



**CITY OF ANSONIA**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
*Regular Meeting – July 13, 2010*

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***Call to Order***

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

***Roll Call***

The secretary called the roll:

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

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

President Blume declared a quorum of 10 present, 4 absent.

***Consideration of Previous Minutes***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2010 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Pietrangelo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Public Session***

Joan Radin

I have been very upset about this for quite some time. I walk down from my store every morning to Xtra Mart. For the last year, maybe more, the sweeper came around my store around Memorial Day, five or six times. They never seem to sweep the corner of Church Street and Wakelee Avenue. There is a stack of dirt up to the curb with grass growing out of it. Plus, there are boulders on the street. When the cars go by they go all over the place. I would like to know when they will start fixing the streets, and especially that street. It's horrible. The cars are in and out of the gas station. They are huge rocks that fit into the hole. I would like to see Public Works at the meetings here once in a while.

The other thing is, I've heard a rumor that the WPCA building they're building that we are going to be paying for - there is an English company that is interested in buying it. I hope it's a rumor, because I would hate to see the City try and sell property that belongs to them to an English company to charge whatever they want. Once privatization takes over, the prices go up. We can't afford it as it is now.

The other thing, I had a customer come in a few days ago very upset. She is in her 80s and owns her house. She has trouble paying her taxes. She came in with her WPCA bill for \$284, in tears. She said, "Oh my God, now I'm going to have to pay this much for my water usage." And I said, "No, that's a separate bill. This is \$285 that you're going to have to come up with every year to pay this bill." She can't; she's on poverty row right now. There has to be something we can do for these people. I see them coming into my store all the time and they talk to us and tell us their problems. We can't do anything. I don't understand how we can have a 3.5 percent raise to the Public Works non-union people. I agree, it's nice to get a raise but in this time when we have so much of a problem with people being able to pay their bills. They're using some of the tax money to give increases in salary. I know it's tough for everybody; it is for me and everybody else. I really think this is not the time that they can do it. Thank you.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

Going along with the taxes in Ansonia - the huge increase we've had this year - I think it's time if it hasn't happened already for the people involved in the tax structure to start working on reducing it now; not waiting until a year from now or six months from now. One of the areas - the State passed a law regarding regionalization. I think a number of departments could get along with departments in other municipalities in the area and buy as a group rather than individually. That would only be a beginning. There is no reason why we have two department heads in a number of areas where we could do away with some of them and save a large amount of money, and eventually combine some of the municipalities instead of going our own way and having the high taxes that we have.

I understand the hydrants in Ansonia cost us quite a bit more than they do in other municipalities. On Ford Street they're putting in new water lines, and they're putting in a new hydrant. Does that mean we have to pay additionally for that? It's right across the street from an existing hydrant. They replaced a hydrant that's within 20 feet of another hydrant. The one they replaced only had the smaller connection, not the five-inch connection on it. There is no need for three hydrants within a hundred feet of each other and two of them within 25 feet of each other. We're paying for them.

Another area is safety when we're on the roads. I have occasion to go down Ford Street to Ford Road. With the employment action going on there - some type of a strike, they block up the road sometimes.

The other day I'm going by there and there were cars parked on both sides of the street. There was an individual unloading their car that was double-parked. They were dropping off people there, and also unloading chairs from the back of the SUV. Sometimes you're driving by and the strikers are out in the road talking to passersby. There shouldn't be any blockage of the traffic there.

A little further down on Ford Road where you come out to Pulaski Highway - I know this has been brought up before and I've seen it in The Valley Independent Sentinel - something has to be done - the people who own the property right on the corner of Pulaski and Ford Road have done a nice job with the landscaping. I dislike being critical of anybody that's improving things. But when you're driving out there, you cannot see the traffic coming up and you have to nose out into the intersection in order to see the traffic because of the improvements they made on the corner - bushes, that tall grass, different types of ornamental stuff. It looks nice but it blocks your view and you cannot see and you have to inch your way out into the highway. The cars coming from the opposite direction and they don't see you until the last minute and you don't see them. So, I believe something should be done there.

Pat Henry, 16 Harris Road  
Vice Chairman, Ansonia Republican Town Committee

I understand that a vote will be taken tonight concerning pay increases for non-union City workers. Under the strained economic situation of the taxpayers in the City, allowing for another \$10,000 expenditure in salaries is inappropriate, whether the Board of Apportionment and Taxation has already approved it or not. Taxpayers are already paying the inflated costs of City employee benefits and that should be enough. City raises should reflect the average workers in Ansonia are receiving from their employers. I doubt very much that the majority of Ansonians have seen pay increases of three percent or more this past year, not to mention the high unemployment rate. This increase will only burden us again next year and will lead to more taxes or layoffs. Let's hold onto the \$10,000 or give it to the Senior Center. Their budget was cut by 50 percent this year. This year's tax increase on top of the new sewer fees are hitting the seniors the hardest and they have become the biggest victims of new City taxes and fees.

More than one person has told me that they thought the new sewer fee was the regular usage fee delivered early. It would have been nice if someone had had the sense and the courtesy to send out the letters that followed the sewer bills about a year ago so that people, especially the seniors, could have tried to include them in their budgets. Thank you.

President Blume stated, as far as the salary increases go, the Salary Committee did meet tonight and they will not be acted on this evening. There are some figures and classifications that have to be reviewed.

Ed Norman, 51 Grove Street

Good evening. I'd like to welcome back Mayor Della Volpe - it's good to see him. I wish you the best of health and no stress. I'd also like to thank President Blume for all of the hard work that he put in. I know he really did put in a lot of effort, stepping up to the task and leading the City. I didn't agree with every decision but I don't think I ever will. I would like to thank you for all of your hard work.

I have to say that I'm very disappointed in this Board. What it's around is some of the comments made earlier as far as the WPCA. I think that Board is totally out of line. I think the assessments they put on the residents, on the taxpayers of this town are totally out of line. I went through all of the hearing processes two years ago. I told them it was unfair with their "per unit" pricing. I have a two-family house; my bill was \$570. To add salt to the wound, there was a mailing they never put in there. So it only costs us more now when they sent out this letter of explanation as far as what it was. I've been getting a lot of calls on this because people know I am very vocal. There is a major misconception in town. People are thinking this is their water flow - their sewer assessment bill - when it's actually the project assessment. They're going to get another bill in October for their normal sewer usage and that \$50 assessment that's been on there for years. The other part of that, and the reason I am really so concerned about this WPCA - I say I'm disappointed in you because you oversee that board; members of this board are actually part of that board - they sent a bill out due and payable July 1<sup>st</sup>. Do you know what that's going to do to businesses? Businesses are 2.5 to three times, up to six times, that unit rate of \$285. Businesses are getting \$2,000 bills in addition to their property tax bills. This is sales tax time; their sales tax bills are due in July. You are really putting that burden on. Two years ago they tried to come up with a plan, "well, we're going to try and bill it in April, and half with the October bill"... It just seems that they don't care about what happens in this town, whether it's the residents or the businesses, as far as the way they do things, the way they apply this. This "per unit" charge is just the easy way out. They have other means, they did have other means to charge for this but they took the easy way out. They put no research into it and I really think, and I mentioned it at their public hearing, that someone should really take a look. Do you want to do effective Charter Revision? Revise the WPCA Board. Other towns have elected boards; here it's appointed. Some of the members never even show up. With that board, I knew there are a few on there that really worked hard; they really put out a lot of effort and things were coming at them every which way. I think they put too much confidence in their consultants and their legal counsel and the contractors to get where we are today. Again, going back two years ago, how could they approve this project on a vote of four or five members - not even a full board - for a project that should have gone out to referendum? It comes to this board, I don't know how much this board was informed as to what was going on, but again, it was approved and passed along.

They had so many false starts with the billing, so many false starts with how the billing was going to be done, and here we are today with seniors that are saying, "I'm just going to have to let my house go, because I can't afford it." I'll make it a point that I'm vice-chair of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. The Board of Aldermen, we scrutinized every line, every penny, every nickel on that, that document, to try and come up with an affordable tax rate for the City. We haven't raised taxes in a while; this time we had to go because of education - it's really putting us... Not only us but every City in the State has problems funding education. The thing is, the tax rate has not stayed stable; for all those years the tax rate was the same. We had a document revaluation a few years ago where they took market values - the value of my house again, a two-family house on the West Side - it depreciated 20 to 25 percent. My taxes actually went up 40 percent. So, it's not that the tax rate stayed flat, my tax bill went up 40 percent. On top of that, we have the sewer assessment fee for the project which is another \$570. One of the comments that WPCA made to me when I said, "how are people going to afford this?" When you look at the West Side, we're not land barons, not high rent, high rise landlords. It's all two and three family houses, which have been handed down over the years from the families. What happens is, it's like, "Oh, well just raise the rent." Listen, I have to tell you, I am not Section 8 housing. The people that rent from me have jobs. I haven't been able to raise their rent in three or four years because they're just able to pay the rent. The rents are outrageous because when you compare them to Section 8 housing, I'm several hundred dollars under the going rate. I know several of you have multi-family houses and you understand that. That was just one of the things I wanted to bring up. I really think that something should be done with the WPCA. Here we are moving forward and I don't think we really have any kind of management for a \$50 million plant down there. I know they're looking, but questioning their decisions on where we are today, I question the decisions on how we're going to run that and what the process is going to be and the people that they hire.

I noticed on the agenda and several people spoke of it - the salary resolutions. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation doesn't approve the salaries. It's something that is worked within the budget. We have a reserve that we hold money off only because if there are negotiations on, we can't put an amount in the budget in April or May with negotiations going on if that's what their salary's going to be on the first of July.

In addition, the Salary Resolution for the non-contractual employees - we've always asked for that up front at the beginning of the budget process. If we can get that in February and March so when we do actually do our budgets we can get a better figure on it. For next year's salary resolution, if maybe you could start working on it at the end of next year's budget, then we can get it in April and May and truly incorporate a good number in our budget rather than guessing and get caught short. Thank you very much for your time.

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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Mayor James Della Volpe

I'd like to thank you, Steve, for filling in during the four month period that I was out. I'd also like to thank the Board of Aldermen publicly for all of your well wishes and the hundreds of cards I received from the residents of the City, and for the books, the flowers and the Edible Arrangements that were sent - it certainly helped with the healing process.

In regards to the Senior Center, when I first heard that it was cut in half I immediately called Rick Sturges of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and asked if we could try to get some extra monies for the Senior Center. I think we're going to be able to do that at the next meeting. It's very important to have more than one person at the Senior Center - the Executive Director can't do it herself. If she were to be out sick or be on vacation that means the Senior Center would close, and so we were able to save another position. The Secretary is going to be able to stay there. We've made some moves on the custodial staff so that will help at the Senior Center. I've also, due to the extreme weather conditions, I've asked the Senior Center to be the cooling station. This past weekend it was open from 12 to 4:30 and we had over 20 residents come down and use the facility so that they could have some activities. As a lot of people have alluded to, a lot of the elderly need a place to be cool and that's the place to be - the Senior Center. We were able to open that up.

In regard to the WPCA - I'm meeting with the bond counsel to see if we can split up the payments on the assessments. I know how hard it has hit the residents because I sit down there and they keep coming in the door and telling me that they do have problems in regard to the payments. This is a mandate that came from DEP in 2007 in regard to the facility and right now we're paying out penalties. This is something that we have to deal with. Every issue that's come before this administration - we dealt with it and it hasn't been pleasant for a lot of people but it's something that we're not afraid to handle. We've done that and will continue to do that, and we'll try to make it not as hurtful to the residents as possible. That is why I'm going to meet with the bond counsel to see if there is some way to split it up, and/or go over and try to recalculate the assessment.

We've received \$50,000 from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act to perform interim improvements at the Ansonia Train Station. This will result in a platform and shelter area that will be cleaner, brighter and safer. More and more people are using the Train Station so this will be a benefit to our people.

We've also, this week received contracts for the repaving of Beaver and Ford Streets - that is also under the ARRA Program. That should be completed sometime in October of this year.

Also, looking out for pedestrian safety - this administration has successfully petitioned the Connecticut Department of Transportation for \$228,000 for new pavement markings for all intersections on Main Street, South Main Street, Route 334, Pulaski Highway, Pershing Drive and Division Street. DOT contractors should begin and complete this work in the fall of 2010.

Mention has also been made of the raises for non-union personnel. I understand that the Salary Committee has tabled it. That was a great move on your part - we should look at how much money is being spent, make sure that all of the classifications are correct. In regard to Public Works there are only three non-union employees involved - it is my understanding that that's why the Public Works Commission sent up a letter stating that they'd like to have the 3.5 percent, which was negotiated for the union workers three to four years ago when times were good. I commend you for tabling it and taking your time to look into making sure that the monies are there and if the classifications are correct.

That's all I have for now, my first meeting back. I'll entertain any questions the board may have.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

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Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

In response to Communication #3 regarding insurance - It says "request for proposals" - that is just a request for information from carriers.

And regarding the resolution - I looked at it again. There were a couple of words that had to be added regarding the 497 East Main Street and 153 Main Street. You voted on a similar resolution when Mr. Blume was the Acting Mayor. DEP told our environmental consultant that because Mayor Della Volpe is back they want a resolution with his name on it. This should cover all bases and does not delay - the 30 days will run to the end of July - they're going to start the remediation in August between the courtyard between 153 Main and 497 East Main Street.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

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Police Chief Kevin Hale

I've said to the Board in the past - some of the biggest complaints we have are parking and traffic speeding. We're trying to do the best we can moving throughout the town. We've increased enforcement this year again. If you have any particular areas or you hear from your constituents please let me know.

There was an article in the newspapers that we've had a rash of car break-ins - really what they're doing is opening unlocked doors and taking things out. So lock your doors. Tell your people in your wards to lock their doors. Take all valuables out - don't leave them in sight, because if the door's locked they're going to get in and take it anyway. GPS units are going throughout the country by the thousands. They're so easily taken - and cell phones. Don't leave your keys in your car because they'll take the entire car as well. Just some prudence, some common sense - lock the doors. We've had a rash of 10 over three or four nights. Nobody has seen anything. It's difficult to get a handle on that if there are no witnesses. Just a friendly reminder that if you're talking to people, please tell them to lock their doors and their valuables. Thank you.

Alderman Fainer stated, parking on the sidewalks on Wakelee Avenue - we have a complaint on that - especially the nights the Catholic Family Services has things there. People in this nice weather they want to walk to Nolan Field - they shouldn't have to deal with it.

The bottom of Grove Street on Lester - there's a blue pickup that used to be an issue parked in front of the fire hydrant on the other side. Now it's parked at an angle - one set of tires is up on the sidewalk. At the house that caved in - right there. It's a little blue S-10. It used to be parked in front of the hydrant on the other side. It's there - the windows are getting smashed up.

Alderman Beall asked, can I personally talk to you about the police patrols in the areas of Grove, Howard and Arch?

Chief Hale replied, yes. Just give me a call.

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Joseph Miller - Comptroller

You have my report in front of you. Pertaining to the audit, it is finally complete. It was completed the last day of June and filed on time with the Town Clerk's Office. We have not received reports that you usually receive, and you will be receiving them as soon as I get them.

Also, for last year, we received \$265,000 more than we had budgeted for taxes, so we collected 100.94 percent. For prior year's taxes we collected 96.69 percent - we were only short \$19,000 on the \$600,000 we had in the budget.

The budget didn't look bad the other day. You have the report in front of you where the Board of Education had \$995,000 left over. It's gone now. I prayed that it would stay there but they encumbered the money. We did very well for the year ending June 30, 2010.

***Committee Reports******Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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

We had 213 calls last month. We did 151 transports.

Alderman Marini MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Salary Committee - Alderman Tara Kolakowski***

This evening we decided to table the suggested raises for non-union personnel because we need to get a little information, we need to double check and make sure it's all correct. We'll do that at full meeting in the future.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini***

We're continuing to develop our campaign to visit and to reach out to all of the business owners in the City. We've obtained the most updated list that shows about 450 business owners. The idea is to get a plan in place to start visiting in August and it will last probably through October, maybe into the winter. It's a twofold objective here - to collect vital business statistics regarding our business community to assist us in the future, and also to hear the thoughts, concerns and ideas of the business owners that we might put to use in their favor in the future.

We're finalizing a business survey that we're going to be using to collect the information and I hope to have that to present to the Board at our next meeting.

In our effort to reach out and attract new businesses to the City, and to think outside the box, I reached out to George Norfleet, who is the head of the Connecticut Film and Television Visual Media Commission. He is in charge of implementing the tax incentives. For bringing the film industry firms into Connecticut. He has expressed a lot of interest in coming down to Ansonia, touring our available facilities and spaces, meeting with this Board and the Development Commission and the Mayor and talking about the potential for Ansonia to be attracting these firms whether for one off projects or for actual locations. At the very least, he's going to be able to take the floor plans, pictures of our facilities and put them on file with the Connecticut Film Office

so that when something like say, a studio, comes looking for a place to shoot a picture, we'll be there on file at their office and when someone comes in looking for a location of a new studio, our facilities, our available properties will be on file. Right now we're taking a look to schedule a date for that meeting. I'd like to have as many people as possible from the Commission, from this Board. Throughout this month I hope to be contacting everyone to get that date together.

Finally, Jim Prestiano and I have been working with Eileen Krugel and Rich Bshara, our website team for the City to sort of develop a business element to the website - a place easily marked with businesses, with information for businesses. A collection of statistics - whether it be employment statistics, properties that are available, employment opportunities that are available, studies and plans done in the City - all filed in one place - just to serve the business community.

President Blume stated, John, I know you're working very hard and spending a lot of time on this Economic Development. We've put a new board together and I know Mr. Prestiano was on vacation and couldn't make the last meeting, but there was no quorum.

Alderman Marini stated, similar to Planning and Zoning last night, we didn't have a quorum. So in order not to break away we moved it into an informal workshop where we were able to discuss the objectives we have, and we conducted the rest of our business by e-mail. The initial proposal was, summer meetings of the commission typically don't go on. We decided that no matter what our commission is going to work through it. We're going to proceed with our August meeting and we've certainly lost no steam because of it. Unfortunately, like any commission, we're looking for ways to make sure that quorum is achieved every month.

President Blume stated, I figured it's a summertime problem and I know you're working hard at it. Thank you very much.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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

No action.

### ***Tax Refunds***

None presented.

### ***Claims***

None presented.

*Communications and Late Communications*

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all of the communications, 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 Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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**Communication #1**

From: Mayor James Della Volpe

Re: Clifford Reappointment to SCC Regional Water District Policy Board

President Blume stated, this is a very important reappointment for us; Tom does a good job. We're still pursuing the sewer problem; we haven't given up on it.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, we should absolutely keep Thomas P. Clifford there. He's done an excellent job; he works hard, he's very diligent and he's an asset to the City of Ansonia.

President Blume noted that no action is needed as this is a Mayoral appointment and for information only.

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**Communication #2**

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Non-Union Pay Increases

No action.

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**Communication #3**

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Workers Compensation Insurance

Alderman Sharkey MOVED per the recommendation of Corporation Counsel Blake that the Claims Committee of the Board of Aldermen review the Workers Compensation Insurance Program and seek Requests for Information in which the Board of Aldermen may act upon at a future date;; SECONDED by Alderman Beall.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, it's not a request for proposals, it's a request for information.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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Communication #4  
From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: Ronald DeGregoria

To be discussed in Executive Session.

***Late Communications***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept two Late Communications; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Public Session***

President Blume asked if any member of the public wished to speak on the following Late Communications:

Late Communication #1  
From Mayor James Della Volpe  
Re: Bond Counsel - City of Ansonia

And

Late Communication #2  
From Chairman Al Smith, Ansonia Recreation Commission  
Re: Nolan Field Concession Stand Oversight

Ed Norman, 51 Grove Street

I just have a question as to why we are following Attorney Fasi versus the company. I thought we went to the law firm - we held them as bond counsel and they had a lot of support for the stuff that he did. Where he is opening his, do we have any information regarding his capacity as far as back up, research, financial analysis, increasing our bond rating? Or are we just moving with him because he's opening a new business? I don't know if maybe we should look at who we have now, what the new qualifications are, or if there are others out there, because again, in the way the economy turned in the past two years, maybe it is something we should look at on a regular basis as far as who our bond counsel is.

President Blume stated, we've used him for quite a while. Most of the work was done by Mr. Fasi. When I was Acting Mayor I was on the phone with him constantly. He's done a great job. He also represented us with the Energy District, and he did a great job with that, too.

Mr. Norman stated, and I know that over the years, I never associate the single attorney as far as being not part of the firm because there is a lot of research and paperwork and filings that are done by clerks and aides within the office. I don't know what his capacity is - is it him hanging out a shingle by himself? Maybe Kevin knows?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, just to let you know, when we went searching, he's the head of that department, he is the bond counsel for that department. When you get the advertisement from CCM, he's the head of the department. There are three other attorneys. When we went looking it was him that we've been in contact with. We have not been in contact with anyone else in that law firm.

Mr. Norman stated, I'm just saying that he's the front man but I know, just even from the picture, he had a lot of depth behind him. Does he have that now or will he be....

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I know that he brought his staff with him. When I was working with him, it was always him doing all the work. He is taking pretty much his whole practice that he had with Murtha Callina with him. That's all he does is bond work. He is very qualified.

Mr. Norman stated, I just wanted to be sure. I know he's qualified and he knows what he's doing but he's starting a new business and maybe the guy's lucky and he picks up 10 clients - will we get the same kind of coverage as we did when he was part of a large firm.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I could call him at 10 o'clock at night and he calls me right back. It's always him crunching the numbers - no one else to my understanding.

President Blume thanked Mr. Norman.

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Late Communication #1

From: Mayor James Della Volpe

Re: Bond Counsel for the City of Ansonia

Alderman Marini asked, have we actually, and I know we have a good relationship with him and I know that he seems completely confident - has there been any exploration as to whether his rates are the current rate, are they competitive rates since we're in the market as it stands today?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, the rates will remain the same; there aren't going to be any raises. I think they're about \$385 an hour. I don't know the actual information but I know they're more expensive than a lot of attorneys because their such a specialty.

Alderman Marini stated, I think that's true, it's a specialty, the rates are higher.

President Blume stated, in terms of the bonding work that he's done and the work he needs to continue to do as far as WPCA goes, it would be almost impossible to bring somebody else in right now. He's right in the middle of this; he's dealt with the Treasurer's Office. I just can't see bringing somebody else in the middle of this WPCA. It would take somebody months to catch up. And the rapport he has with the Treasurer's Office, he's the one that got us that \$1.2 million forgiveness. That took three months to do. I pushed to have it done but he's the one that got it done. That was a big deal.

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED, per the recommendation of Mayor Della Volpe, that Attorney Joseph Fasi continue in his capacity as bond counsel for the City of Ansonia under his new business, Joseph Fasi, LLC; and further, request that Murtha Cullina transfer all matters involving the City of Ansonia to his attention; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstentions (Duffus, Marini, Jordanides).

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#### Late Communication #2

From: Chairman Al Smith, Ansonia Recreation Commission

Re: Concession Stand Oversight

President Blume explained that Mr. and Mrs. King will no longer manage the concession stand at Nolan Field, and the Ansonia Gridiron Club is requesting appointment to this function. The Ansonia Recreation Commission recommends approval of this oversight under the direction of Mr. Edward Morse, as long as his group allows other sports (baseball, softball, Little League, etc.) an opportunity to use the concession as well. The Board of Aldermen has the authority to grant Mr. Morse this permission.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, we need an outline that describes exactly what the Gridiron Club's responsibilities are going to be to run that concession stand - where the funds are going to go. Are they going to the Gridiron Club? Little League during Little League season? Is it going to split? That's a huge financial responsibility.

Alderman Beall stated, I was at the meeting for about five minutes because I was late coming in from work. As far as I know, I deal a lot with Ansonia Youth Football. I was told that they were going to share between AYF as a different entity as Mr. Morse. The part I caught at the meeting was, Mr. King has been doing it since forever, then he gave it to Behun, now Behun doesn't do it any more. Now they're trying to give it Morse. As far as I know, it's just him overseeing it. I don't know as far as him being inside of it. I think he just oversees the building.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, oh, so it has nothing to do with who is actually in the concession stand selling.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, Little League has their own concession. The Gridiron Club would run it for the five home football games.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think the letter itself is stating that it's not Mr. Morse that they're looking to give this to, it's the Gridiron Club. He wrote the letter on behalf of the Gridiron Club and he's talking about how long they've been in business. It says, "I hope the Recreation Commission will appoint our group to this important function." So we're not giving anything to Mr. Morse; it's the Gridiron Club. I guess he's the representative. The letter that Al Smith wrote says they received a letter from Mr. Morse requesting permission, but it should be a letter from the Gridiron Club requesting permission to do it.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, if it's baseball season it goes to baseball; if it's football, it goes to football. If it's Youth Football, it goes to Youth Football.

Alderman Kolakowski asked, are we going to run into any issues with parents - with the Ansonia Gridiron Club running it instead of an independent person running it? Mr. Behun wasn't associated with anyone; Mr. Morse is associated with the Gridiron Club. Is anybody going to take exception to that, because they'll be in your office three hundred and something days of the year saying, "Mayor DellaVolpe, how come the Gridiron Club gets special permission, special dispensation, how come they're not running it this way or that way..." Maybe you should keep it independent and not give it to someone who has a special interest in the facility.

Alderman Beall stated, a lot of the money from that Gridiron Club goes right into our sports. They do a lot of things for Ansonia sports so it's not like - they're putting it right back out.

Alderman Marini stated, if only in name it does suggest favoritism. It seems like the end result would be favorable to everybody, but it's just the perception - maybe if we could avoid it maybe it's something we want to avoid so one element isn't being shown favoritism over another.

Alderman Sharkey stated, they say that this is only during the five home football games? In other words, AYF, Ansonia Youth Football, runs the concession stand during the AYF games, someone runs it during those other ones, so all they're looking for is they are to be in charge of this concession stand during the five varsity football games?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated no. That person is the person for everything. You have to go to that person to see whether it's available. There's no money. It's just to make sure how it's used, that no one is breaking anything. There is no money. They would be the contact point in order to use it. Nick Behun did it, I think Mr. Coppola handled it for a while.

President Blume stated, someone needs to oversee this. We have a Recreation Commission and this is the recommendation of the Recreation Commission. Do you want to give permission for them to oversee this stand for one year? Why don't we table this? I would entertain a motion to table this tonight.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to TABLE; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

### ***Resignations***

None presented.

### ***Appointments***

None presented.

### ***Resolutions***

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Resolution #1 (Amended)

Re: Environmental Land Use Restriction for 153 Main and 497 East Main

Alderman Sharkey stated, this resolution deals with the cleanup of 153 Main Street and 497 East Main Street. We've done this prior to this before there was a typographical correction that needed to be done. We need to do this and get that piece of property sold. Let's do this.

President Blume stated, I've now been promised this will be done in the first two weeks of August. They had a public hearing - DEP has to wait 30 days after the public hearing. Thirty days is August 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be cleaned up and we can go on with the sale and can recoup our money from the sale of this.

Alderman Marini asked, is there any explanation as to what the delay is?

President Blume stated, it's something else with the DEP every other day. There are so many rules and regulations and laws. This is a cleanup.

Alderman Marini asked, are they required to keep job minutes or a job log of any sort that we, as Aldermen, would be able to take a look at and understand exactly how much work is being done a week on this?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, the Council of Governments, the Brownfields expert, would have that information.

President Blume stated, we needed more money and when the Mayor was out I spent two or three meetings with them and we got the extra money. That also held it up by three months. There is an expert at COG we can put you in touch with.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt (Amended) Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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Resolution #2 (Amended)

Re: Salary Resolutions for Non-Union Personnel

No action.

### ***Unfinished Business***

None presented.

### ***New Business***

Alderman Marini stated, in the last several months I've noticed a lot of tension between residents and City Hall on a number of issues, whether it be taxes or the entire budget process a couple of months ago or the WPCA now and looking forward into the future. I think a lot of the problem is a perceived lack of transparency; a lack of openness. The residents want to know exactly what we do in City Hall - us, the commissions, and after all, everybody works for them anyway. They have a right to know. It's our best interest that we have as many eyes looking at us and looking at the commissions as possible. I can't pretend to be an expert on one percent of everything that goes on; everything that we have to be responsible for as City officials. I don't think anybody on this Board could say that we're experts on everything. The more eyes we have overseeing us the more input we can solicit and the more ideas and new energy and new perspectives we can bring into the process, the better. I think as Aldermen, as a Board, we need to take as many steps as possible to further open this. I think the City website has grown leaps and bounds toward that goal. I think we need to continue the process. I would like to propose to the Board to resume our process of videotaping these meetings both for distribution on public access channels and in the new formats that have been available - through simple Internet services like YouTube through our website, which would be zero cost to us - just the ordeal of making sure we have someone to videotape each meeting. I think it's no cost; it's completely practical and it allows residents to see what we're doing without having to leave their home. I think it's a convenience. A lot of towns and cities do it and there doesn't seem to be a downside to it. I'd like to hear from anybody on this board their thoughts.

President Blume stated, I think it's a reasonable idea - we'll discuss it.

***Executive Session***

At approximately 8 p.m., Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to enter into Executive Session and invited Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Kolakowski left during the Executive Session - 9 present 5 absent.

***Return to Regular Session***

At approximately 8:12 p.m., Alderman Sharkey MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Action on Executive Session Items***

No action.

***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen