

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 via video / teleconference Zoom meeting. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:30 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

C. Gaynor
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
G. Harla
S. Marlow
M. Parente
F. Smith
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
N. Sutton
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused

E. Beatty

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the Board of Aldermen regular meeting. He reviewed how the meeting will be conducted via Zoom and guidelines to be followed. He further stated a recording of the meeting will be available on the City's website.

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.

Chairman Vetro stated that letters had been received from the following individuals and that the letters had been provided electronically to the Aldermen and were available for viewing on the City's website.

Kim Thompson, Secretary, Walnut Beach Association, 6 Stowe Avenue.
Karen Collins, 56 Flora Street.

12a-3. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$1,995,000 for the Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Waste Water Facilities and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,995,000 Bonds of the City to meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the making of Temporary Borrowings for such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements - 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

(8h) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various School Improvements - 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

(8i) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Waste Water Facilities 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

(8j) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve, per the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated January 25, 2021 pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the purchase of 1 Tutor Road a/k/a O Old Point Road, and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said purchase.

Ald. Gaynor stated she is in favor of the purchase and believes it is good for the City. She asked if there are plans for the property beyond the structure. Ald. Gaynor asked if there was a way to ensure the 9 acres would not be sold and remained available for the community's use. Mayor Blake stated the vision for the property is recreational purposes. He discussed Boys & Girls Club and their attempt to purchase the property a few years ago. Mayor Blake stated the City is looking to partner with Boys & Girls Club in utilizing the property. Mayor Blake also discussed potential use by Pumpkin Delight School as swing space during renovations.

Ald. F. Smith stated he supported the purchase and the community's need for space. Ald. W Smith also expressed his support of the purchase and asked if a commitment could be made that the property not be parceled off. Mayor Blake state the property will not be used for development and his vision of the property being used for youth recreation and community activities.

Ald. Vitali stated his support for the purchase and that this is an important purchase for this area. He asked Mayor Blake if he know the size of the gym and number of classrooms. Mayor Blake stated he has walked the building and the gym is larger than those in the elementary schools with a full-size stage. He stated he was not certain of the exact number of classrooms. Mayor Blake stated that when open St .Gabriel's hosted approximately 300 student.

Ald. Giannattasio stated his congratulations to the negotiating team for a job well done He believes his is a good purchase and more than fair purchase price. He stated this purchase checks all the boxes and he expressed his desire to see a turf field constructed in this area. Ald. Giannattasio also stated he would like to see seniors have access to the facility and asked what would need to be done to the building to bring it up to code in order to used. Mayor Blake stated an assessment had been completed approximately two years ago. He discussed some small repairs that are required and stated the building overall is in good condition. Mayor Blake stated there will some upkeep required and that \$200 has been allocated in the bonding for this purpose.

Nancy Iddings, 136 Housatonic Drive.
Wendy L. Terenzio, President, Walnut Beach Association, 24 Ard Court.
Laura A. Ambrogio, Member, Walnut Beach Association, 24 Ard Court.
Laura Margus, 40 Park Avenue.
Geoff Viscount, 59 Chatham Avenue.
Erik Johnson, 40 Benson Street.
Shelly Buynak, address unknown.
Penny Vasilas, 111 Broadway.
Frances Breban, 32 Morning Mist Road.
Caraly, Michael, Cole and Drew Schulze, 100 Sea Flower Road.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 4 2021.

Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattsio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro asked that everyone stay safe with the snow and that they help their neighbors who may need assistance with snow removal. He also wished everyone a happy Valentines Day.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake echoed the sentiments of Chairman Vetro. He asked that everyone do their best to stay off the roads until they are cleared by public works. Mayor Blake provided information on the vaccination clinics and announced that the City has partnered with Yale provide more clinic for our residents. He thanked Deepa Joseph, Health Director and her staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic. Mayor commented on the bonding ordinances before the Board this evening. He stated typically the Board approves \$30 million each year. He stated the bonding packing this evening is approximately \$17 million and that it is anticipated that bonding will come back to the Board later this year for the Pumpkin Delight project. Mayor Blake asked the Board approval for items 8a though 8l.

(6a) Mayor Blake announced the following mayoral appointments:

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the appointment of (R) Emily Sopchak, 52 Dogwood Place, 06460, as a member of the Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31 /21). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the appointment of (U) Walter Ortoleva, 244 Seaside Avenue, 06460, as an alternate member of the Milford Historic District No. 2 South of the Green to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 1/1/22). Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Grant Application for Department of Human Services

Ald. Vitali asked the amount of the grant. Mayor Blake stated the next 3 items are standard resolutions the Board approved each year. Deepa Joseph, Health Director stated the grant is approximately \$17,000 and varies year to year. She further stated the Youth and Family Services grant is approximately \$30,000 and also varies year to year. Ms. Joseph stated item 8e is a pass through grant with Good Shepherd being the subgrantee. She stated this grant is approximately \$1 million.

Motion carried 13 in favor (Gaynor, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Harla, Marlow, Parente, F. Smith, W. Smith, Tranquilli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis) 1 unable to vote due to technical difficulties (Sutton).

(8d) Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Grant Application for Youth and Family Services Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

(8e) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion for the approval of a Resolution Re: Grant Application for Office of Early Childhood. Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion for the approval of Allocation Transfer #4 (Marina Repairs and Memorial Garden). Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro stated at this time he would entertain a motion to reorder the agenda to bring items 12a-1, 12a-2 and 12-3 forward.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward items 12a-1, 12a-2 and 12a-3. Motion carried unanimously.

12a-1. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$12,732,000 for Various Public Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$12,732,000 Bonds of the City to meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the making of Temporary Borrowings for such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

12a-2. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$2,750,000 for Various School Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,750,000 Bonds of the City to meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the making of Temporary Borrowings for such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8k) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Freezing of Sick Leave Benefit Payor for William Garfield, Recreation Director. Motion carried unanimously.

(8l) Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Request of Public Assistance Tropical Storm Isaias. 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. Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Refunds in the amount of \$13,879.72. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee –
- 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. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Veterans Ceremony & Parade Commission – no report
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fine Arts – no report
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Liaison - Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Liaison - Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Board of Health – no report.

- o. Liaison – Human Services Commission – no report.
- p. Liaison Sub-Committee - Pension & Retirement Board – no report
- q. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.
- r. Liaison – Economic Development Commission – no report.
- s. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Arts Council – no report.
- t. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Progress, Inc.
- u. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fire Commission
- v. Liaison Sub-Committee – Police Commission
- w. Permanent School Facilities Building Committee

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. Giannattasio and Ald. Sutton made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary