

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2022**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022, in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. 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

M. Arciuolo
B. Broesder
M. Casey
A. Giannattasio
G. Harla
S. Marlow
J. Moffitt
H. Mulrenan (joined at 8:07 p.m.)
R. Pacelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

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

Excused:

E. Beatty
D. German
M. Parente

Mayor Blake congratulated and presented a proclamation to Milford's Mojo and Milford's Marvelous Masterminds for their recent accomplishments and awards in the 2021/2022 robotics competition.

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.

Deanna Jacobs, 14 Darina Place, discussed muscle car events taking place in downtown and the noise and hazards created by such event.

Tanner Gleason, 89 Naugatuck Avenue, read from a prepared statement concerning recent events at Walnut Beach. He discussed parking fees in surrounding towns and resident parking.

Sen. James Maroney, 22 Saranac Road, congratulated the robotic teams on their achievements. Sen. Maroney discussed the Founders' Walk plan and grant-in-aid to be approved this evening.

Andrew King, 32 Cedarhurst Lane, discussed concerning recent crime events in the City and the need for additional police officers.

Jeffrey Parkin, 5 Francis Street, discussed the need for additional police officers and the recent budget vote against adding additional officers.

Terry Smith, 90 Snow Apple Lane, discussed parking and traffic safety issues in the Orchard Hills School area. She also commented on rising crime and the non-funding of additional police officers.

Jolyn Walker, 678 Wheelers Farm Road, spoke in favor of anti-racist training within the City. She discussed recent events to raise funding under her husband's name without her consent.

Walter Hagedorn, 61 Judith Drive, spoke regarding the need for additional police officers as requested by the Police Chief. He commented on the increase of crime.

Jennifer Murphy, 78 East Broadway, spoke regarding increase in crime. She stated the police department should be the number one investment and asked that additional of police officers be revisited.

Leigh Lepper, 54 Nicole Drive, discussed overbuilding in Milford. He discussed rising crime and the need for additional police officers.

Bill Bevan, 23 Merlin Circle, read from Section 6 of the City Charter concerning legislative powers.

Curt Anderson, 60 Audubon Close, discussed approved vendors for condominium trash and recycling reimbursement.

Ken Fellenbaum, 82 Forest Road, spoke regarding the addition of police officers and the increase of population and visitors to the City.

Cheryl Smith, 53 Pomona Avenue, spoke concerning safety at the beach and the need for additional police officers.

Jeanne Cavallaro, 109 Seamens Lane, Unit 25, President of Milford Condominium Coalition, spoke concerning increase in trash and recycling reimbursement for condominiums.

Wendy Terenzio, 24 Ard Court, President Walnut Beach Association, spoke concerning recent events at Walnut Beach and the need to address such events.

Nancy Burke, 75 Milford Point Road, discussed recent events at Walnut Beach and echoed comments of other speakers. She spoke in favor of increased police presence.

Caryn Pertoso, 60 Stowe Avenue, discussed recent events at Walnut Beach and encouraged enforcement, including a police presence.

Simon, McDonald, 35 Wood Avenue, spoke against the addition of police officers.

Susan Patrick, 660 Gulf Street, discussed improvements to the Walnut Beach area. She discussed recent events and the ability to track and diffuse via social media.

John Drapp, 41 Jackson Drive, stated his experience as a criminal defense attorney. He stated Chief Mello is held in high esteem and provided crime statistics.

Phil Lorenzo, 121 Oak Ridge Lane, spoke concerning the inequity in trash and recycling reimbursements for certain condominium associations.

Ald. Arciuolo requested a 5-minute recess. Chairman Vetro recessed at 8:44 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on May 2, 2022.

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 3, 2022, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Organizational Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications

Chairman Vetro wished all father's a happy father's days and commented on the success of this weekend's activities.

Ald. Giannattasio asked Chairman Vetro if he received an email from Jolyn Walker. Chairman Vetro commented it was never received. Ald. Giannattasio commented that in the past Chairman Vetro has forwarded emails to the full Board.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Blake announced the appointment of Rev. Jake Miles Joseph (D), Pearl Hill Street, as a member of Milford's Redevelopment and Housing Partnership to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 11/30/26). Mayor Blake asked the Board for their consideration of agenda items 8a-8h. Mayor Blake stated there was much discussion concerning the police department and discussions during budget sessions. He discussed some crimes are up and others are down. Mayor Blake discussed retooling in the police department to address such crimes. He discussed hardening of entrances and monitoring at Walnut Beach.

Ald. Vitali discussed increases to the police budget. He stated he was at Walnut Beach and the extremely large number of people on the pier. Ald. Vitali discussed changes that should be made to deter such activities.

Mayor Blake discussed the hiring of parking enforcement officers and other positions that will be filled soon within the police department.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked Mayor Blake for the updated. He discussed public comment and the response by hiring 4 parking attendants. Ald. Giannattasio asked for the police chief to attend the next meeting to discuss recent events and responses thereto.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Harla and Ald. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Dylan Mark, 48 Knobb Hill Road, 06460, as a member of the Harbor Commission to fill the present vacancy (term expiring 12/31/26). Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the reappointment 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 6/30/25). Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Advisory Services Agreement between Mesirow Financial Investment Management, Inc. and the City of Milford and to authorize the Mayor and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

(8d) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached License Agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the City of Milford and to authorize the Mayor and Fire Chief to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for a brief background of the agreement. Capt. Kyle Wengenroth stated the agreement allows for use of the state radio system. He stated that Bridgeport is part of the City's mutual and without the change the department will be unable to communicate. The agreement allows the City to program to the state frequency to communicate. Ald. Casey asked status of communicating with Bridgeport. Capt. Wengenroth stated the department is currently unable to communicate with Bridgeport. Ald. Casey asked if approved timing for programming. Capt. Wengenroth stated that programming can take place immediately upon signing the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8e) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the acceptance of a grant-in-aid in the amount of \$750,000 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for the creation of a safe walkway along the Wepawaug River underneath the railroad crossing and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works Director, Finance Director and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant and acquisition.

Ald. Vitali asked for a timeline on obtaining the grant and completion of the project. Mayor Blake stated this is the first step accepting the funding. He stated a design team will then be selected and will prepare bid documents. Ald. Marlow asked if funding will be placed in a separate account. Mayor Blake stated it will and that until the work is completed the exact cost is unknown. He stated there should be sufficient funding with not contribution required at this time. Should additional funding be needed it will come to the Board for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the acceptance of a grant-in-aid in the amount of \$1,500,000 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to redesign the roadway and parking lots at Wilcox Park and Founders Walk and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works Director, Finance Director and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant-in-aid.

Ald. Giannattasio discussed presentation by Sen. Maroney and parking spaces and safety benefits. He stated those are most important features and would like assurances those will be part of the project.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Wilcox Park and Founders Walk Grant-In-Aid.

Ald. Marlow asked if the cash advance will allow for a request for proposal to be generated. Mayor Blake stated it should go out quickly but as state funded there are regulations that must be followed. Ald. Marlow stated that both projects will be great benefit.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8h) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the attached Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Wepawaug River Walk Grant-In-Aid. 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.

Ald. Giannattasio requested police chief attend the next meeting to discuss public safety. Mayor Blake stated he will invite the police chief or another member to attend. Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey asked to put it to a vote for public confidence.

Chairman Vetro called a recess @ 9:27 p.m.

Board reconvened at 9:32 p.m.

Ald. Arcioulo stated as chair of the Public Safety Committee he will invite Chief Mello to the next meeting to discuss public safety. Ald. Giannattasio stated he feels inviting the police chief is best practice.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approved Budget Memo Transfers #9 and #10 Fund(s) 1005 and 2812. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

11a. Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$37,934.36. 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. 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. – no report.
- u. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fire Commission – no report.
- v. Liaison Sub-Committee – Police Commission – no report.
- w. Permanent School Facilities Building Committee – 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.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks

Recording Secretary