Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein, Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee, Sgt. Kranyak, D. Candido, Secty.

A quorum was present to conduct the business of the meeting.

Chrmn. Smith recognized Comm. Rubenstein who was pleased to acknowledge Chief Mello for his excellent efforts and willingness to share awareness of the current situation, noting it is a benefit and reassurance to the citizens of Milford.

Chief Mello expressed appreciation for Comm. Rubenstein’s comments

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** - none

**4**. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

* Milford Police & Fire Retirees – expressed appreciation for the assistance of the Department at a recent funeral.
* Amelia Rogers – thanked Chief Mello for all he does for the residents on a daily basis.
* No-Shave-November 2019 Committee – Chief Mello noted the Department raised close to $7,000 for this fund and this was a letter of acknowledgement and thanks for the generosity.
* Chief Mello stated he had many thank you notes from residents expressing thanks for officer’s assistance with finding a lost pet to making celebration parades a good experience and many stay safe and kind thoughts wishes. He also referred to a note thanking Chief Mello for his dedication to community policing and making residents feel safe here in Milford and numerous notes expressing similar thanks and expressions of pride for living here in Milford. Acknowledgement of the Chief’s respect shown at the Black Lives Matter recently held in Milford.
* Resident – 100 Viscount Dr. – referred to recent disturbance at Walnut Beach noting the police officers did a good job controlling the situation and area residents see the difference at the beach in recent days. Residents are thankful to the Chief and the entire Department for providing residents the ability to enjoy their beach and be safe.
* Resident acknowledging Officer Clark’s recent assistance.

Chief Mello noted he will be asking for an addition to the agenda under New Business, item 10b. Increase in parking fines to $85 for resident beach parking.

Chrmn. Smith expressed words of sympathy to Comm. Jagoe for the passing of her brother-in-law.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

a. Donation from Thomas and Martha Foley for K9 Program – Chief Mello recommended the $50 donation from Thomas and Martha Foley be placed in the Police K-9 Donation Fund.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to accept the $50 donation from Thomas and Martha Foley and place said donation in the K-9 Donation Fund as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Gift card donation from Target – Chief Mello acknowledged the $500 Gift Card from Target and recommended said donation be placed in the Police Officer’s Donation Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to accept the $500 Gift Card from Target and place said gift card donation in the Police Officer’s Donation Fund as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion Carried unanimously.

c. Informational: Safe Driving Award – Officer Stephen Napolitano

d. Chief’s General comments – Chief Mello stated earlier this evening a virtual community forum was held at City Hall which he felt went well and the dialogue was good. He explained presently there is involvement in crafting proposals for legislation which can be useful in holding all police officers accountable, including such matters as social workers, availability of more mental health and crisis care. He added changes are being made to Use of Force Policy and he stated changes are recommended around the country but those changes will not be difficult for our Department because it is what we are already doing. Chief Mello stated Milford Police Department has a lot to be proud of.

Also Chief Mello stated there is a strong movement to have civilian review boards noting he is grateful to the Police Commission for what they do but he added he would not be surprised if additional recommendations come our way with regard to civilian review.

Chrmn. Smith stated he is proud to be part of the role this Commission plays. He stated he attended the forum earlier and presented the question to what extent does the culture of an agency come from the top. He stated he firmly believed that we are proud of the culture the Chief has motivated here in Milford and the challenge being seen elsewhere is not all leadership tend to foster that same culture. He complimented Chief Mello for the work he has done over the years and the work of the Milford Police Department.

Chief Mello stated he wished that question did come up at the forum. He explained that one of his efforts as Chief is to surround himself with people from different generations and he felt this Department has a great staff and are better prepared because we do have different generations.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS**

a. Metro on Broad – 125-135 Broad St – Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding Metro on Broad – 125-135 Broad Street

Sgt. Kranyak noted that he received an email just this afternoon regarding a change in the plans regarding removal of a tree which the Tree Commission had objected to.

Comm. Jagoe noted the report reflects the loss of two parking spaces on Broad Street as well as access from High Street. She questioned if it could be arranged that we would not lose the parking spaces on Broad Street and Chief Mello stated he will include those concerns when this is forwarded to P & Z.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the historic building will be protected but the barn in the rear of the main building may be taken down.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm Jagoe to approve the following reports:

a. Special Investigations Unit Report

b. Detective Bureau Report

c. Crime Prevention Unit Report

d. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Riverside Drive at Bridgeport Ave – request for extra signage – Comm. Rubenstein questioned the thoughts of going from a one way street to a two way street and Sgt. Kranyak explained the city has widened the street which gives more access.

Chrmn. Smith noted that leaving that parking lot onto Bridgeport Avenue there is a site issue caused by a parking space.

Motion was made by Comm. Bevan and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the recommended extra signage.

Comm. Rubenstein also referred to the site issue when attempting to exit onto Bridgeport Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to add to the agenda Request for increase in non resident beach parking fines from $35 to $85. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to increase Beach Parking Ticket from $35 to $85 in the Resident Only parking area and move the violation to Category 4.

Chief Mello explained there has been a number of parking tickets issued to non-residents adding that with the ticket cost at $35 the non-residents want a parking space for beach access and disregard the signage.

Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to amend the motion to include the increased fine will be re-evaluated when the current situation is over.

Chrmn. Smith suggested this increased fine be in place during emergency order.

Comm. Jagoe expressed concern about people stealing beach parking stickers off cars and Chief Mello stated that has been a recent problem.

Comm. Rubenstein noted that the $35 ticket cost equates to a day at the beach and may be worthwhile to beachgoers so increasing to $85 is logical.

Comm. Bevan questioned if the signage at beaches could reflect the parking violation cost is $85 and Chief Mello did not think it would be necessary to change the signs at this time. He also referred to capacity issues at Walnut Beach and once those capacity issues are lifted the situation could change.

Chrmn. Smith stated he was hopeful that now that Phase II has been implemented he was hopeful things will change.

Motion carried unanimously.

**11. COMMENDATIONS**

a. Certificate of Commendation for Off. Derek Waller, case #1016-20 – Deputy Chief Rojee noted that Officer Waller was doing a late night patrol in the area of Subway near Bic Drive when he noticed a vehicle parked behind the Credit Union. Officer Waller and Barbour then approached the vehicle noting a driver and another occupant and upon investigation it was determined the driver was making a drug delivery to the occupant. Officers subsequently found $5,000 street value worth of drugs and firearm.

b. Letter of Recognition for Officer William Barbour, case #1016-20 - above noted case.

Deputy Chief Rojee stated this was excellent work on the part of both officers.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment,**

**Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department**

**Employees.**

Motion was made by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. regarding the following:

1. Consideration of the performance of four (4) employees.
2. Grievance #1-2020 at step #3
3. 3rd Quarter Probationary review for 5 Officers

Motion carried unanimously.

Chef Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee and commissioners present remained for Executive Session.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:40 p.m.

Being no further business, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk June 23, 2020