant to CGS §8-24, (i) to authorize the Skyview-Milford, LLC, its affiliates, designees and/or assignees to site, own, operate and maintain a solar array at the Margaret Egan Center, (ii) to authorize all steps necessary to effectuate the installation and operation of such solar arrays, including, without limitation, granting an access license for the building and signing all documents, and (iii) to authorize the Mayor, or his designee, to take all steps necessary to effectuate the installation and operation of such solar arrays, including signing all documents.

Ald. German asked about projections of cost savings. Mayor Blake stated this is apt of the Mircogrid for the downtown although it is located at the Egan Center.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion following the approval of the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to approve the abandonment of a the extension of William Street (a paper street), and to authorize the City Attorney and Mayor to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said abandonment. The City shall retain storm drain and sanitary sewer easements pursuant to the City Engineers recommendations dated May 1, 2019.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he spoke with several people including Attorney Knott. He stated he thought if the fence was moved further into the property and carried over through the portion of William Street to be abandoned that this might make everyone happy.

Ald. Golden stated she meet with neighbors together with Ald. Grant and Justin Rosen and they walked the property. She stated this is a dumping ground and it is close to the neighborhood. She further stated the neighbors are concerned about noise and light pollution.

Ald. Grant thanked the residents for speaking during the public hearing. He further stated he appreciates the idea of moving the fence 30 feet into the property. Ald. Grant said he would like to

see the property developed with trees with more of a buffer. He further stated he cannot support this request as there is a quality of life and public health issue.

Ald. Vitali stated he took a ride by the property and asked if they would be willing to negotiate. He feels AAA needs to sit down with the neighbors and discuss what would be agreeable to all parties. He further stated he does not see this being voted on favorably as presented.

Ald. Anderson thanked the residents for coming out to speak. He stated he noticed that Munson Street is a pass-through. He asked if AAA had an idling policy and stated he would like to see a copy as well as make it available to the residents. He asked how many bays are planned and what the training bay will be used for. Mark Shaw stated there are 4 bays, 1 used only for training. He also stated that the bay doors will be closed and that AAA makes every attempt to be as green as possible. Ald. Anderson asked about the abandonment with a condition that it not be built on. Attorney Knott stated that might be possible together with incorporating landscaping. Ald. Anderson stated he is not prepared to vote tonight and would like to have a tour of the property and speak with the neighbors.

Ald. German asked if the parking spaces were the minimum required for the size of the building. Attorney Knott stated there are more and they are needed for the number of vehicles. He further stated that spaces in parking lot A extend beyond the area Ald. Veccharelli discussed and that 10 spaces could be eliminated to create additional buffer space. Ald. German asked about trees. Attorney Knott stated he was discussing proposed landscaping at the end of William Street.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is not sure this is the best place for AAA based on neighbors comments. He commented on the parking and asked how vehicles will get out. Mark Shaw stated the stacked parking is for vehicles not in service. Ald. Giannattasio stated something is not adding up, if customer vehicles cannot be fixed in the field they will be towed to this service center. Mark Shaw stated the center is for AAA only and customers' vehicles will be towed to an offsite service center of the customer's choice. Ald. Giannattasio asked if AAA was getting in the towing business. Mark Shaw stated they are already in the towing business. Ald. Giannattasio asked for an explanation of the service bays. Mark Shaw stated they are for servicing and maintaining fleet vehicles. Ald. Giannattasio stated there is a lot going on and if AAA is not willing to decrease the size it will be problematic and a nuisance to the neighborhood.

Ald. Sutton asked what vehicle would be serviced at the location. Mark Shaw stated only the vehicles assigned to this location.

Ald. Veccharrelli stated AAA needs to go back and review what can be left for trees. He stated that someone else could come in a build as of right on the property and the neighbors would be less happy than if AAA were to build. He suggested AAA and the neighbors come up with a workable solution.

Ald. Golden stated she would like to be on record as against this request.

Ald. Fortunati stated she is not prepared to vote this evening. She further stated there needs to be communication between AAA and the neighbors. Ald. Fortunati asked for a policy to restrict vehicles on Munson Street.

Ald. Vitali stated there needs to be negotiations and he would like to see a new site plan with adjustments and input from the neighbors.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to postpone the item. Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion following the approval of the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to approve a utility easement on 395 Welches Point Road, owned by the City of Milford, in favor of 411 Welches Point Road and to authorize the City Attorney and Mayor to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said abandonment. Motion carried 11 in favor (Fortunati, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vetro and Vitali), 2 against (Anderson, Veccharelli).

(8h) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve a Contract Amendment between the City of Milford and the State of Connecticut, Office of Early Childhood and to authorize the Mayor and Health Director to take all steps necessary, including the signing of all document, to effectuate said contract amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(8i) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the sale of certain delinquent tax and sewer use liens to a third party in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12-195h and 7-258 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The minimum sales price shall be the full amount due the City. The Mayor, in consultation with the City Attorney, Finance Director, and/or the Tax Collector is authorized to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said delinquent tax and sewer use liens sale.

Ald. German asked when the list will come out and will it exempt elderly and disabled. Mayor Blake stated the list is always changing and the sale is identical to the sale that has happened every two years. He further stated the list is vetted and where there is a known hardship it is removed.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8j) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Program – 2019.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why this was not included in the original agenda and added as an addendum. Mayor Blake stated it was an oversight. He further stated this is required for non-profit grants and there had been a delay with the list.

Julie Nash, Community Development Director, stated this is a good program and the City is a pass through for the grant funds. Ald. Grant asked how this will affect the Audubon. Ms. Nash stated it is for an energy efficiency program.

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:

a. Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers: None

11. Refunds:

a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$ 13,708.65. 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:

- 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.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", with a horizontal line above it.

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary