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Milford City Clerk

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2024**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, II
E. Beatty
B. Bevan
M. Casey
P. Healy
A. Fowler
J. Jenkins
S. Marlow
H. Mulrenan
R. Pacelli, Jr.
W. Smith
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Anthony S. Giannattasio
J. Berchem, City Attorney
J. Davidson, Assistant City Clerk
P. Erodici, Finance Director
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused:

J. Federico

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.

M. Rusanowsky, 201 Wolf Harbor Road, spoke concerning the community garden program fees.

A. King, 32 Cedarhurst Lane, spoke concerning board and commission appointments.

A. Lindstadt, 50 Saley Road, spoke concerning 0 Depot Road development.

Unknown, 554 Boston Post Road, spoke concerning the community gardens program fees.

J. Hetes, 16 Mrytlewood Drive, spoke concerning the community gardens program fees.

T. Folsom, 11 Mills Avenue, spoke concerning the community gardens program fees.

J. Johnson, 45 Essex Drive, spoke concerning proposed development at 0 Depot Road.

A. Gaetano, 53 Essex Drive, spoke concerning proposed development at 0 Depot Road.

M. O'Grady, 22 Essex Drive, spoke concerning proposed development at 0 Depot Road.

H. Lenz, 85 Essex Drive, spoke concerning proposed development at 0 Depot Road.

D. Lindstadt, 50 Saley Road, spoke concerning proposed development at 0 Depot Road.

P. Smith, 65 Old Field Lane, spoke concerning Chairman Phil Vetro and his community service.

J. Drapp, 41 Jackson Drive, spoke concerning the appointment of elected officials to boards and commissions.

50 Essex Drive, spoke concerning proposed development 0 Depot Road.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board Aldermen held on February 5, 2024.

Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board Aldermen held on February 5, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Marlow requested a 5-minute recess.

Ald. Vetro stated the Board was in recess at 8:17 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

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

None

5. Chairman's Report and Communications

Chairman Vetro reminded everyone of the St. Patrick's Day parade March 9th at 1:00 p.m. He commented on the community gardens program fees being restored to \$50.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Giannattasio commented on the St. Patrick's Day parade and stated the Irish flag will be raised at City Hall on March 6th. He stated former Mayor Blake will be the Grand Marshall. Mayor Giannattasio discussed the proposed budget. He stated he worked hard with the departments to prepare a fiscally responsible budget. Mayor Giannattasio discussed bonding ordinances being presented for approval. He advised the Board of Mayor's appointment: (R) Warren Field Jr., 46 Surf Avenue, 06460, as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Agency, term to expire 12/31/25. He requested approval of agenda items 8a – 8g.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

(8a) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve per the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board dated February 21, 2024, for the acceptance of the Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2023-2028.

Ald. Marlow stated the Capital Improvement Plan comes before the Board each year based on department needs. He stated the plan looks to be a good and responsible plan as in past years. Ald. Pacelli commented on the delivery of the Capital Plan for approval by the Board of Aldermen and Planning & Zoning Board. Ald. Marlow stated it is his understanding the Planning & Zoning Board did not act on the plan in January which delayed delivery to the Board of Aldermen. Ald. Vitali stated the plan is a wish list and when a project is brought forward due diligence is required. Ald. Casey asked if Planning & Zoning is required to act prior to delivery to the Board of Aldermen. City Attorney Jonathan Berchem stated action by Planning & Zoning is required. Ald. Casey asked what happens if the plan is not approved. Attorney Berchem stated it is required to receive State LoCIP grants. Mayor Giannattasio stated the plan was to be placed on last month's agenda, but it was withdrawn as it was not approved by Planning & Zoning.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to reorder the agenda to bring Items 12a-1 through 12a-3 forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Pacelli reported the Ordinance Committee meet earlier this evening and voted to refer items 12a-1 through 12a-3 to the full Board.

12a-1 Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating \$2,200,000 for the design and construction of sanitary sewers and wastewater facilities and authorizing the issuance of \$2,200,000 bonds of the City

to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Marlow asked for an explanation of the design and construction of wastewater facilities. Chris Saley, Public Works Director, stated it is for a study of the sewer system and for the elimination of the pump station at Pumpkin Delight that will be replaced with a gravity fed line. Ald. Smith asked for clarification on the study. Mr. Saley stated it is a full study with the consultant to analyze the system. Ald. Smith asked how much the study would cost. Mr. Saley stated it will be approximately \$650,000. Ald. Smith asked how much was bonded last year. Peter Erodici, Finance Director, stated it was close to the same amount was bonded last year. Ald. Smith asked if there is a long-term plan for sewer maintenance. Mr. Saley stated there is a plan for general maintenance. He stated the study is required by DEEP. Mr. Saley stated the wastewater treatment plants were last updated sometime prior to 2008. Discussion ensued concerning sewer maintenance plan. Ald. Smith stated he has concerns with the sewer bonding. He stated he will be voting no on the bond request at this time. Mr. Saley stated the superintendent, Lindsay King, has done a very good job and has worked hard to reduce nitrogen credits. He stated this is money well spent and will be reimbursed 65% by DEEP. Ald Smith reiterated his concerns.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

12a-2. Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Appropriating \$4,592,500 for various public improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$4,592,500 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Smith stated the improvements are not emergencies and he does not feel they should be bonded at this time. He requested the Board not vote in favor and stated he intends to vote no.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

12a-3. Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating \$7,150,000 for various school improvements and authorizing the issuance of \$7,150,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Marlow asked for an explanation of the high schools and technical facilities. Sean Brennan, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations discussed career pathways and opportunities. Ald. Marlow asked what type of career pathways. Steven Autieri, Assistant Superintendent, discussed the types of pathways offered for students. Ald. Marlow asked if construction to the buildings will be required. Mr. Brennan discussed program space and equitable access at both schools. He stated it could include renovations or small additions. Mr. Brennan stated additional staffing is not

required at this time. Ald. Marlow asked if the early childhood program is to mirror what is offered at Foran. Mr. Brennan stated it will be equitable. Ald. Marlow asked if early childhood is a career path for students wishing to go into that field of work. Mr. Brennan discussed the student experience. Ald. Beatty discussed career pathways and livable wages. Mr. Brennan stated the class provides childcare within the community and is taught by a teacher focusing on students learning to teach. Dr. Cutaia discussed providing a direct route in the area of teaching. She discussed tech ed and today's technology. Dr. Cutaia stated the goal is for students to leave school with industry certifications allowing them to enter the workforce. Ald. Healy asked about partnering with external industries for internships and other learning opportunities. Mr. Autieri discussed partnering with the business community and collaboration. He discussed industry collaboration board and planning for opportunities for internships. Ald. Healy asked if Platt Tech is involved in discussions concerning shared opportunities. Mr. Autieri stated there has been dialogue but there is no plan at this time. Dr. Cutaia stated the Technical School System does not offer shared opportunities during the school day. Ald. Willis asked if students at the Academy will be given opportunities. Dr. Cutaia stated they will be offered the opportunity to take coursework similar to as they do now. Ald. Vitali asked if there is an increase in the footprint of either program. Mr. Brennan stated Jonathan Law may have some increase in footprint. Ald. Vitali discussed enrollment numbers and utilization of rooms. He discussed repurposing rooms. Mr. Brennan stated currently there is a conceptual design. He discussed programming and looking within the current structure prior to expanding. Ald. Vitali asked if these will be elective courses or mandatory. Mr. Auteiri discussed the course and election by students. Ald. Vitali asked how many students each elective would handle. Mr. Auteiri stated a typical class size is the goal. Dr. Cutaia stated the class size varies at the high school level. She stated the number of students that will be allowed and maintain safety. Ald. Smith asked if there is a set plan. Mr. Brennan discussed the Permanent Schools Committee and the process. Ald. Smith asked if success is measured in the programs. Mr. Auteiri discussed the multiple pieces to the criteria of success. He discussed looking at the curriculum and approach to the course. Discussion ensued concerning measurements of success. Ald. Jenkins asked if the career pathways are for students with an interest or does it provide industry certifications. Mr. Auteiri discussed the advantages of students and different types of student enrollment. Discussion ensued concerning student enrollment and opportunities for student learning. Ald. Mulrenan discussed meeting students from career pathways and showing the advantages of being in such programs. She discussed preparing students and being a steppingstone for student careers. Ald. Pacelli discussed mentoring programs. Dr. Cutaia discussed partnering with Julie Nash, Community Development, and partnering with local industry to provide the best instruction for students.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

(8b) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Design and Construction of Sanitary Sewers and Wastewater Facilities - 2024.

Ald. Smith asked the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Erodici stated these are standard resolutions and in order to provide funding for projects to start it enables projects to begin.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

(8c) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements - 2024.

Ald. Smith stated for the same reasons previously stated he will be voting no.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

(8d) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve a Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various School Improvements – 2024.

Ald. Smith stated for the same reasons previously stated he will be voting no.

Motion carried 12 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 2 against (Fowler, Smith).

(8e) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve a bid waiver for the purchase of a Debris Body/Door and Rodder Pump in accordance with the attached proposal.

Ald. Smith asked why a bid waiver is being requested. Mr. Saley stated a brand-new truck is approximately \$650,000 and an existing truck can be retrofitted at a lesser cost. He stated this is a sole source provider and therefore a bid waiver is being requested. Ald. Smith stated he does not see the reason for the waiver. Mr. Saley restated retrofitting an existing truck and the opportunity for savings. Ald. Smith urged the Board to vote no. Ald. Healy confirmed this is a retrofit and the sole source item is more feasible and fiscally responsible. Mr. Saley confirmed that is correct. Ald. Vitali asked if the vendor is the only provider that could retrofit the truck. Mr. Saley discussed retrofitting and comparison to a new truck.

Motion carried 13 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Fowler, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 1 against (Fowler).

(8f) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve allocation Transfer No. 6 (Fund Balance Unreserved, undesignated and Golf Course Maintenance). Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Board of Aldermen approved is requested per approval of the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the abandonment of 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.

Mayor Giannattasio stated (8g) is withdrawn from this agenda. Ald. Healy discussed the prior request for approval. Ald. Smith discussed the value of the area to be abandoned.

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.

Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfers #5 and #6, Fund 1005. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

11a. Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$40,576.65.

Ald. Smith noted various accounts with overpayments and asked how that happens. Mr. Erodici discussed various ways refunds may be due.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees

- a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Pacelli reported item 12a-4 was postponed at the Ordinance Committee to the next meeting.
- 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 – Ald. Arciuolo discussed security update and importance of SRO's.
- b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion – no report.
- c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – Chairman Vetro stated the community garden fees have been reduced back to \$50.

- 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 – Ald. Vitali stated Dr. Constance Young recently retired from the Board and commended her on her service to the Board. Ald. Mulrenan echoed Ald. Vitali's comments. She discussed a new potential site for the Board of Health.
- 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 – Ald. Jenkins discussed invitation on April 6th to visit Seaman's Lane facility for an apparatus demonstration.
- 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.

Chairman Vetro requested a motion to enter executive session to consider item 14(a).

Ald. Arciuolo and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro announced those entering Executive Session for item 14(a) would be the full Board of Aldermen, Mayor Giannattasio, City Attorney, Jonathan Berchem, and Marcus Irrek, Assessor.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:28 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:39 p.m.

14a. Ald Pacelli and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to approved the settlement of B33 Milford Crossing LLC v. City of Milford Re: 1357 Boston Post Road as discussed in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary