



## CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

*Regular Meeting – March 9, 2010*

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### ***Call to Order***

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Aldermanic President Stephen Blume. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### ***Moment of Silence***

A moment of silence was observed due to the passing of Assistant Town Clerk Linda VanValkenburgh, and the passing of City Sheriff Bob Davies.

### ***Roll Call***

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- absent  
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent  
Jason Bender, D2 - present  
James Fainer, D2 - absent  
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present  
John Marini, R3- present (7:20)  
Robert Beall, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present  
Spero Jordanides, D5 - absent  
Pasquale Pietrangelo, D5 - absent  
Scott Nihill, D6 - present  
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present  
Tara Kolakowski, D7- present  
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

President Blume declared a quorum of 8 present, 6 absent.

### ***Consideration of Previous Minutes***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

### ***Public Session***

#### *Martin Wigglesworth, Ansonia Nature Center*

The letter that Donna Lindgren sent you, has cordially invited the whole membership to come and view our project we're going to be doing there at the Red Wing Pond House. We're going to open it up as a nature-based pre-school. I know you have a lot of questions. We've gone in front of the Mayor, we've told the Mayor we're not looking for any financial support; we're looking for Ansonia's support. Come and look at it, give your pros and cons. We are

taking a survey on it. We want to know all of the views. As the memo says here, we wish you would all come and visit us, either on a scheduled meeting or individually.

Did anybody know about this Red Wing Pond House nature-based preschool?

President Blume replied, we know about it. I didn't think it was going forward. It doesn't have the approval of this board or the Mayor.

Mr. Wigglesworth stated, we're still doing the research on it. We did sit down with the Mayor and we are going forward. We're applying for grants. This is one of the reasons we're inviting the Board to come and see it, so we can have a discussion on it, we'd like a formal meeting with the whole board there. There is a lot of confusion and a lot of unanswered questions. We are available all the time for a meeting. Actually, the Mayor didn't object to it. What the Mayor said, and if you read the headlines today in the papers it says the Ansonia per capita is down, the grand list is down. If you read the Valley Times last week they said there is no money in Ansonia. We understand this. We are not looking for financial support. We're looking for the support of Ansonia people. Nothing more than just to say, "Let's see what it looks like." We did take a survey on this, and we see a nature-based preschool is something this area needs. The building is vacated right now. We're using it for ongoing projects, events, movie nights. We want to get the utilization of this building up. We are not looking for any financial support.

President Blume stated, I think that changes things a bit. We'll have to get hold of you and set up a meeting.

Mr. Wigglesworth stated, we want to be on solid ground when we start out on this, so we want to know your real opinions, and hear your questions and concerns.

Alderman Nihill stated, that was my concern, that you were looking for financial support. Secondly, what kind of liability the City has in running a venture like this on City-owned property.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, I think there are a lot of unanswered questions and I'm sure everyone here has a few off the top of their head. I really think for what you're asking, for the support, is we need to sit down with Mrs. Lindgren, the staff, and have a workshop, have some questions answered on our part. Give us two to three weeks and set a time and day so everybody can clear their schedule. I'm sure Corporation Counsel Blake can offer his assistance in this just for the liability issue going forward. It is City-owned property and we need to make sure you guys are in accordance too, because there may be issues that you're not aware of legally, liability wise.

Mr. Wigglesworth stated, that's exactly what we're looking for. That's why I'm here, we're trying to encourage you to sit with us. We're trying to be very transparent in this, so you can see us and see what we're doing.

President Blume asked, is Donna around?

Mr. Wigglesworth stated no, Donna won't be around for maybe another week and a half.

President Blume stated, call Beth in the morning at the Mayor's office and I'll tell her to talk to you to try to schedule something. We'll see if we can clear this up and we'll come to that meeting.

President Blume asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

### ***Public Official Session***

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Acting Mayor Stephen Blume

The Mayor is doing well. He's home. His brother took him out for a ride Saturday. I talk to him every day. He's antsy to get out of the house. He was tired after a short ride on Saturday, so it's going to take a little time. He does converse with us every day; he talks to Beth in the morning, talks to me in the afternoon.

The Aldermen's Finance Committee meetings were held; the Mayor was part of that. He attended a meeting hosted by Congresswoman Rosa Delauro for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Mayors. A DOT conference held regarding the right of way agreement, which is the Riverwalk, which is on the agenda tonight.

Sent Corporation Counsel Blake to a forum presented by the United Illuminating Company for Ansonia residents.

I attended the Valley COG meeting two weeks ago Wednesday. Obtained the \$70,000 that we need to finish the environmental work on the ATP Building. The contractor has been hired. Very shortly they're going to remediate whatever is in that ground up there. It's a grant from COG; it doesn't cost the City anything. Once that's done, the building is sold.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, [inaudible] regarding the changes in zoning. There is a question of whether or not the first floor is actually located on Main Street.

President Blume stated, right, we'll straighten that out. We are going forward with it and hopefully the building will be sold.

There will be two AED units placed in City Hall by mid-April.

The Mayor wanted to remind everybody that the Board of Education is hosting the community forums. He was able to attend the first, but they're ongoing.

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Corporation Counsel Blake

Maple Street bridge - March 15, 2010 it will be closed for possibly two years for a State project. Traffic will be diverted accordingly.

13 Bartholomew - we were in court yesterday. Unfortunately the attorney got caught up in traffic, but the judge made a ruling that there's only one thing that has to be taken apart. He has all the car keys, he has to take them off the property, he has three weeks to do it and we'll be back in court on March 29. If he's not completed with the task of taking all the parts out he's going to start being fined retroactive to Monday. Then he'll still have the order to get the parts out of there. That problem should be cleaned up very quickly.

Alderman Kolakowski asked, the noise isn't an issue any more?

Chief Hale stated, I have not seen any complaints in quite a while.

Corporation Counsel Blake continued, I did attend on behalf of the Mayor, UI had a presentation on saving energy. I attended with about 30 people. It was very informative.

Lastly, Pulaski Highway, I've been going back and forth with the attorney. He has at least 11 clients and they're talking about different agreements as to whether or not the purchase is going to be possible. He hasn't had a chance to talk to all of his clients, so I will keep you updated. It's still a work in progress.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

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Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Just to piggyback on the closure of the bridge - the first concern that obviously came up was the Parade. We had some discussions on a possible route, which obviously will have to change, we don't want to cancel it. We're going to change the route slightly. It will be the day before Memorial Day, 2 o'clock it will leave from Nolan Field and instead of coming over the bridge, it will go through Olson, Bridge Street Bridge, West Main, Kingston and down Main to finish the way we have for all of these years.

Two incidents within the past week, we had an unfortunate assault on Reichelt Terrace involving the repossession of a vehicle. We made an arrest in that case. And we had a robbery at the Fuel First yesterday, which is on lower Main Street. We made one arrest in that. It's the second time that place has been hit.

Alderman Fainer asked, is the winter parking ban over now? If not then maybe people should be reminded of that, in case we get hit with a storm before the end of the month.

Chief Hale replied, not until the end of this month.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

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Joseph Miller - Comptroller

My report is in front of you. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation has been meeting with Department Heads and will continue to meet with them. The budget is still a work in progress.

President Blume thanked Mr. Miller.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### ***Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

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#### ***Alderman Jerome Fainer - Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services Committee***

Alderman Fainer reported in February we had 210 calls and did 152 transports.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

### ***Municipal Reports / Annual Reports***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

### ***Tax Refunds***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the Tax Refunds for February 2010 in the amount of \$6,800.98 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Claims***

03-10-755 Peter Lovermi  
03-10-756 Dezi Colson  
03-10-757 Shenoa Torres  
03-10-758 Diana Todd

Alderman Bender MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel Blake and the Claims Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Beall.

Alderman Sharkey stated, we should send a note along with it - there is one here that says, two tires were replaced at Sears. The Police report attached to it says, "a tire was damaged" and the bill from Sears is for two tires. The City is only responsible for one tire.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Communications and Late Communication***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all of the communications, one late communication and one late resolution, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If an Alderman wishes one read or acted upon, the communications will be brought up individually in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Public Session on Late Items***

The late communication and late resolution are regarding the five-year road plan.

President Blume asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak on these items. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

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**Communication #1**

From: Attorney General Richard Blumenthal

Re: Water Rates paid by the Ansonia Fire Department

President Blume stated, Attorney General Blumenthal sent us a nice letter on the water rates having to do with our fire hydrants. He seems to think that...I don't think he's very interested in this. We're going to continue with this; we're going to send Attorney General Blumenthal another letter, maybe try to explain this to him a little better, so he'll have a better understanding of what we're suffering. This is a work in progress.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the communication and place it on file; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

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Communication #2

From: Salvatore Campailla, President  
Re: Refund of Permit Fees

Alderman Nihill MOVED to send a letter to the Building Department requesting that they advise the Board of Aldermen whether or not Mr. Campailla is entitled to the refund; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

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Communication #3

From: Director Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center  
Re: Red Wing Pond House

President Blume stated, this was discussed during the public session. A special workshop between the Board of Aldermen and the Nature Center Staff will be scheduled in the next several weeks to discuss the details of this proposal.

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Late Communication #1

From: Michael Schryver, Acting Superintendent of Public Works  
Re: Five-Year Road Plan

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the late communication and place it on file; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to ADOPT Late Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

R E S O L U T I O N

Five-Year Road Plan

Alderman Jerome Fainer of the Fourth Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works submitted a five-year Local Capital Improvement Plan dated march 5, 2010 to Acting Mayor Stephen Blume; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Ansonia have a five-year Local Capital Improvement Plan exclusively for roadwork and park improvements,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA that the Five-Year Local Capital Improvement Plan dated March 5, 2010 is hereby adopted and approved.

### ***Resolutions***

#### **Resolution #1**

Re: Rights of Way Activities - Ansonia Park and Riverwalk Construction

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

### RESOLUTION

State Project No. 02-125  
Federal Project No. STP0-1151 (115)

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia has prepared an overall master plan for the Ansonia Park and Riverwalk as identified above, which has been unanimously supported at the City's public information meeting; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the City of Ansonia for Rights of Way Activities in Conjunction with the Acquisition of Property for the Construction of Ansonia Park and Riverwalk in the City of Ansonia utilizing Federal Transportation Enhancement Program Funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at a meeting held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 the Ansonia Board of Aldermen authorize Acting Mayor Stephen Blume to execute all documents as it pertains to State Project No. 02-125, Federal Project No. STP-1151 (115).

### ***Unfinished Business***

None presented.

### ***New Business***

None presented.

### ***Executive Session***

No executive session was held.

*Adjournment*

Alderman Beall MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen