

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, September 12, 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  
E. Beatty  
M. Casey  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
G. Harla  
S. Marlow  
J. Moffitt  
H. Mulrenan  
R. Pacelli  
M. Parente  
P. Vetro  
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
J. Berchem, City Attorney  
K. Fortunati, City Clerk

Excused:

R. Vitali

Mayor Blake introduced softball champions for Little League World series. He stated it has been 15 years since a Connecticut team has made it to the World Series and this year Milford had 2 teams. Mayor Blake provided proclamation to Junior Girls Softball League and Little League 12U All Star. The State delegation. Sen. Maroney, State Rep. Kennedy and Smith presented citations to both teams.

Chairman Vetro announced a recess at 7:51 p.m.  
Chairman Vetro reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

## 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.

Rachel Merla, 90 Dart Hill Road, provided a written statement on behalf of All in for Milford. She provided a brief summary of the group. Ms. Merla discussed accessory dwelling units (ADU's) and the opt out. Asked for the discussion to continue to support ADU's and new regulations and asked that the B

Mary Dalton, spoke regarding assistance she was provided as a divorced/single mother. She discussed condominium garbage reimbursement and the expense. Ms. Dalton encouraged amending the ordinance to include all condos.

Jean Cavallaro, 109 Seemans Lane, Unit 25, also representing Milford Coalition, stated she has many ideas and would like an invitation to meet and discuss with City representatives.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on August 1, 2022.

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 1, 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 a happy Fall.

## 6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Blake requested the Board's action on items 8a-f.

## 7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Claire Casey, 86 Governors Avenue, 06460 as a member of the Conservation Commission to fill the present vacancy, term to expire 12/31/23. Motion carried unanimously.

(8b) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA) Between the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) and the City of Milford and to authorize, the Mayor, City Attorney and Flood Plain Administrator to take all steps necessary to effectuate said Agreement, including the signing of all documents.

Ald. Giannattasio asked with a storm resiliency improvements resulted in a better rate for flood insurance. Mayor Blake stated almost all towns and cities participate in the flood program with only a handful participating in the community rating system. He stated a 10% discount is provided to property owners and the program requires this approval each year to maintain good standing. Joseph Griffith, Director of DPLU and Flood Plain Administrator stated the rating is based on 70 factors. He provided a brief summary of the rating system. Ald. Giannattasio asked if there are any storm resiliency projects that are waiting to be completed or addressed. Mayor Blake stated there are several either waiting design or completion. He discussed various projects and their current status.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Contract between the The WorkPlace, Inc. and the City of Milford for the WIOA Youth Program and to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney, and Health Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. Marlow asked how performance is tracked or what happens once the program is completed. Mayor Blake stated this program is provided through the WorkPlace and there is much criteria that must be completed. Deepa Joseph, Director of Health, stated in order to be funded the City must meet a pass rate and Milford has one of the highest in the State.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8d) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Contract between the The WorkPlace, Inc and the City of Milford for occupational Skills Training with Adult Education Services to JFES participants 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.

(8e) Ald. Harla and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Establishment of Accounts Related to Opioid Remediation.

Ald. German asked for background and projections on the litigation settlement. City Attorney Jonathan Berchem stated projections are difficult to predict. He provide a summary of the class action litigation. Atty. Berchem discussed recent legislation and the purpose of the resolution is to open an account for the funds to be deposited to. He stated the funds must be used for opioid remediation.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the City would act as a passthrough and providing funding to Milford Prevention Council to use the funds for education and prevention. Atty. Berchem stated it may be premature, but he believes there will be partnerships with various groups.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Harla and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Opting Out of the Provisions of Public Act 21-29 Regarding Number of Parking Spaces and Accessory Apartments.

Ald. Arciuolo thanked Ms. Merla for attending this evening. He stated he attended the meeting and it is time for a change and he understand the Planning & Zoning Board is planning to review and possibly amend their regulations. He suggested tabling the resolution to see what action the Planning & Zoning Board takes.

Ald. Beatty stated she is not willing to opt out at this time and believes the resolution is premature. She stated she attended subcommittee meetings and was impressed with the discussion.

Ald. Parente stated she spent time familiarizing herself with the statute and understands wanting to maintain local control. She stated it is important to be sensitive to local issues. Ald. Parente stated she would like to see Planning & Zoning get further in the process.

Ald. Willis stated he too is in favor of tabling, but he is concerned with timing and will it be a waste of time.

Ald. Arciuolo and Ald. Beatty made and seconded an amendment to table to the October agenda.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the Planning & Zoning Board referred with a unanimous decision to opt out. Mayor Blake stated at the moment there is a motion to table and postpone. He stated the state statute gives a statutory right for municipalities to opt out and that most of neighbors have already done so. He provided a list of those communities that have voted to opt out. Mayor Blake stated by opting out stated local zoning regulations will control rather than the state's legislation. Ald. Giannattasio asked if the Planning & Zoning Board vote to opt out. Mayor Blake stated the Planning & Zoning Board voted to opt out in August and the referral is provided in the agenda packet. He stated the subcommittee is continuing to review for the purpose of amending as needed. Ald. Giannattasio asked how much time before the Board must vote. Atty. Berchem stated the City must vote out by January 1, 2023. Ald. Giannattasio stated he is trying to understanding urgency for postponing.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for a 5-minute recess.  
Chairman Vetro called recess at 8:35 p.m.  
Chairman Vetro reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

Ald. Arciuolo and Ald. Beatty withdrew motion to amend to table and postpone.

Ald. Marlow stated he is favor in opting out and that he understands more information may be required. He stated he does not want the City to be held to the State legislation. Ald. Marlow stated

there are pieces of the legislation does not fit for Milford and its best for Planning & Zoning to adopt regulations that will be in the best interest for Milford. He stated if the Board takes no action it default to the City having to follow the statute.

Ald. Harla thank Ald. Marlow for his comments and stated he too agrees with opting out and allowing Planning & Zoning to revise their regulations for what is best for Milford.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he too is in favor of opting out and would recommend to Planning & Zoning to "dig in". He stated the opt out requires a 2/3's vote and hopes the Board will support the resolution.

Ald. Parente stated she read the handout and recognized Rachel Merla to speak and provide more clarification. Ms. Merla stated the All in for Milford meeting was recorded and is available. She stated that she understands that Planning & Zoning subcommittee is moving forward with amending the regulations. Ms. Merla stated the subcommittee is making progress and is not something that should be delayed.

Ald. Moffitt stated that all Board members have stated they are in favor of the opt out and are in favor of changing the ability to use and rent ADU's. He stated the state legislation is about bringing change, but is flawed in the way it is written. Ald. Moffitt stated he trusts in the Planning & Zoning Board to do its job and he does not see a reason to delay the vote for another month.

Ald. Arciuolo stated he is not in favor of ceding control the state. He stated his concern is by opting out it removes any time table for Planning & Zoning to amend regulations.

Ald. Pacelli stated it is clear there is a consensus to opt out and that it may not be wise to wait until Planning & Zoning acts. He stated local control is imperative.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it is important to understand the state's regulations are not going to change and the City needs to opt out due to its uniqueness and the zoning regulations need to be tailored to the City by Planning & Zoning. He stated he is confident Planning & Zoning will address the regulations in the best interest of the City.

Ald. German stated he agrees with Ald. Marlo and the consensus is the state's regulations is not desirable. He stated the timeline is short and delaying could lead to trouble. Ald. German stated he is in favor of opting out.

Ald. Beatty stated there needs to be an informed vote and by voting tonight information may stop. She stated she is disappointed that further discussion may not ensue. Ald. Beatty stated she does not want Hartford controlling but she feels there is more to learn.

Ald. Arcuiolo asked for clarification for working with Planning & Zoning, could the Board collaborate. Mayor Blake stated there is a public comment session and Aldermanic liaison and that the Planning & Zoning Board are aware of discussions.

Ald. Parente stated this is a time for a lot of thinking. She stated information has been requested and not yet received from Planning & Zoning on the status of amending the regulations. Ald. Parente encouraged waiting on voting.

Ald. Harla reiterated that everyone has suggested they are in favor of opting out and that he feels this is being used as a negotiation tool with Planning & Zoning instead of working in the best interest of the City. He stated a vote to opt out should take place and ask the Planning & Zoning Board to move forward with amending the regulations.

Ald. Parente disagreed with characterization suggested by Ald. Harla. She stated constituents have reached out to her and she feels she needs to be informed. Ald. Parente stated she wants to make certain all things of concern are considered and there is time to vote.

Ald. Casey echoed Ald. Harla comments that this should not be used as leverage with Planning & Zoning Board. He stated they will do their job and do it well.

Ald. Parente and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to postpone the vote to the next meeting.

Motion failed 10 against ( ) 4 in favor ( )

Motion carried 11 in favor ( ) 2 against ( ), 1 abstention (Parente).

9. New Business not on the Agenda that may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

None.

11. Refunds

11a. Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$43,660.07. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees

a. Ordinance Committee –

12a-1 Ordinance Committee Chairman, Ald. Parente, reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier this evening and voted to forward to the full Board an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 20. Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Article III. Openings and Excavations, Sections 20-59 through 20-82 and

Adopting Chapter 20, Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Article III, Openings and Excavations, Sections 20-59 through 20-67.

Ald. Parente stated the Ordinance Committee meet earlier this evening and postponed until next month when the public works director can be in attendance.

#### Motion

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

The Board adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks  
Recording Secretary