



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Regular Meeting – February 9, 2010

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-absent
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 - 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 January 12, 2010 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Public Session

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

I have a couple of things I'd like to bring to your attention. One of the things I would like to see, and I'm sure I'm going to hear a lot of no's about it is a moratorium on building in Ansonia. We have more than enough places to live right now; we have more vacancies in my neighborhood. Houses are being foreclosed on. It seems impossible that we could be building houses for \$250,000 or 300,000 in a town where we just about can pay our bills and we're talking about freezing the budget and everything. So I really would like to see something done about that.

Also, I was just made aware a short time ago, and I'm sure people are not aware, and I don't want you to think that I'm terrible or anything but I do feel -

five families are being brought in from Nepal. They are already here I understand. There are two to four children in each of the families ranging from two years old to teenagers. They're going to be going into our school systems. We, I don't know why Ansonia was picked out of the whole 50 United States. I don't understand. We are the lowest as far as Connecticut is concerned. We're lowest on the list. We also have a school system that leaves a lot to be desired. If we bring these children in, we're going to have to have English as a Second Language. These people are being brought in, they will get, from what I understand, eight months on welfare, they'll get accelerated training, they're going to have green cards and within a year I understand there's a possibility they could become citizens. I was told this; it was directly from one of the people that's involved in it. I don't understand how in all the States in the Union they picked this state.

The other thing I would like to bring up too is the fact that I just heard about the budget a couple of days ago. I saw it on the Valley Independent Sentinel. I think at this time they're talking about raises on contracts for this department or that department. I thought there was a freeze on all salaries. I feel that the budget, since we didn't raise anything for the last three years, is going to really hit a lot of people hard. The fact too that the WPCAU is going to - we haven't even gotten a price on what it's going to cost us for the sewers. People are just not going to be able to do it. The houses and everything around my neighborhood are, there are a lot of vacancies. I really think that we have to really look into this budget very, very carefully and the people should be made aware that this is what's going to happen. Thank you.

Pat Henry, 16 Harris Road

The budget - I saw in The Register that May 10th there's a public hearing for that. I don't know if that's accurate or correct, and then a week later they're going to vote on the budget. I'd rather see the hearing be sooner so people had more time to look at it, talk about it, submit their ideas. That's all. Thank you.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I'd like also to talk about the budget. I see that it's one of the items, I read about it on the Internet. I see, I'd hate to use this term but it looks like it's just a rubber-stamping tonight to turn it over to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. I'd like you to have a little bit more thought and a little bit more input into this. The people in Ansonia are over taxed now. This is only going to result in the property taxes. There are other taxes that we also have to pay. The property taxes are directly related to this one, though. Right now, the citizens cannot afford it. People are getting laid off; people are not getting raises. The Board of Education is asking for a 4.9 percent increase. This is outlandish. The only thing that we get back from them is that, you know, I understand that they're under certain pressures from different special interest groups and everything, and it's understandable that they could do something like this, but also, you have to understand the plight that the citizens are in.

A lot of the increase is because of contractual matters. I've been in a union for most of my working life. The unions that I've been involved with all have had to negotiate their contracts. Somebody must negotiate these contracts with these groups in the City, and there is no reason why they can't tell them to either take cuts in pay, or there will be layoffs. You have to have some concern for the individuals. I'm not an advocate of the Tea Party, but I think it's about time that the citizens of Ansonia, the elected people of the City take a coffee break and start looking into these things, and instead of having taxes going up, have a little bit of a decrease in them.

I think that in the Valley Independent, I'll quote something that was quoted in there of our Mayor, "obviously a budget we can't afford." That is true. I think that we have some very good state elected officials that represent us in this area and I think one of the things they're looking into is regionalization. I think that's another way that we could cut back in our budget - regionalize in a lot of different ways on our level. The City is doing a good job in publishing the minutes of these meetings in the Valley Independent, and I thank you for whoever's credit belongs there. Also, I'd like to suggest that the agenda also be printed in there. There's a section in the Valley Independent for the agenda but I have never seen it written in there. I'd suggest that also be used. Thank you.

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

Corporation Counsel Blake

There are several matters on the agenda. To follow up with the Library contract - I met with Randy Carroll in regard to rewriting the contract. We did rewrite it. We sent it to Seccombe's Memorial and are waiting to see whether they will sign it or not. It's in their hands.

I'd like to respond to a statement by Mr. Henry during the Public Session about the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and the Public Hearing. It's by Charter that the hearing is a week ahead of time. It would have to be changed that way.

Alderman Fainer stated, the house on Division Street that we sold back, the one that burned up, is progressing nicely, improving the neighborhood, it's looking good. And secondly, the one on Bassett Street - I was so happy that we tore it down. I rode by there today and there are tires and trash on the lawn. What are we going to do about that?

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, I will call Dr. Coppola tomorrow. We are placing a lien on the file. He's having trouble with the insurance company because they are supposed to pay the demolition company. The City had to

front the money. We're going to file a lien for that. I also had about \$2,000 for relocating the tenants. We probably will not be able to get that money back because there is no determination of what the cause was. If a cause was found such as arson or something else, then we may be able to do something. I will give Dr. Coppola a call tomorrow to see if he can clean up the balance of that place.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Our winter parking provisions are working well so far.

Our in-car reporting is up and running. Officers are able to type reports in the car and send them into the Police Department as opposed to coming into the Station to have to type reports. That is working out very well.

In addition, we're doing some training now on our live-scan fingerprint system. It is operational and we're near getting everyone involved in that.

There is a request from me in front of you tonight - it's a Late Communication. It's a letter from a training company I encountered at an Expo in the early fall. It's an online training system done in-house. Not only are there broad subjects that officers are always needing training in, but we can also add our own policies and court cases in there as well. I am hoping for the Board's approval on that.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, Chief, some people called me saying about the hazardous weather coming up in the next 24 to 48 hours, and they had asked me if the City could go into a parking ban to help the Public Works get through the next 24 to 48 hours? In the past our Public Works guys are out there doing a very good job, but if a car is in the way they have a tendency sometimes to hit it or knock it. Maybe it will help them out. Mayor Bloomberg in New York basically closed the City tomorrow with parking bans. If you could post that within the next 24 hours to help Public Works it will only help in the end so the streets are clean, people can go back out and park their cars, and it's something I was going to ask the Mayor about tonight. Is this something you would consider to help out Public Works?

Chief Hale replied, it's the Mayor's call. We've done it before.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, they're predicting 50 mph winds, and between noon and 4 p.m. 14 inches of snow. It's predicted to be a major storm. I would hate to see more accidents and claims come through this Board. We could be proactive and prevent it; I think it would help the City in the long run.

Alderman Marini stated, I tend to agree with Alderman Kolakowski's recommendation. Maybe if there's some way we could get in contact the Mayor tonight if that is the proper channel, and see if he'll make the call.

Chief Hale stated, the problem we run into is, where do they park? We've lost some schools, some areas for parking. Lincoln School was a big one for that section of town and it's gone now.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, there's Nolan Field, Nolan Complex, the Boys and Girls Club. I think the attempt is, if we get six more off the street it helps. Even getting 50 percent more of the cars off the streets will be a big help.

Alderman Fainer stated, the winter parking rules have worked out pretty good over in my Ward.

Chief Hale stated, now that we're not switching over on the first of the month, and we have some continuity. The parking ban is 24 hours.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Joseph Miller - Comptroller

I want to publicly thank Mr. Sharkey and the members of the Finance Committee for working so diligently to come up with the mill rate and the budget as it's being transferred to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation tonight. I'd like to assure the people out there that it is still a work in progress. It's not finalized. There are a lot more changes to be made. Corporation Counsel Blake touched upon May - it's all by Charter. Tonight's meeting is by Charter where they turn it over. Mr. Sharkey and his Committee worked diligently on setting the mill rate.

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 Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Sharkey stated, before we turn the budget over to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation tonight, and it has to be turned over according to the City Charter, I would like to say the Finance Committee met with every Department Head. They reviewed the requests; they had each Department Head thoroughly explain each line item. Some of the members of the Finance Committee are sitting here tonight.

Several members of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation joined us every evening, so they got a preview as to what we were doing. We have also included projected salary increases as we have to in the budget, however they are still subject to negotiations. They could change.

I want to let everybody know it is not a rubber stamped budget. A lot of work went into this. The Department Heads that are sitting in this room tonight know how much work they had put in, and then the Committee. I thank the Committee members for their time. We've arrived at the place that we are now.

After we turn it over tonight to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, they will take the rest of the month of February, March, April to meet again with each of the Department Heads and they will then have a Public Hearing on what they consider the budget in May.

You have in front of you a summary sheet of our work in progress. Right now we're at a projected mill rate of 27.36. The mill rate change we're at right now is at 2.11. I'd like to officially turn that over to the entire Board of Aldermen and have them vote to send it on to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Marini stated, I have a great deal of respect for the hard work done by the Finance Committee in preparing this budget proposal. I know that this is a job that demands tough choices, and I know that it is not easy. However this proposal is simply unacceptable in its current form. The current proposal as it reads increases spending by \$3.68 million, and increases the mill rate from 25.25 to 27.36 mills. That is an increase in the tax rate of over 8 percent not considering the forthcoming increase in sewer rates.

We knew from the onset that this budget proposal would call for sacrifices, but I refuse to accept any proposal that thrusts those sacrifices upon our already overburdened taxpayers. The current unemployment rate in Ansonia is 9.5 percent. Businesses are struggling to keep their doors open - everyone is making tough choices. Everyone in town is cutting back. Mr. President, now is the time for government to sacrifice. We need a budget that reflects a fiscal restraint in hard times and which offers economic relief for our residents and our business owners. The only acceptable proposal is one that reflects lower spending and lower taxes.

I realize that making cuts is not easy and doing so will not make this Board popular with City Hall. But we were elected to serve those people sitting right out there. They are our employers. They put us here to make tough calls and to fight for their interests. Therefore, I can't merely be content to pass the ball to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation so that they can make the hard decisions and tough cuts for us. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation is an appointed board. We are the representatives, the elected representatives of

this City. This is our job and we must step up to the plate. Moreover, I'm concerned that there has only been four business days that have passed since the proposal [inaudible]. I'm saddened that the old provisions of the Charter that require the Board of Aldermen to publish in a regularly circulated newspaper the proposed budget before the Board of Apportionment and Taxation takes the reins on it has been done away with.

I would like to MOVE that the proposed increases in the proposed budget be reversed and that a revised proposal reflecting these changes be submitted to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation with instructions, which we are allowed to do under the Charter, to keep the tax rates equal or lower than they currently stand today.

Moreover, I would encourage all 14 members of this Board to work with the Board of Apportionment and Taxation as these proceedings go forward to make sure we have tax rates lower than today at the end of the game. It's time to put the interests of our taxpayers first. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Blume thanked Alderman Marini.

Alderman Sharkey stated, Mr. Marini, I echo your sentiments. I'm someone who pays his taxes and [inaudible]. However. You have in front of you a summary sheet. And if you will review the summary sheet that I gave you that has money amounts, and also has percentage amounts that right now the public sitting here doesn't have but you have, I think if you review this at a later date you will see that every increase we have in here is justified. You can stand on a pulpit, stand on a soapbox, but we can go down every single one of these and say they are there because they are necessary and needed.

You stated that there is a \$3,689,000 increase. If you will please look at your sheet, you will see \$3.3 million of that is Board of Education. If you want to do something about it, you take your fight to the Board of Education. Every other one that's in there is justified.

For instance, there is extra money put into elections. We are definitely going to have primaries this year. Any person knows there will be primaries. There will be primaries for Governor, for Senator. That money had to be added. The day that the State orders us to have primaries, we cannot have no money in our budget. I think when you review each one of them, you'll see every single figure in there is justified. If you can figure out how to reverse this, I'm sure the Board of Apportionment and Taxation would be glad to listen to you. My motion is to approve the budget.

Alderman Duffus stated, to add to that, in regard to the school system, we as a City have to decide at some point, when are we really going to get serious about the fact that Ansonia finishes at the bottom of the State. For us to simply ignore the facts that we're at the bottom and not to have an increase, it's needless at this point. We need to increase the amount of attention we provide

to our school system because we have to give our kids an advantage in the future. We have to be responsible and we can't ignore the fact that these kids need to be educated, and properly.

Alderman Marini stated, I do understand that there are times that an increase is definitely warranted. As the Aldermen, we have to make sure that if there is an increase, it's offset by cuts. It's offset by identifying areas we can save money. Ideas of consolidation. Ideas of creatively solving problems. This, I see as a wonderful opportunity to get our business people together and get our private residents together and peer ideas that we just haven't thought about - to look outside the box and look to ways we can make the increases that we must make, and certainly there are times that increases are unavoidable, but to save money in areas where we may be inefficient. What has gone on in this process does not seem to go on in that direction. Further, I understand education is a vital priority. On one hand, of course, I would say just sending money into a program is no way to ensure results. We can take a look at many education systems that have budgets far larger than the ones in Ansonia and those education systems are failing miserably. Again, we need innovation and we need creativity. We need to think beyond just pouring money into things. We need to find what the root cause of the problem is. It's not easy. There is no easy solution. It takes a lot of work and a lot of different points of view. Putting a budget together, and four days later shepherding it off to another appointed organization is not the way to handle it. Valid points have been made but I stand on a motion to reduce the increases until we can work out a budget that can make the appropriate cuts that stands for the taxpayers in the City.

Alderman Nihill stated, I echo Alderman Duffus' sentiments about our education system. I don't want to make this into a long debate with Mr. Marini. I understand you can pour money into a system and have a failure, but it costs money to educate kids. It costs money for incentives. It costs money for salaries. All these increase. Our education system does need an increase in the budget and I say give them the money to attempt to educate our kids and give them a chance successfully. Let's pick ourselves up from the bottom of all the education, all the measurements, the testing, the mastery tests. We're dead last. I say let's give them a chance. Give them more funding and see if we can increase ourselves.

Secondly, I disagree with his sentiments about putting a budget together in four days. I'm not on the Finance Committee, but they have been working for months and months, not four days.

Thirdly, it's easy to get on a soapbox and be a cheerleader and say, 'rah, rah, rah'. It's easy to say, 'I'm all for not taxing our citizens if we don't have to increase'. But let's come up with some solutions. It's easy to throw stones and say we should do this and that. How about coming up to the table with some solutions. I'm open for anything you can come up with. Don't stand there on a soapbox and say this is unacceptable, we should be more creative. Do you

have any creative ideas? I know for the ARMS, I'm on the ARMS Commission, and unfortunately that budget is going to have to increase if you want emergency medical service for our citizens. Unfortunately, that's a problem. Traditionally we had volunteers that volunteered thousands of hours a year toward our program. Unfortunately the volunteers aren't there any more. That means we have to pay people. I'm all for getting creative and saving tax dollars but I'm also a realist too. Unfortunately to provide services for the people it costs money. That's where we are.

Alderman Marini stated, again, I understand a lot of work was put into formulating this proposal, but there were four days between the finalization of the proposal and tonight. And correct me if I'm wrong, but this entire Board all 14 members, has never sat down to discuss this formally, as a group. This is what I mean when I say "working on it." I don't just mean a subcommittee. I mean this Board sitting down to work on it. I mean the public - we work for them. The public has a right to see it. They're going to have suggestions; they're going to have suggestions sometimes that make great sense, sometimes they don't make any sense. But as we see it the process here is far from over. It's going months into the future. As the elected representatives, we have a duty to sit down with those people, look for the different opinions, discuss this as a group, and figure exactly, what are the solutions. There are no easy answers, however this group as a Board, 14 of us, all elected, has not sat down collectively to suggest a single thing. This is it. This meeting. That's all we've talked about it, from a subcommittee to here. I think the Board of Aldermen should be more involved with exactly how the budget is set, exactly how much money. It has a real effect. There are serious consequences, for our residents, for our taxpayers, that can't meet the bills and that have no jobs. Again, there is no easy answer to this and there is no being a cheerleader, it's not about that. It's about, let's slow down the process, let's get more ideas, and yes, let's do the hard work, let's all come to the table. We're here to the table now, but to pass it off to another organization; to pass it off to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Alderman Duffus stated, John, this is something that has to be done, by Charter. We have to pass it along to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Alderman Marini stated, the Charter does not say that the Finance Subcommittee needs to create a proposal; it says the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Duffus stated, it's a work in progress. We sat with this for several months going over this budget and by Charter we have to send it over to Apportionment and Taxation.

Alderman Marini stated, the Finance Committee drafted this proposal, they are sent now to the Board of Aldermen as a whole to get to take a look at it. This is the problem I have. The Finance Committee had the tough decisions to make, and I'm sure it was very hard work. But I would like to see the Finance Committee bring it back to the Board of Aldermen as a whole so that we, as a

whole, pass the proposal on to Apportionment and Taxation. There's no denying it's in the Charter, but nothing in the Charter says the Board of Aldermen as a whole shouldn't have met about this proposal. Nothing in the Charter says that the public should only have four days to look at it. In fact, the Charter says they need to be notified, it needs to be published in a newspaper of regular circulation. That did not happen.

Alderman Duffus stated, it was published in the Valley Independent, correct?

Alderman Marini stated, the Valley Independent Sentinel is an online website. It's not a newspaper of regular circulation. As much as I like having it...

President Blume interjected, I have a motion on the floor by Alderman Marini. Is there a second to that motion? Is there a second to the motion? Is there a second to the motion? Seeing none, there is no motion.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to turn the budget over as presented to the Board of Aldermen to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation per the City Charter; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

| Alderman | Vote |
|------------|------|
| Duffus | Yes |
| Marini | No |
| Fainer | Yes |
| Beall | Yes |
| Nihill | Yes |
| Sharkey | Yes |
| Kolakowski | Yes |
| Blume | Yes |

The MOTION PASSED by a vote of 7 Yes, 1 No.

Alderman Gene Sharkey - Fire Committee

We responded to three structure fires in the last two weeks. Very good stops were made on each. It's been a very busy time.

Alderman Jerome Fainer - Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services Committee

ARMS report for January - it's been another busy month. We were dispatched to 245 calls. We transported 172 patients. We billed \$83,177.06 and collected \$43,147.83. Tonight we're running short on funds for ARMS and did some belt tightening over there and we're taking money out of some funds to help the cause, \$24,000 I think it is. We're taking that and putting it into the salary account because we're short of volunteers.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

President Blume stated, we are the last community to go paid. We held out as long as we could. Shelton went paid; Seymour decided to go paid. Volunteerism is dropping off very quickly. Derby went paid. We still tried to keep our volunteers together. We were the last community to have volunteers and you know what, times are tough. Our volunteers - why should they volunteer when they can go to Derby for \$17 or \$18 an hour? That's what happened to Ansonia. We were the holdout. We held out as long as we could. There are a few volunteers - we're probably about 90 percent paid now. That's how it is and that's why funds had to be transferred to the Salary account. If you look in the budget there's an increase of about \$70,000 for next year and that is what that's for - to keep that first ambulance running so we can take care of our residents. It's unfortunate. We didn't cause the problem and we held out as long as we could.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Nihill 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 8-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the Tax Refunds for December, 2009 in the amount of \$616.63 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Claims

01-10-753 Michael Carpinello
01-10-754 Edward Abel

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel Blake and the Claims Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Communications

Alderman Sharkey 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 Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Late Communication

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept Late Communication #1 from the Police Department in regard to ; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Public Session on Late Communication

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

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Gary Krassner

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #2

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: 68-74 Pulaski Highway

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: America Tower Corporation

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: License Agreement - Super Softy

Corporation Counsel Blake explained, we have several vendors who we work out agreements for when they come onto our property - the City is sort of covered in terms of insurance liability and [inaudible] with kids coming there. We worked out a system that they provide insurance, a hold harmless. Mr. Carpinello owns Super Softy and this is his third or fourth contract. We have had no problems with him therefore my recommendation is to renew the license agreement.

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to renew the License Agreement between the City of Ansonia and Super Softy; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Late Communication #1

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Re: Computerized Training Program

Alderman Sharkey stated, it appears that this is for classes for the officers to update their training. The actual cost of the training will be paid through the Asset Forfeiture Account.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Resignation

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Nicholas Gentile, Jr. from the Ansonia Housing Authority and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey.

Alderman Nihill noted that Mr. Gentile is resigning because he is no longer a resident of Ansonia, and not because he doesn't want to serve.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Appointments

ANSONIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to appoint Gary Merlone of 8 Shortell Drive (Gentile replacement); term to expire 10-31-2010; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to reappoint Louis Macero of 55 Hubbell Avenue; term to Expire 12-31-2011; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to reappoint Susan A. Nargi of 8 Benz Street; term to Expire 12-31-11; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to reappoint Patricia Fers of 28 West Brookside Avenue; term to expire 12-31-2011; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to reappoint Ellen M. Troy of 19 Chester Street; term to Expire 12-31-2011; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Naming of Webster Hose Park and Charles Carroll Memorial Wall

R E S O L U T I O N

Aldermen Joseph Jeanette, Gene Sharkey and Stephen Blume of the Third, Sixth and Seventh Wards, respectively, introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, on December 14, 1896, Alderman James Shortell introduced a resolution in which a new volunteer fire company to be located in the Third Ward was formally organized and known thereafter as the Webster Hose Company named after the second Mayor of the City of Ansonia; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1895, the Board of Common Council voted to purchase a lot on Platt Street for the purpose of constructing a firehouse; and

WHEREAS, the company's first hose cart, or "Jumper" as these were called, arrived from New York City on May 6, 1897 and was initially moved to and from fires by members pulling on a rope; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1907 a James J. McKeon, an active member of the company and who conducted a salon business and a beer distributing business at 63 Central Street purchased a wagon, drawn by two horses named "Mollie" and "Dollie"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia purchased a first motorized apparatus, a 1915 Localmobile, which it and the subsequent 1927 Seagrave pumper were housed at McKeon's as the firehouse at the time located at 67 Platt Street could not support the weight of the motorized fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 1937, the Seagrave pumper was relocated into the what it now the Webster's current firehouse and who for many years longtime member Charles Carroll maintained the fire bell and provided direction to the members as they responded to the fire calls;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that from this day forward, the park where for so many years the Websters responded out of the building owned by James McKeon, located at the corner of Central Streets and Father Salemi Drive, be hereby known

as WEBSTER HOSE PARK and the stone wall located at that site be hereby known as CHARLES CARROLL MEMORIAL WALL.

Alderman Sharkey read the Resolution aloud for the record, and MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Jerome Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

Alderman Kolakowski stated, because City Hall is closed on Fridays, I was across the street and there were people walking up to the door and you could see them getting frustrated because it's not posted until you get to the door that City Hall is closed on Fridays. One of the people standing next to me who actually lives on your street, Paul Lucuk, suggested that maybe we put a chain at the bottom of the stairs connecting a little sign that says we're closed on Fridays. We noticed a woman walking up the stairs with two young children, and if the conditions were a little icy she could fall. So it would cover the City in that respect too that, why make an elderly person walk up the stairs if they're not familiar with the hours? Maybe we could suggest that.

President Blume stated, we'll take care of that in a day or two; we'll be plowing tomorrow.

Alderman Sharkey stated, Ansonia has numerous unregistered cars in residential areas, especially parked in driveways or in the front of houses. I would ask that the Ordinance Committee meet and review our present ordinances for unregistered vehicles in residential areas with input from the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Police Department, in order to make it enforceable, that we could actually do something with it. Let's take a look at it.

Alderman Kolakowski stated, the problem we've had in the past is the enforcement of it. I think the Chief can speak to this also. We go out but there's a fine line on who can enter the property, who can't enter the property, who can issue a ticket, if the vehicle has a license plate on it, if you can identify it as actually not registered. We went over this about a year and a half, two years ago, on the Ordinance Committee.

Alderman Sharkey stated, but we have some language that's already held in the zoning ordinances about where people can actually park. We need to look at making our ordinance enforceable. I know other Valley towns have done some work on making it enforceable. I would like to take that off the back burner and put it back on the front burner.

Alderman Kolakowski said that she will call a meeting of the Ordinance Committee to review this.

Alderman Nihill stated, at a previous meeting we had informally discussed looking into different ventures to pursue as far as collecting taxes that are due to the City. One of the items that was discussed was possibly the license plate reading system and the boot. There was going to be some discussion with Mr. Miller and the agencies that provide that service. I'm just wondering if you have any update.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, there is a meeting next Tuesday, February 16th at 10 o'clock here with a vendor.

Alderman Fainer stated, we were looking at a budget shortfall and there was \$1.3 million in car taxes owed.

Alderman Nihill stated, correct. It would help the budget tremendously. I stand by what I said - it's not fair for the people that are struggling and they do the right thing and pay their share of taxes that are owed to the City. We have a lot of people out there that aren't paying their share.

Executive Session

At approximately 7:50 p.m., Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. Gary Krassner
2. 64-78 Pulaski Highway
3. American Tower Corporation

And further, invited Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:03 p.m., Alderman Sharkey MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Items from Executive Session

Gary Krassner

Alderman Fainer MOVED to enter into a settlement in the matter of Gary Krassner; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

64-78 Pulaski Highway

Alderman Nihill MOVED to authorize the City Attorney to continue with talks with the property owner and report back to the Board of Aldermen; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

American Tower Corporation

Alderman Fainer MOVED to refer this item to the Land Use Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen