



CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting – June 8, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 60748.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- absent
Robert Duffus, D1 - present
Jason Bender, D2 - present
James Fainer, D2 - absent
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
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- absent
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 May 11, 2010 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Public Session

Senator Joseph Crisco

I'm here before you tonight in support of the resolution that is going to be presented and to try to resolve the labor situation at Hilltop Nursing Home. I have two nursing homes that are on strike - Birmingham in Derby and Hilltop in Ansonia. I ask your consideration to try to bring to conclusion this unfortunate labor dispute. We're very fortunate to have nursing homes that provide services for individuals and we're very fortunate to have those people who are willing to work there. I ask for your consideration in supporting this resolution. Hopefully we can all work together to bring this strike to conclusion; a lot of people are going to benefit. I speak before you today not to lecture you or to ask you to do this, but to ask for your consideration. May I

leave you with a quote from Hubert Humphrey who said, "The moral test of government is how that government serves those in the dawn of life - children, those in the twilight of life - the elderly, and those in the shadow of life - the sick, the needy and the handicapped." I appreciate your consideration; thank you.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountain View Road

I have a statement today I want to make. I'm chairman of axe the tax group. I have a question for maybe Alderman Marini, maybe he can help me out.

President Blume reminded Mr. Plavnicky to address the Chair.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, I want to know the question of, why is it we got this so-called Fire Museum? Why is there a Derby fire truck in there? It's Ansonia but there's a Derby fire truck in there? What's the story with that? I'm addressing you, can you look into it for me?

President Blume replied yes, I'll look into it.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, when you gonna have an answer by?

President Blume replied, as soon as I get an answer.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, as soon as you get an answer. Will you call me or what?

President Blume replied, sure.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, okay. Good. I have a Bridgeport phone number, so. The Bridgeport phone number is downstairs in City Hall in the, uh... Also, yes. The Derby fire truck, you know, I'm just curious, uh, it's going to take a year to build this museum. What is going on to be built there? To finish the place up.

President Blume stated, there's electricity, wiring, water, there's been a lot of work done there.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, there's a lot of work to be done in there?

President Blume stated, it's done.

Mr. Plavnicky stated (addressing Alderman Marini), John, maybe you can look into that for me too, if you don't mind. Are you able to do that? What? Alderman Marini?

Alderman Marini stated, you have to address the President of the Board. But that's something, if this is something being brought to our attention now?

Mr. Plavnicky stated, yeah. I just want to check, you know, we're storing a Derby fire truck in there and I want to know. I want to know what that's about, or why is it in there, you know? Um, also, is there any way a checkbook register can be put online so when bills are paid, when we pay bills through the town we can see what they are online?

President Blume replied, you got me. I don't know if it's legal.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, you don't know if it's legal; other towns do it.

Mr. Miller, the Comptroller, asked, are you considering sir the check registers?

Mr. Plavnicky replied yes.

Mr. Miller stated, I'll look into it.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, okay, I'll call back in a couple weeks and check and see what's the status.

President Blume stated, why wait that long, call in a week.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, a week - okay thank you.

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 60748 and their Leader, Melissa Smith.

President Blume stated, the girls would like to present their idea - they're working toward their Silver Award Project. They have an idea for a Teen Non-Violence Center. They would like to address us on that subject.

Bianca Little - Thank you, Board, for allowing us to present. My name is Bianca Little. This is Taylor Madori, and we will be speaking on behalf of Cadets Girl Scout Troop 60748. The other members of our troop are Jasmine Johnson, Crystal Romjick, Madeline Fedder, Carlene Guiluzzi, and Casey Romjick. Our Troop Leader is Melissa Smith.

We are proposing the creation of a Teen Center in Ansonia that would be for older adolescents in Grades 7 through 10 exclusively. We are aware that the Boys and Girls Club is available for children in these grades, however, the Boys and Girls Club allows children 12 and under to roam around the club and there is no designated area for teens. In addition, it should be noted that after 8th Grade teenagers can no longer attend the Ansonia Boys and Girls Club during the after school hours unless they work as a volunteer.

We believe that having a center designated for teens only will help the community in multiple ways. Having a teen center could reduce illegal drug use, vandalism, violence and teen pregnancy by giving teens something constructive to do. It can also provide revenue for Ansonia by charging for

things like admission, membership, and/or food. Just last week, the new Metro across the street from Pilgrim Bar-b-Q charged \$10 per person for teens to enter a party there and they paid it. According to www.SADD.org, 28.2 percent of children ages 12 to 20 in the United States have had at least one drink in July 2005. That number has increased steadily over the past four years. Just take a look around Ansonia and you'll see that vandalism is an issue from the disturbed headstones to the graffiti tagging. Also, it is no secret that there are several gangs or cliques in Ansonia and the immediate surrounding areas. These cliques do things like steal bikes and anything else they feel the need, just because they are bored and want to do something. In the past two years, at least six middle schoolers have gotten pregnant in Ansonia.

[New speaker] The teen center will provide a fun, safe environment instead of smoking marijuana, drinking, vandalizing buildings or getting in other trouble in their spare time. Young adults can visit the controlled environment that the teen center would provide. You don't have to take just our word for it, we asked other 7th and 8th Graders. In October we surveyed 64 7th Graders and 100 8th Graders. We gave them the survey you have in front of you now. Eighty-one percent of the students that answered said they would go to a teen center if there was one in Ansonia. Seventy percent felt that we do need a teen center in Ansonia. Many of the comments received said it would be nice to have something to do within the City and we found that most kids go outside of Ansonia for fun activities spending their money elsewhere. When my fellow Girl Scouts and I first started brainstorming ideas, we each wrote a short paper about why we felt there should be a teen center in Ansonia. This is an excerpt of the paper written by a previous member of our Troop: *"Another great reason there should be a teen center is to prevent depression and anxiety in young people."* She then goes on to say, *"The teen center can be used as a social hangout. Friendships make children feel wanted and therefore happier."* We feel her statements are echoed by the teenagers of Ansonia; echoed by the 70-plus percent that agree that a teen center is needed, and echoed by the 80-plus percent of teens that would go to the teen center if there was one in Ansonia.

We ask that you seriously consider our proposal. Put yourself in our shoes for a moment. Wouldn't you want to feel safe, comfortable and have fun in your every day environment?

Thank you.

Alex Lopez, 1199 Healthcare Workers Union Organizer

I know in front of you tonight there is a resolution to be considered. This is a resolution in support of the workers who are currently on strike in protection of their quality jobs and in protection of their benefits. Obviously in an economy like this, it really goes a long way to make sure the community is supporting these workers as they continue to try and make sure there are quality jobs in Ansonia. There are a number of strikers here today. As you can tell, the room is probably pretty full in comparison to [inaudible]. We have

actually been able as a union to settle contracts that are very similar to this through pattern bargaining at 36 other homes throughout the State of Connecticut. In the same breath, we've seen the fact that Spectrum is one of the last holdouts who continues to ask its workers to give back not only holidays, personal days, but on top of that is asking its workers to give back their rate of pay when they're hurt on the job while they're one of the most dangerous nursing homes to work in in the State of Connecticut. In addition to that, they're asking to take people's benefits after six months of getting hurt on the job. In an economy like this, we now that our workers can't afford to be giving back. In a rough economy that we can't go another five years of tying workers wages to the Medicaid rate, so that the workers would be at all of the financial risk while the owner guaranteed himself a profit. So I know that a number of the workers wanted to come up and just speak very briefly on why they're on strike right now, what they're fighting for. With your permission, I'd like to allow them a second to do so.

Michelle Hudak, 5 Fairview Street

Good afternoon Board of Aldermen. I live five minutes away from Hilltop. I've been working there for five years and I believe that for senior citizens, they deserve quality care. I see this care that's coming in there now, it's pretty shameful that they deserve this kind of care. I mean, union, my main thing is, they deserve quality care. Residents worked hard all their years and all their lives and they don't deserve to be sacrificed to, you know. That's it.

Melinda Treloar, 28 Holbrook Street

I've been on my job for 11 years. We love our residents like family. We really need to get back to support our families and to support our community. It was a wonderful thing to have new business come to town. We really need help to get back to work and take care of our people. Thank you.

Cynthia Bednar, One Meadow Road

I, too, am here to ask you to consider trying to help us come to a resolution with this strike. I've been there for over 14 years now. Those people in there are only known the best by us - their natural caregivers. They are somebody's mother, brother, sister, father, aunt, uncle, whatever. We can't afford to keep giving back. We're not asking to get rich off of them; we're just asking for a little bit of a raise. We don't want to give up our pension. I mean, who would? That would be ridiculous. We don't want to give up our training fund. That furthers our education. We're just asking for you to consider helping us in some way, shape or form to get a resolution to this problem. We love our patients and we want them back. Thank you.

Alex Lopez

So you know, the contract that we're asking for has been settled at 36 other homes. When this all started a year and a half ago, in contract negotiations, at that point we were asking for 2.5 percent to keep up just with the cost of living and making sure we were able to keep what had been fought for in the past. At this point, the company is asking to buy its labor piece by tying people's wages for five years to the Medicaid rate, by asking for givebacks on holidays, by asking for givebacks on light duty when people are hurt on the job, benefits when people are hurt on the job, and asking for a moratorium on the training fund, which is actually something that a lot of our workers are using to move ahead, even in this rough economy.

So at this time, we're not asking for the moon and the stars, but especially after going a year without raises as a sign of good faith to the company, we are asking for the community of Ansonia to show its support, similar to how the City of Hartford has already passed a resolution of support, similar to this for the workers who are at Park Place and are on strike, as part of this nursing home chain. We are asking the same of the City of Ansonia to make sure that you are supporting our workers as we go through this. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Director Maureen Bennett, Joseph A. Doyle Senior Center

Good evening. I have a communication on your agenda this evening, I believe it's Communication #3. I'm here to answer any questions that this Board might have in regard to my communication. Thank you.

Jim Prestiano, 58 Morningside Drive

Actually I'll be speaking later on Economic Development, I'm speaking on behalf of the First Ward. I just want to talk about, and I'm glad to see Police Chief Hale here too, about what's been happening up in the First Ward. The weather is getting warm, and we're getting our usual yearly activity - but it's actually much worse now, and it's getting to be something that we're working with the Police to handle. I want to give you where I'm coming from, as representing our neighborhood in the First Ward, which is right around the corner from our Alderman, Mr. Duffus.

I've been here 53 years, all my life, my wife has been here all her life. We've moved a total of probably one mile from where we grew up. My wife actually moved next door, so she didn't move very far. We are proud of Ansonia; we happen to live here by choice. It's our choice that we live here. I'm happy to say that one of my daughters happens to live two doors down. She is planning, already, on what she needs to do to get out of Ansonia. That is for a lot of reasons. She happens to live there because I bought the house for her; it was a great start for her. But she is already considering five years down the road where she will go because of education, because of crime, and because of

deteriorating neighborhoods. Her and her future husband represent a lot of people her age in Ansonia. So I'm here to talk to you, not about what's wrong, I'm here to talk to you, and we'll talk later, John Marini and I, about what we could do better. Right now in the North End, over the past month and a half, every Friday night and Saturday night we've had vandalism to landscaping, broken windshields, we've had tires slashed, I've had racial graffiti put on my car. This is something that's going on and on. I applaud the Police Department - with the limited staff that they have, that they are reacting to the situation the best that they could. This is a warm weather thing that happens every year. I don't know if Hilltop people are subjected to this, but I've got to tell you, us people at the bottom of the hill in these, what used to be gracious neighborhoods, need some attention. All of us, as taxpayers, we've all seen decreases in our housing costs - that's nationwide, yes. But we continue to see a decline - much more than we need to have.

We're going to talk later about Economic Development, this is all related. What I'm asking you folks, as volunteers, and I applaud all of you folks who do volunteer - you're here on your own time - what is the plan? What is the plan for the next year? What is your plan for the next five years? What are we going to do to get on the right cycle to change this behavior? In the short term, I know that Chief Hale has offered us a crime officer who is going to come up and talk to us about Neighborhood Watch, but is that where we should be? In a neighborhood like we live in, it gets closer and closer and closer, and we need to do something about it. The West Side is no different.

Here we go. Are you folks committed as a group to worry about City of Ansonia as a whole, and not just your own wards? Again, I applaud you guys for being here, but what is the plan? What I would suggest, we did do often before and I thought it was quite successful, start getting your Ward meetings again. Start getting your neighbors together. Start walking the streets and hearing what the problems are. The future does not look good unless we do something proactive instead of reacting to the situations. That's all I have to say about that. Again, I have to say I thank you, Chief Hale, you've always been responsive to it. But we're in a very, very serious situation now that we've really got to respond to it. 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

Acting Mayor Stephen Blume

Last Thursday I met with Peter Burns from DeCarlo and Doll, together with Mike Schryver and Rick Dunne from the Council of Governments in Derby, concerning the Riverwalk. We've been Riverwalking for quite a while and I wanted to see where we were, where we're going, and what they're doing. It

was a very good meeting. I also wanted some kind of timeline from DeCarlo and Doll as to when they were going to start, and what was happening.

We've received \$2.2 million in federal funds for this Riverwalk, and we also received another \$800,000 in Stimulus money. We've got about \$3 million for this project, which is enough to finish the entire project. We thought up until a few weeks ago that we would just be able to do half of the Riverwalk; one side of the river. Now, with the additional funds we will be able to erect the bridge going across. I saw the plans, we'll have a beautiful gazebo, there's a rest station. This is state of the art, top notch. This is really nice. So it's been seven years in the making. Derby's was 11 years in the making. It takes a lot of time. The Department of Transportation, every time you do something, a plan, you have to send it up to them, they have to okay it. It takes them months to okay it. They send it back to DeCarlo and Doll with suggestions. They redo them. This has been going on for a long time. I finally have a task plan. Tonight there's a resolution in front of this Board to authorize the Mayor to sign agreements, to go out to bid, construction, inspection, administration for the beginning of this project, which is Segment 7. That's how they were numbered. That's this week. Then they have to go back to the Department of Transportation and get some more approvals. The start date for this project is September 7, 2010. In September we will break ground on the first phase of this project. The majority of the work is going to be done between September 7 and November 30 on this phase. Then we're going to break for the winter. We'll come back at the thaw and final construction, certification of completion, close out procedures will take place, God willing, June 30, 2011. We have a timeframe now. Once that's completed we will move onto the other sections, 8, 3, 4, the bridge. This is a really beautiful project. We just needed to nail this down. I have a commitment now on paper and at least we know where we're going. The money is in place. We can do the whole thing and it will be very nice. We did that this week.

The other information is this ATP - Palmer Building - the Incubator. I was promised when I went to COG last week - they gave us the extra money that we needed to finish it which was very nice. I was told the first two weeks in May - and that's gone. Now we're on the first two weeks of July. We need to get this project finished. Again, the State. All these departments in the State have to give all these okays. Rick Dunne feels very confident that they will remove everything they have to remove the first two weeks in July. Everything will be signed and then we can proceed to get our money back. It's quite a bit of money from the sale of this.

Last month we had the Nature Center here and we talked about the Red Wing Pond House. We got hold of Lisa Low - she was here at the meeting. I met with her the next day. The grant was written exclusively for the Red Wing House - \$25,000 a year for two years - that's \$50,000. But it was written exclusively for the Red Wing Pond House. We had her withdraw the application and change it to include the entire Nature Center, which the Red Wing Pond House is a part of. So the money can be still used for the Red Wing Pond House, but it can also

be used in the rest of the Ansonia Nature Center. It's not limited just to that house. We had a problem with this preschool that they wanted to put in there. They will get their \$50,000 and Donna can use it any way she wants up there to fix the place up.

The Mayor had sent them a letter January 7, 2010 when they brought this preschool project up, and he said, *"It has come to his attention that they were continuing to pursue funding for the Red Wing Pond House Nature Preschool Project, along with the Friends of the Nature Center. I must once again stress that the City can in no way financially support this project. As discussed at our meeting on November 19, 2009, any and all operational expenses, services, building maintenance and all other liabilities, including staff and their potential benefits would have to be funded by the Friends of the Nature Center. Further, since the Red Wing Pond House is a City building, any plans for its future use must be brought before the Ansonia Board of Aldermen for their consideration and approval."* Most of you are aware of that. Since that time they have continued to proceed with this preschool project. We cleared up the grant for them, we gave them the grant. I sent them a letter on May 17, 2010. *"This memorandum is to inform you that the Resolution and grant application have been changed so that the grant funds are to be utilized for the Nature Center, and not solely for the Red Wing Pond House. Funds received from the grant can be used for any purpose on the Nature Center property. The Board of Aldermen has agreed that the City will continue responsibility for utilities, maintenance, and insurance on the Red Wing Pond House, provided that it is used for Nature Center activities. However, if the use of the building changes to a preschool or charter school, we will then enter into \$1 per year lease agreement with the Friends of the Nature Center and upon execution, the City will discontinue all responsibility and payment for utilities, maintenance and insurance on the Red Wing Pong House facility. Thank you for your cooperation."* That was sent; they should be on the right track now. They know where we stand. We'll see what happens.

This has been a very, very trying year budget wise. Everybody knows, it's been the worst time to do a budget in 30 years. There certainly could have been layoffs in this City - there could have been four or five layoffs in this City. There were no layoffs. There were none. Whenever someone moved a position, and boy did I get criticized for this, whenever a position was left open by someone moving to another position, I did not fill that vacant position with a full-time employee. We can't afford to do this. Everybody has to step up to the plate here. Everybody that works for the City has to become more and more responsible. We've just got to dig in and work a little harder. Instead of replacing it with a full-time employee, I did an emergency hire and I put in part-time staff - no benefits. A couple of positions were open in Public Works, and I didn't fill them either. Somewhere around \$250,000 was saved. If we didn't do that, and we hired full-time staff, there surely would have been layoffs. For this I am being criticized. I'm a "union buster." It was not done to bust any union. I belong to a union; I'm a school teacher. I'm all for unions. It was done so that nobody in this City got laid off.

This year is going to be worse. Next budget will be worse than this budget. There is very little money coming in. Our tax base is not growing. Everybody needs to step up to the plate. All the City workers - there is no reason to have three people in an office any more. You could have two people and a part-timer. You could have one person and a part-timer. I moved some janitors around. I made some changes. I didn't like to do it, but it had to be done. It was done and I just hope it continues to stay that way. I don't want to see the efforts changed. This is not a game any more, and things are not good. I didn't want to lay anybody off. So if you hear I'm a bad guy, that's why I did it. And to save the jobs - there were no layoffs in Public Works - there were no layoffs any place. That is why that was done.

Corporation Counsel Blake

This morning I received a communication by e-mail from the lawyer who represents the property owners of that property at Pulaski Highway. They wanted to know what the City's interest was in purchasing the property. I told him that I haven't had enough time to contact you, that there were some Aldermen that would not be here, and I told him we'd get back to him by July if there is any interest. I asked also for clarification as to whether or not, based upon his letter it seemed he wanted to extend the years of payment. We had it at four years. I will probably bring this up next month.

There is one matter on executive session - Michael Carpinello, regarding a motor vehicle accident. I'd like to address that with you.

To let you know, in terms of the Salahuddin matter - I did meet with Mr. Serafinowicz and was able to reduce about \$4,000 in terms of the attorneys fees, but I only made a down payment of what our deductible is because I have inquired from our insurance broker whether or not there is any insurance policy that would cover over and above our deductible of \$25,000. I got a response from one company, they say it didn't, but I'm waiting for one other policy before I will instruct Mr. Miller with the reductions to pay the balance owed to Mr. Serafinowicz.

Police Chief Kevin Hale

There was an unfortunate fire over the weekend Sunday up on Birchwood Drive. Two of our officers were injured. They ate quite a bit of smoke trying to go in to pull the victim out. They will be returning to work tomorrow; they did both miss a day's work.

Lieutenant Cota will be attending the FBI National Academy in July. It's a 10-week program; he'll be there through the middle of September. A department our size gets an opportunity at this once every 9 or 10 years. We look forward to that.

To address Mr. Prestiano just for a minute, we have seen an increase in vandalism up in the northern part of the City, the North End. It's a little more than what our normal rash would be. I'm not going to say publicly what we're doing about it. We've made some changes in our patrolling. I do wish, and I did return your call today, I wish there were more people like the Prestiano's that would come out and really show the interest. I think some people are afraid to do that because they don't want to be a nuisance, or whatever reason, that couldn't be farther from what we're looking for. If we don't get information from the public, then we really can't do a lot of what we do. A lot of the success that we see is based on what input and what information we get from the citizens. I would say in whole that we certainly are looking for as much cooperation we can get, we will work with that neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods as best we can with the resources we have to track down those responsible for this. We feel it's probably the same people. We'll try our best and continue to do that until we come to a resolution.

President Blume stated, Jim, in response to your question about the Hilltop, Sunday morning on Sobin, a resident, neighbor, called the station, another neighbor came out of his house, there were people taking things out of his shed in broad daylight. There's action on the street; it's not a dead-end. People in the shed stealing. The neighbor came out, started screaming and they ran. You know, the economy is terrible; things are terrible. Chief, you've got to put up with, I mean I'm sure you weren't used to this years ago. It's just the way it's going. It's probably throughout the whole town.

Alderman Jerome Fainer stated, in the Fourth Ward we established a Block Watch and the cooperation from the Chief, Detective Tinney, it's been tremendous. It's a start. We've got 25 people that show every month, at least, to the meeting. We've got a lot of problems in the Fourth Ward, but it's a start. The Police Department cooperation has been tremendous and I appreciate it. The neighbors call in and report suspicious activity. The group has been steady - they haven't gone away after one meeting. They're very concerned.

Alderman Marini stated, even in terms of the Block Watch, in connection with the signs, the visual reminder that the residents aren't taking it sitting down. They're getting together, there are eyes out there on the streets, and sometimes it's enough to see those signs as a deterrent to let people know there is something going on behind the scenes. Of course from a criminal's perspective, they don't know how many people are out there, how many people are actively on the phone list. It just takes a few people to get it organized and get that presence out there. I think it's important as Mr. Prestiano said, get together and let them know that we're not going to take it.

Joseph Miller - Comptroller

I echo your sentiments about the tough budget for this year. The audit of 2009 should be completed next week. The company called yesterday that's doing the GASBEE 45 actuarial - they'll have it either on the 15th or 16th and the audit firm should only take a day or two after that. I'm here to answer any questions.

Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning and Zoning Commission

Good evening. A number of months back I came before the Board voicing my concern over a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. I thought the meeting was noticed incorrectly and they were being asked to enter into a contract. I wasn't sure that was allowed either; I didn't know they could bond the City as the Board of Aldermen could. And I never heard back. So, I'm here this evening just to, I remember Alderman Sharkey pointed to the Corporation Counsel and said, "he will check into that and let you know." So after 10 months I thought maybe he has the answer.

President Blume stated, I apologize also...

Mr. Flaherty stated, it's okay; that's why I'm back here.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, there was a trial on this thing. We had tried to tell the Judge with respect to the meeting, the concerns, and the Judge decided to approve and go forward with the contract with the Main Street Development Corporation in terms of them going forward with the change in the ordinance, I mean, the decision to go forward and proceed with the building with modifications.

President Blume asked, the Judge let them enter into contract?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, he made a decision after the trial.

Mr. Flaherty stated, I'm sorry. I didn't hear. What was the contract that you were asking them to enter into?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated no, not contract, it was the agreement with respect to that was signed regarding the modifications of the, of the Zoning Board of Appeals in terms of what they could do in terms of the number of units, parking spaces, the reduction in density. Then the Judge agreed with the Main Street Development Corporation that they could move forward with that, regardless of the concern regarding the notice of the meeting, and the minutes.

Mr. Flaherty stated, so you entered into a contract with who?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I didn't enter into a contract, the Zoning Board of Appeals...

Mr. Flaherty interjected, well, in essence Zoning Board of Appeals did.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, they voted upon it at a meeting to agree to make modifications. Based upon the modifications in terms of not, they went before the...

Mr. Flaherty asked, what was the agreement, Mr. Corporation Counsel? I don't know what the agreement was. I have no idea what you're talking about. Modification of what?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, what they wanted up there in terms of the number of units at this building, the number of parking spaces, they have commercial businesses on the Main Street side. That is the... I believe they still need to go in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission after that, because I'm not sure they've done anything yet after this decision.

Mr. Flaherty stated, I haven't seen it. All I know is you had the meeting, and if it's a court settlement, they don't come before Planning and Zoning. We can't involve ourselves with a court settlement. But you negotiated this agreement? This settlement?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, the agreement that was discussed with respect to our office, the Mayor's office, some Aldermen, and then went to the Zoning Board of Appeals, it was presented and they agreed to go forward with it.

Mr. Flaherty stated, because it never came before Planning and Zoning ever, to be denied. It was never denied by Planning and Zoning. If you're talking about the 14 low-income housing units that they're putting in...

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, it's not low-income housing. They cannot put low-income housing there. It's got to be moderate, moderate housing in there..

Mr. Flaherty stated, affordable housing.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, no. I don't have the contract in front of me. I'll get you the agreement.

Mr. Flaherty stated, I didn't know that's what it was.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, that was based upon a court decision after a hearing and the Judge did not rule that that meeting could be null and void, they decided to forward with the Main Street Development Corporation's, and the agreement that was entered into.

Mr. Flaherty asked, who is Main Street Development Corporation? I know they have 20 low-income housing units on Main Street. Now there's 14 assisted, or something, I'm not sure. So that's 34 on Main Street. Okay.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I didn't have any involvement with them other than that thing.

Mr. Flaherty asked, you had no involvement in this agreement? Didn't you negotiate it?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, oh this, this was, we were asked to negotiate it; I was part of it in terms of the parties were together and then the Zoning Board of Appeals decided to go forward. They didn't have to vote yes or no [inaudible due to ringing phone]. They made the decision, the members that were there at that meeting that night.

Mr. Flaherty stated, thank you very much, Mr. President. I have my answer now. Now I know what went on at that meeting that wasn't noticed correctly.

Just as a brief aside, I heard mentioned someone talking about the Fire Museum. I would just like to point out that that was a derelict building; an empty, vacant, derelict building right down from Howard Avenue, right on Howard Avenue.

It was a derelict, empty building, and there is now a Boys and Girls Club there which is thriving; it's doing tremendous. Almost 200 to 250 children a day go to the Boys and Girls Club. There is also a Day Care Center sponsored by the YMCA there, and there is also the Fire Museum. I don't know, I read occasionally some people have a problem with this Fire Museum. I just personally, as a taxpayer, I am fully supportive of that whole complex. The Boys and Girls Club, the Day Care Center of the YMCA, and the Fire Museum. If you go over there, the building is totally changed. And it came from a decayed, empty, broken-windowed building to a viable entity on Howard Avenue with children going there every day and I think it's a real plus. I overheard the gentleman commenting on it, so I thought I'd comment myself as a taxpayer of the City of Ansonia. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak, and thank you Corporation Counsel for your explanation.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I would like to add something to Mr. Flaherty's comment, only because the door was opened and it was done. People don't realize, Mr. Flaherty brought up, it is a threesome in the building. It is the Boys and Girls Club, it is the YMCA, and Ansonia Fire Museum. The way it was presented to get funding it had to be the three. That meets the needs of the community, the needs of the children. In order to use a building that was funded by the Pine Trust. They had to actually dissolve the Pine Trust at that time, and in order to do that they had to go to some bank that actually held the building in trust and had given it to the school. They turned it back to the City

of Ansonia but it actually is written in the will of the Pine Trust that it had to be used for those things. So the Boys and Girls Club proposed that it would be the Boys and Girls Club, the Ansonia Fire Museum, and the YMCA Day Care. The Board of Aldermen approved that probably 10 years ago when the Boys and Girls Club started with this. So someone has an axe to grind over it now, they're not going to throw the Ansonia Fire Museum out of there because it is part of the inception of the threesome using three separate sections of that building. We have explained what it is and what it intends to be, but it's not going to dissolve, and you're not going to get rid of it unless another whole change to everything is done over there. The Ansonia Fire Museum has a 99-year lease on it that was approved, and it doesn't cost the City anything. It's still under construction and I'm willing to take anybody that wishes to go and see it. I'll take you through there and show you what's been done. Thank you very much for your kind words, Mr. Flaherty.

President Blume stated, thank you, and most of the construction was done by volunteers, many hundreds and hundreds of hours in there to transform that place.

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.

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

As Chief Hale brought up, we had a fatal fire Sunday morning - it was a very bad fire. I'd just like to make a report that the Police Officers on the scene did work very heroically trying to remove the person who perished in the fire, along with several Firemen. I'd like to commend and tell the Chief the Dispatch is working fine. Police were dispatched after the Fire Service was already on the road. That did work out well. We were dispatched and on our way before the cruisers even went. We hope to see it continue. I'd like to commend several Firemen on the scene that were actually in the building with the Police Officers, said they did a very commendable job rushing in there without equipment that we have and so forth. They were at a risk to themselves to try and save someone. You can pass that on that we're very happy.

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

Alderman Jerome Fainer - Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services Committee

For the month of May, we had 231 calls, we had 155 transports and we collected \$59,082.12. And as of May 31, 2010 we've collected \$599,051.39. We

have a communication in front of this Board tonight for approval of a new ambulance.

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

Economic Development Commission – Alderman John Marini

I'm sure everyone on this Board has heard of the sad situation with Healey Ford. It's just another reminder that Economic Development in this City must be a top priority, both in terms of bringing in new business and hanging onto businesses that have been here for lifetimes.

I'm very pleased to report that we have a new Economic Development Commission impaneled with individuals who are extremely excited and enthusiastic to get to work for the City of Ansonia. They have an ambitious agenda, both in the short term and in the long term, and rather than discuss it myself here tonight, we have Mr. James Prestiano, the Chairman of the Commission, who would like to address the Board tonight.

Chairman Jim Prestiano, Chairman, Economic Development

We have been asleep for a little while, but we're back and we're back with a lot of force. I've been involved with the Economic Development Commission for quite a few years now. We took a little hiatus from the commission and I put my efforts toward being a member of the Ansonia Development Corporation, but basically was put into place to take care of some of the things that the Commission couldn't do. They're alive and well and I'm happy to say that. But we have resurrected the commission again. We do have at least seven members now that are, we happen to have had a very robust meeting just last week that we put together, specially so we could get it before this meeting so we could deliver some news to you. I thank Alderman Marini as well as Alderman Duffus especially for coming to that meeting. We had a very productive meeting.

Basically where we're at with the commission is we have set our goals and like Mr. Marini said, short-term and long-term. Our short-term goals obviously are to figure out what we want to do, who we are and what we need to do. Before we could pound the pavement basically and start spreading the word, we need to come up with a mission statement. I'm happy to say at our last meeting, through our commissioners going and doing their homework in between meetings, came back with some great ideas. We did come up with a mission statement that I'll read to you shortly. That was our first goal, and our goal is accomplished.

Again, in the short-term, our goal is to have our Director of Economic Development as well as commissioners when they're available to start pounding the pavement, contacting every single business in the community, face-to-face whenever possible, and start listening. While we're listening start

collecting the information that we need to get from the businesses - what's good, what's bad, what's indifferent and what can the City do to help them.

Just to segway what was said by President Blume, we need to get down and dirty and start pitching in and doing what we can. It reminds me of the speech I give my people every year when it comes budget time. You've got to dig in and where there's no money you've got to find money. It's very nice to hear you say those things because you've got to run this place like a business. That's our message to our businesses out there. We want to portray City Hall as being the place for them to come to, to be helpful and not to be a deterrent. To be the place where they can get any questions answered. If you can't answer them here, you'll find the answer for them.

We need to retain our businesses, that's first and foremost, and we need to attract businesses. It all falls into everything we've talked about tonight. We had the Girl Scouts coming in here looking about finding things for teens to better the community. That's all part of, believe it or not, Economic Development. We heard about making our neighborhoods safe. It's all part of Economic Development. You guys struggle with the education. It's all part of Economic Development. If we don't package the City with all these good things that we can do or things we need to improve, or we're not going to go anywhere. That's what the commission is all about.

We are, like I said, going to be going out to the businesses. We would welcome any of the Aldermen to visit businesses with us also. I know people's schedules are tight and everybody has a job, but these businesses need to know that we're thinking about them and we're here to help them.

In the short term again, in fact our next goal, is we are going to be putting together a strategic plan. A strategic plan is basically taking the missing statement and breaking it down into what we need to do. I would welcome any type of information from you folks that we can make part of our strategic plan. A lot of this is going to come from feedback we get from businesses and citizens, but if you have any ideas throw them at us, stick them in John's (Alderman Marini) mailbox and we'll take it from there.

I wanted to give you what our mission statement is. It's a mouthful but it tells the story of what we'd like to do.

The Ansonia Economic Development Mission Statement is:

To achieve and maintain the most dynamic and robust business climate in the City of Ansonia and surrounding communities by aggressively pursuing all avenues of growth for existing and new businesses towards the goal of maximizing employment opportunities, the tax base, and quality of life for all.

Like I said, that will be our message. That will be, basically, our way into these businesses to say, this is what we're all about, what can we do for you? We just started and I think we're in a good direction. Any questions for us?

President Blume stated, just a thank you. You're doing a great job and you've got the ball. We support you. Thank you.

Mr. Prestiano stated, I just have one question related to Chief Hale and the Aldermen. I know that things are confidential as far as nature of crimes and who and whatnot. But are the specifics of crimes that happen in the Wards, are those relayed to our Aldermen? Do our Aldermen know what's happening in their particular Wards?

Chief Hale replied, no, they don't.

Mr. Prestiano asked, is there a reason why you couldn't do that? I would like my Aldermen to know what's happening in the First Ward.

President Blume stated, Jim, the information does trickle down. The Mayor is called immediately, as I am now, and it does trickle down from the Mayor. It's not a direct call but the word does go out.

Mr. Prestiano stated, even some kind of report or something, because if I was an Alderman, I would want to know. I wouldn't want to know from somebody who voted for me, I'd want to know first hand.

Alderman Duffus stated, just to let you know, I had a two-hour meeting with the Chief today.

Mr. Prestiano stated, I know, I'm not directing it just to you, it's just a general comment to all of the Aldermen so they're kept up to speed.

Alderman Marini stated, it probably is a good idea, but we all get busy with daily life. Being an Alderman is sort of a volunteer position and having something like that coming from the Police.

Alderman Duffus stated, e-mail would be good.

Alderman Marini stated, especially with e-mail - there are easy ways to do things - really being able to stay in the loop allows the Aldermen to sort of take it on himself to figure out what's going on and to not have to rely on a chance meeting here or there, or to have to rely on a trickle-down system. It is something that seems to be very feasible to do. It would be cost-effective and would help a lot.

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

Alderman Pietrangelo stated, I'm wondering, what are we going to do about, we had a Senator talk, we had some people talk about the strike. What are we going to do about this late Resolution? They've been out eight weeks.

Alderman Pietrangelo MOVED TO DEVIATE FROM THE AGENDA to bring up Late Resolution #1 now; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Late Resolution

Public Session on Late Resolution

President Blume asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak on the Late Resolution. Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

Alderman Duffus stated, this Resolution needs to happen tonight. I know the City normally doesn't want to be involved in a contract negotiation, but in this case I think we should step in and provide some kind of help to remediate the situation.

President Blume stated, during the month I received a few phone calls, and I felt the same way that you just mentioned, that it's really not the City's position to get involved, legally, I've talked to some of our lawyers, and we really don't want to take a side, but we do want these people to be helped. Then when I spoke to Alex on the phone this afternoon, I kind of realized that we really need to do something to help them.

Alderman Marini stated, first I'd like to say that I'm very supportive of unions. Both of my grandparents had been in unions, my other family members, teachers' unions, whether it's been construction, I'm very involved in unions and very supportive of unions. But in terms of the City's role - the City's role in terms of getting involved in situations like this, I very much believe a city, a government, has a responsibility to act like a referee, essentially to make sure that the rules are being followed, to make sure that both sides have access to their rights. Unions should be allowed to exist. Union has it's certain rights and they need to exercise them. At the same time, private employers have their rights, and they're within their bounds to exercise them. As a City, we need to make sure that no one steps outside their bounds. But to actively take a side, to sort of go beyond the role of being a referee and to become a player on the field, I believe that's improper. I believe that the resolution, although it's certainly a good intention, is an improper step for the City to take, to force one side to the bargaining table - to simply take sides in the game. It's for that reason that I cannot support the resolution as worded.

Alderman Fainer stated, as a union electrician, last time our contract was up, we went 18 months and they never talked to us. We went 18 months and lost a lot of money. They just snubbed their face at us. This should help speed a

solution. You have a right to strike, they have a right as employers. But we had 18 months and they didn't even talk to us. Those 18 months with nothing. No raise, nothing. Nothing put into our benefits. It's not an easy thing. I've been on strike numerous times and it's not easy. I was married one week the first time we went on strike. There was no income coming in. If this help get a solution to the matter, I back it 100 percent.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I'm a union person, I have been on strike a few times. I believe if one side is not bargaining in good faith then it's not fair to the other side. So I will support a union no matter what to the end, and what you people do up at that hospital, what you did for my father before he passed away, I'm very proud of you and I'll do anything for you.

Alderman Fainer stated, my mother was up there before she passed away and the staff up there was unbelievable. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I also felt that the Board of Aldermen had no business getting involved in this. I weighed that very heavily. I've done several things. I've read this resolution carefully. All it really asks is that Spectrum Health Care return to the bargaining table. It asks that they bargain in good faith. It asks that they negotiate in good faith, and it asks that if there are any expenses from the Police that are caused by Hilltop Health Care that they reimburse the City. I would have no problem supporting this after reading the way this is written. I must also say that both my mother-in-law and my mother were long time residents of Hilltop Health Care before it became Spectrum, and had excellent, excellent care. I, as an Alderman, look at a separation here and a separation here, but I feel with this and what we're asking by this resolution, I can support this resolution.

President Blume stated, Alex, just for your information, when you left this in my office, we spoke to Corporation Counsel, we deleted number five, the last thing, it was a little rough. We took that out just to make it more palatable. As president of this board, my mind says that we need to mind our business, but my heart says differently. I will also support this. I need a sponsor for this Resolution. Aldermen Sharkey, Duffus, Jeanette.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, on behalf of the Chief, the one about the Police Department overtime, that may not be enforceable, just to let you know.

President Blume stated, we didn't put anybody there for a shift. I mean, the Police went up when they needed to be, but I don't think it was much.

President Blume asked if any other person wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Late Resolution #1**Re: Labor Strike at Hilltop Health Center**

Aldermen Robert Duffus of the 1st Ward; Jason Bender of the 2nd Ward; Joseph Jeanette of the 3rd Ward; Jerome Fainer of the 4th Ward; Robert Beall of the 4th Ward; Spero Jordanides of the 5th Ward; Pasquale Pietrangelo of the 5th Ward; Eugene Sharkey of the 6th Ward and Stephen Blume of the 7th Ward introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

Whereas, the City of Ansonia is proud of its long and distinguished tradition of supporting vital health and human services jobs within our community, including the jobs of the employees of the Hilltop Health Center skilled nursing facility; and

Whereas, the contributions of the caregivers employed at the Hilltop Health Center to the Ansonia community are vital to the City's health and welfare, economy, culture and civic character; and

Whereas, more than 50 of the workers and their families currently represented by the New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, who are currently on strike at Hilltop Health Care Center and its sister facility in Derby, Birmingham Health Center, reside within the City of Ansonia; and

Whereas, District 1199 has settled thirty-six (36) contract with other Connecticut nursing homes on the same general pattern over the last year without strikes or other labor disruptions; and

Whereas, Spectrum Healthcare, the operator of the Hilltop Health Center, has refused to agree to the same general terms and conditions as these thirty-six other nursing homes; and

Whereas, the National Labor Relations Board is investigating charges of Unfair Labor Practices committed by Spectrum Healthcare against its employees at the Hilltop Health Center, including charges of illegal terminations and suspensions without recourse to arbitration; and

Whereas, the City of Ansonia is incurring unanticipated and ongoing expense for police overtime to ensure public safety at the picket line outside the Hilltop Health Center; and

Whereas, Spectrum Healthcare has declared that it has hired permanent replacements for Hilltop Health Center workers who are exercising their legal right to strike;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ansonia Board of Aldermen calls upon Spectrum Healthcare, Inc., to:

- 1) Return to the bargaining table with the Negotiating Committee for the Hilltop Health Center immediately.
- 2) Bargain in good faith with the members of the New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199 at the Hilltop Health Center for terms and conditions of a new contract.
- 3) Negotiate in good faith an equitable means of resolution of the terminations and suspensions of Hilltop Health Center employees since the expiration of the most recent contract that are the subject of Unfair Labor Practice charges.
- 4) Reimburse the City of Ansonia for any and all Police overtime and other expenses incurred by the City to protect public safety during the length of the job action at Hilltop Health Center.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt the resolution; SECONDED by Alderman Pietrangelo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Marini).

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

Tax Refunds

None presented.

Claims

None presented.

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

Communication #1

From: Cafaro's Ceramics

Re: Damage to Road and Lot from Snow Plow

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to refer Communication #1 to the Superintendent of Public Works and the Board of Public Works; SECONDED by Alderman Pietrangelo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #2

From: Chairman William Urban, Conservation Commission

Re: Cutting of Trees

Alderman Sharkey stated, what they are asking is that no trees are cut down without going to the Conservation Commission. We have an arborist on board - the arborist is the Superintendent of Public Works. He makes the decisions on trees, whether they're storm damaged or not, whether they need to go.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, there is a Tree Ordinance and Alderman Sharkey is right that if there are trees to be removed, the Conservation Commission is supposed to hold a special hearing. I don't think it may have been done in the time since I've been here. But I'll make a note to Mr. Schryver that if he has any trees, to contact the Conservation Commission, and if they want to have a hearing or not to see whether or not they should tear it down. But it's only on trees that are on the City property.

President Blume asked, what if the tree is endangering and it can't wait?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I think there is a State Statute if there is immediate and imminent danger that they can tear it down.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think this needs to be resolved somehow, for all future tree cutting. There are times when the Fire Department goes out and cuts them, ARMS cuts them...

President Blume stated, I think I know where this came from. I talked to Mike Schryver tonight. Across the river, they cut down four trees. They're going to put 12 trees there. But somebody from the Conservation Commission must have seen them cutting down, right on the river, four trees. No one asked. They're going to make another park. They're going to clean it up over like, similar to Vartelas Park. So the four trees are going to be replaced by 12 trees.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I'm not recommending that we do this for cutting all trees. We have Public Works and we have the Arborist.

President Blume stated, we have an arborist and it should be his decision. If

you're going to clear a forest, maybe then you'd have to go in front of them. What would you like to do with this?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I will try and speak with Mr. Urban and Mr. Schryver and see if they can reach a mutual agreement as to what the parameters are.

Alderman Duffus stated, the language should be written that it depends on the amount and location of the trees. So like you said before, if it's going to be an entire field then maybe, but this is one tree that we need to get rid of immediately, then it shouldn't be voted on, it should be done.

President Blume stated, I have no doubt that the two of them will work it out.

Alderman Fainer MOVED to have Corporation Counsel Blake meet with the mutual parties; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #3

From: Director Maureen Bennett - Ansonia Senior Citizens Center
Re: Assistance with 2010-2011 Budget

President Blume recognized Ms. Bennett from the audience.

Director Maureen Bennett, Joseph A. Doyle Senior Center

I'm sorry to say that I didn't have any part of preparing the budget for 2010-2011 because I was not employed by the Senior Center when the budgets were passed. I have to say that I'm quite surprised that the position of the Secretary/Assistant was completely eliminated. You'll see in my letter of explanation why I think we need to have at least the Secretary. She acts as a relay. We've had, and I've only been there for six weeks, at least six times that the ambulance has come to the Senior Center. The latest one, a gentleman fell putting on the pool table cover and he cracked his pelvis in three places. He wanted up, there was no way to get him to get up. And the only phones are phones that are all the way down at the end of the hall. So the fellows were screaming, "Call an ambulance!" so I of course dial 911. They ask, "What's the matter?" "I don't know. They're yelling to call the ambulance." The Secretary was either out to lunch or off that day. I truly believe that with, there are membership counts attached to the letter, that we need to have at least another person there. If you look, there are at least 60, 40, 35 people there every day for every different thing. So I'm begging for another person at the Senior Center.

President Blume stated, well you know it will be a part-timer.

Ms. Bennett stated, and I will work to answer any questions. I also know that in

the new budget year the transportation costs have also been cut. That truly affects only elderly people from the City of Ansonia. Valley Transit District charges the Senior Center \$800 a month for grocery shopping trips and the trip back and forth to bingo every Wednesday. Yes, they charge a lot. It might be cheaper if we just bought coupons and passed those out to the people that truly needed transportation. I've been through the list and see that there are some people that still drive, have a car, have a parking pass to use the Percy Cohen parking lot across the street from the Senior Center, but they take the bus to the grocery store. I know there are areas we could probably cut. Hate to say it, but most people that take the Senior Center bus for grocery shopping live in the Ansonia Housing Authority, Woodlawn Avenue and Monsignor Heights and Central Street. Gosh-oh-golly, I'll throw it out there, maybe the Housing Authority can help pay for the transportation bus. Yes, they are residents, maybe the Housing Authority can kick in some money to pay for them, because right now at \$800 a month there's probably only five months of transportation budgeted for next fiscal year. The same with mailing of the brochure. We mail out the brochures to every member of the Senior Center, whether they're an Ansonia resident or a Valley resident. Maybe, I know that Derby has done this, they've completely eliminated mailing their brochure, they put it out in the lobby and ask people to come in and pick it up. Maybe we can work to sending it out on a quarterly basis. I'm willing to go through every line item possible and make the reductions, but I truly think that there is a need for another person. Because if I'm away with them on a trip, there's going to be no staff there.

President Blume stated, perhaps if you're away on a trip, these are bad times now, perhaps if you're away on a trip and you take 40 people on a trip, you're closed. It's real simple. Things need to tighten up here. They didn't just take away your full-time Secretary, it will be a part-time person. That part-time person doesn't have to work from 8 to 12 every day. That part-time person can be flexible. If you know that you have a trip, you put the part-time person in during those hours you'll be away. Just need to cooperate with this. The same thing goes with the janitor. You'll have a part-time janitor. Four hours there; four hours at the Library. God knows, I just can't see having somebody sit in the Library for eight hours. What are you cleaning, the books? Same thing there. It just has to stop. That's what we did. You will have a part-time person there. I know you weren't on board when the budget was set. You need to get on the agenda for the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, you can speak, you tell them, "Listen, I wasn't here, somebody else was there," ... I gave you the job; you're the best one for that job; you had it years ago ... go to Apportionment and Taxation and say, "Listen, we need, this is why we need the transportation." Maybe somebody didn't say why you needed the transportation money. Maybe somebody didn't say that you needed this money, you know? That's really where you need to go. As long as you understand, those are the cuts that I made.

Ms. Bennett stated, I understand what you did, because I am a taxpayer, my brother owns a business in the City of Ansonia, he's a taxpayer, so I understand

completely. I was on the Board of Aldermen for 14 years. I understand completely where you're at. I have to follow my heart and beg for money for our seniors.

President Blume interjected, who we all love. Nobody's got anything against the seniors.

Ms. Bennett stated, exactly. So I felt it necessary for me to attend and I will go to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

President Blume stated, it wasn't your fault; you weren't there and you weren't hired. Maybe the person didn't step up and explain what the situation is. As far as the help goes, you at least have to try this.

Ms. Bennett stated, I understand.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept cc and place on file and refer Ms. Bennett to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation with our direction and support; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #4

From: Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning and Zoning Commission
Re: 8-24 Referral - License Agreement - Fitzpatrick's Inc.

Alderman Sharkey stated, they're showing that they voted favorably on the referral for the lease agreement for Fitzpatrick's parking lot.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept and place on file; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #5

From: Chairman Nicholas Amico, Board of Police Commissioners
Re: Bid Award - Police Vehicle Maintenance Contract

Alderman Sharkey stated, actually, there was only one bidder that met the requirements of everything. Contrary to what you can read in the Valley Independent Sentinel and reports that are all over town, I read it today on there, the person stated that he was the low bidder. Well, he didn't meet the requirements of the bid.

President Blume stated, everyone knows that they have to supply a bond.

Alderman Sharkey stated, and he didn't. Only one person met all of the requirements.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Police Commissioners, to award the bid to the lone successful bidder, Auto Repairs Unlimited, at an hourly rate of \$58.85; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #6

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department
Re: Bid Waiver for Two Police Vehicles

Alderman Fainer MOVED to waive the bid per the recommendation of Chief of Police to waive the bidding process and purchase a Ford Expedition and a Ford Explorer, both under State Contract pricing from Crowley Ford; and further, authorize the trade-in of the Department's 2002 Ford Expedition to Crowley Ford and the trade-in of used equipment to Utility Communications; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #7

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Carpinello Claim 01-10-753

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Late Communication

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept one late Communication from ARMS regarding the bid award for a new ambulance; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Public Session on Late Communication

President Blume asked if any member of the public wished to speak on the late communication. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Bartholomew Flaherty

I'm just wondering, how much are the two Police cars and the ambulance costing?

Alderman Sharkey stated, the Expedition is \$38,000 and the Explorer is \$28,000, totaling \$66,000. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation appropriated \$80,000 to purchase new vehicles.

President Blume stated, the ambulance is \$157,000 and change.

Alderman Sharkey explained, the money for the ambulance is coming from a

fund that has been put aside for large purchases such as fire trucks and ambulances.

Mr. Miller stated, the fund balance is approximately \$6 million now but they are referring to the Municipal Reserve Fund where you put away up to one-tenth of a mill every year for large purchases that are not every year purchases. This is where the money is coming from.

Alderman Duffus stated, ARMS brings in a lot of money to the City so it has kind of covered the cost of this ambulance, and we need another ambulance in the City.

Mr. Flaherty stated, thank you. I just questioned two cars and an ambulance in the times that we're in.

President Blume asked if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none he declared the public session closed.

Late Communication #1

From: Alderman Jerome Fainer, Chairman, ARMS Committee
Re: Bid Award - New Ambulance

Alderman Fainer MOVED to award the bid for a new ambulance for ARMS to Medtech/Specialty Ambulance Sales of Plainview, New York in the amount of \$157,521.99; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resignations

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of John Gentile from the Ansonia Historic District Commission; and to send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of James Tanner from the Planning and Zoning Commission; and to send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Acting Mayor Stephen Blume's appointments as listed on his letter of June 3, 2010 as follows:

CULTURAL COMMISSION

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint Adam A. Buster of 238 North Main Street to fill a vacancy; term to expire 12-13-2012; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Alderman Duffus MOVED to appoint Ralphine Ford of 222 North State Street to fill a vacancy; term to expire 2-28-2011; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Sharkey).

Alderman Jordanides MOVED to appoint Terri Goldson of 20 Hunter's Lane to fill a vacancy; term to expire 2-28-2012; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Jeanette).

Alderman Marini MOVED to reappoint Gregg Seccombe of 35 Deer Run Drive, Seymour (a business owner in the City of Ansonia); term to expire 2-28-2013; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Alderman Fainer MOVED to appoint Michael A. Bettini of 6 Arcadia Circle, Tanner replacement; term to expire 12-21-2010; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

ZONING ENFORCEMENT/ANTI-BLIGHT OFFICER

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint James Tanner of 15 Columbia Street; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Duffus).

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Charges for Insufficient Funds

Alderman Gene Sharkey of the Sixth Ward introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

Whereas, The City of Ansonia receives bank checks from individuals and companies in which there are insufficient funds in the account from where the bank check is drawn; and

Whereas, The financial institutions charge the City of Ansonia administrative costs involved with the processing of these banks checks; and

Whereas, The City of Ansonia currently charges ten dollars (\$10.00) to the individual or company who submit bank checks that were drawn from accounts with insufficient funds which in and of itself is not sufficient to cover the costs charged by the financial institutions in these situations; and

Whereas, The City of Ansonia needs to increase the charge to individuals and companies to process those bank checks that were drawn for accounts with insufficient funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective immediately, the City of Ansonia will charge individuals and companies twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to process any bank check that was returned to the City of Ansonia for insufficient funds.

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

Resolution #2

Re: State Project No. 02-127; Federal Project No. H124(004) Ansonia Park and Riverwalk Phase I

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

State Project No. 02-127
Federal Project No. H124(004)

Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the City of Ansonia For Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Ansonia Park and Riverwalk Phase I Utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program

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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that James T. Della Volpe, Mayor, be and hereby is authorized to sign the agreement entitled "Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the City of Ansonia for Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of the Ansonia Park and Riverwalk Phase I Utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program."

Alderman Fainer MOVED to adopt Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to authorize Corporation Counsel Blake to modify the last paragraph of the Resolution to read: "NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that *Stephen Blume, Acting Mayor*, be and..." in the event that Mayor Della Volpe does not return to work this month; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resolution #3

Re: State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Aldermen Jerome Fainer and Scott Nihill of the Fourth and Sixth Wards, Respectively, introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the City of Ansonia Board of Aldermen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and further,

Resolved that Stephen Blume, as Acting Mayor of the City of Ansonia is authorized and directed to execute and delivery any and all documents on behalf of the City of Ansonia and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including but not limited to executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

Alderman Jordanides MOVED to present Steve Blume with a letter of commendation for the excellent job he has done as Acting Mayor, staying late in the Mayor's Office resolving problems that needed to be resolved. He stayed late hours - as late as 10 o'clock resolving the problems. Plus, most important I think, he resolved the serious problem we had in the WPCA. SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Blume).

President Blume stated, the Mayor will visit the doctor on June 16th and if the doctor gives him the go-ahead he'll be back. I was with him yesterday, and I'll tell you, he looks great. In just a week's time he's come a long way, so I'm sure he'll be back. It was a pleasure sitting in the chair, doing this, it's a lot of stress in that room, and you don't make friends every day. Thank you.

Executive Session

At approximately 8:37 p.m., Alderman Sharkey MOVED to enter into Executive Session on Carpinello Claim #01-10-753 and Pending Litigation, and invited Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

[Alderman Pietrangelo left the meeting at this point - 9 present, 5 absent]

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Alderman Duffus MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Action on Executive Session Items

Carpinello Claim #01-10-753

Alderman Marini MOVED to have Corporation Counsel Blake to look into the amount of notice that the plaintiff was given to see if it's sufficient for him to be able to bring civil action against us; and further, if it is found that he's brought timely notice, authorize Corporation Counsel Blake to settle it; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen