



**CITY OF ANSONIA  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
*Regular Meeting – October 12, 2010*

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***Call to Order***

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

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Alderman Pietrangelo's wife who had recently passed away.

***Roll Call***

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- present  
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent  
Jason Bender, D2 - absent  
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 - absent  
Scott Nihill, D6 - present  
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present  
David Knapp, D7- present  
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

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

***Consideration of Previous Minutes***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2010 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Public Session***

Patrick Henry, 16 Harris Road

I want to thank this Board and the Mayor for appointing me to the Economic Development Commission. At our last meeting Tuesday I was elected as Chairman. I look forward to working with this Board and all of the boards and commissions of the City, and the residents, to do a lot of networking and see what we can do at the Economic Development Commission. I think it's very important that we not act autonomously, that we put down any roadblocks that may get in our way. I especially invite the public to get involved. There's got to be a lot of ideas out there. I want to entertain those ideas and see what we can make to work. We had a very enthusiastic meeting last week; it's good to

feel the enthusiasm in the room. So far we've had the Connecticut Film Commission come in. We've helped get the \$300,000 Small Cities Grant. We are talking about putting a tax Incentive package together, which I know we'll need to network with a lot of people in this room and in the City to see how we can make Ansonia attractive for businesses.

There is also the business survey. We're going to have a business survey to put out to all of the businesses. I had hoped they'd be done by now but we're hoping by next meeting we'll have that ready to go. I just want to get things moving. I'm not very patient with these things and we need all the help we can get. I invite you all to our next meeting which has been moved because it was scheduled for Election Day. We moved it to the Monday, the day before. I'd like to extend the invitation to the public. Call me, e-mail me, come to the meeting and let's see what we can do as a team.

President Blume stated, congratulations and thank you very much.

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

I would like to thank Mr. Miller for his response to my question last time. I'm pretty sure I understood it.

I spoke to my 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman a month ago - actually it is exactly a month ago - they dug up Jackson Street. They took the top layer off and they were going to resurface it. Well, it's been a month and the rocks are all going into my parking lot. They're shooting up all night long. A truck came up and had a flat tire at the corner of my street. I don't know when they're going to start, but it's a mess and they've ruined part of the exit off of my parking lot and my car drops about two or three inches every time I back up or go off. I would like to know if and when they are going to do this.

President Blume stated, they should start your street at the end of the week.

Mrs. Radin stated, I hope so because Ford Street, I understand, has been a mess.

President Blume stated, you're not the only one. It's been terrible weather conditions. I've complained. The rain...

Mrs. Radin interjected, the weather's been good the last couple of weeks.

President Blume stated, there was a lot of rain.

Mrs. Radin stated, that was two weeks ago. You know. I understood that Steve. I understood that for the first two weeks. It's been four weeks. Anyway. Okay.

The second thing is with the Chief I wanted to mention that we have the Block Watch going. I didn't call on it. I probably should have. They weren't doing anything but when I came home Saturday night about 11:45 there were 10 or 12 people sitting, standing, whatever, in front of Klanko's. Now, I'm not sure whether that light was out but it was very dark and it was hard to see who it

was. It might have been kids, it might have been whatever. They weren't really doing anything but they were just hanging around there. I think quarter of twelve is a late time since there is nothing open there. It was also a lot of noise on Jackson Street, cars tooting horns and things, and I just didn't feel like asking the Police. I would appreciate it if maybe they could come around, around that time of night, because there seems to be a lot of teenagers that hang around there. Like I said, they're not doing anything but I'm not comfortable with them being next to my store with all those little things I have in there.

I don't know this is to me, a problem, because I happen to be a senior and this year we're not getting a cost of living increase and I do own a business, I understand, but we still look forward to that little bit. There are a lot of people in Ansonia that don't own businesses like I do that are not getting that raise, that have not got the money. Mr. Miller spoke last time about reverse mortgages. I don't know whether the people did it or not but I personally don't think it's a good idea but that's me, I don't have to worry about that. A lot of people haven't gotten raises and I know this has already been okayed, I guess, it just has to be voted on tonight. I went through just the list of the resolution that you're going to be doing on all the raises. Now, they don't seem like very much. A lot of it is hourly and I have no idea how many hours they are. But 45 and 50 cents doesn't seem like a lot but over a period of a year it is a lot. Just adding up the total of the salaries that were increased we have a total of \$17,000. Now, that doesn't sound like a lot of money, I understand that. But to some poor senior citizen it is a lot of money. And it is coming out of our taxes. And we did have an increase in the WPCA assessment this year. We're finding a lot of people are strapped for the thing. Like I said, maybe they're entitled to the raise and everything, but I think it's a really hard time for a lot of people. Thank you.

Alderman Sharkey stated, because our reporters are furiously writing over here and that'll be in tomorrow's paper, and if we don't address it, then it always ends up one-sided. Two things - on the roads, there are five roads open right now in the City of Ansonia - two of them were done with federal stimulus money. We had no control over when they started and when they finish. They signed a contract - they have 45 days from the minute they open the road to close the road. We realize how long - I think Beaver Street and Ford Street have been open. We've had numerous complaints. We're told they're under contract and they will do it. The shame is, the same people that opened those roads opened Jackson Street, Prospect Street and one other road. They will probably finish them all - I know they put the binder course down already on Ford Street. They should be finishing the other roads very soon. We weren't able to do anything with their timing or when we could get them to finish.

Mrs. Radin stated, it's a mess.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I understand. My car's a mess and my house is a mess from all the dust.

Secondly, Mrs. Radin did address the possible salary increases. Just so it's all written correctly, the people that are covered by these are the non-union employees who gave concessions back last year and did not receive a raise last year. The way the City is looking this year, there probably won't be any raises next year. These people, as small as it is, wouldn't get a raise for three years. We have the issue right now that we have some employees in the City where the foremen are making less money than the hourly employees. We are really trying to address some inequities. We're looking at that. Thank you.

Alderman John Marini

Alderman Marini stated, this is Mr. Anthony Gasper, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. I've invited Mr. Gasper to come here tonight to share with the Board the state test results for Ansonia and to encourage, as a first step, more of a connection between the Board of Education and this Board. I feel there is a lot to be gained from an open dialogue between our education system and the City. Mr. Gasper has been kind enough to come here tonight to share the results with us and he's offered to take any questions after his brief presentation.

Anthony Gasper, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Good evening to the Board, it's my pleasure to be here on behalf of Superintendent Merlone, who is enjoying a little bit of time away from her very busy work. It is my pleasure to be here before you tonight. I have a very brief handout; it's not meant to be exhaustive, it's meant to give this board a quick overview of where we stand with our improvement efforts.

As this Board may know, Ansonia remains one of the 15 school districts from across Connecticut that are identified as "in need of improvement." This determination is derived from the federal No Child Left Behind law. There are 14 other school districts likewise identified. The determination "in need of improvement" comes from a national calculation of expected improvement called "Adequate Yearly Progress." I'll talk a little bit more about that as I close these very brief comments tonight.

The top page is meant to be something that some folks call a dashboard - it's meant to be a one-page glimpse into a lot of data points. Just to direct you into how this piece of paper works, this is the paper on top with the color-coded arrows. If you look at the top left-hand cell, the one that kind of lines up with Mathematics for Grade 3, you'll see there are really four pieces of data contained in that one cell. The one that says "four year" with an upward green arrow - that's what those scores have done over a four-year trend. That's not high-end statistical computations, it's looking at the bar graph and seeing which way it heads over a four-year trend. In this case, that trended upward.

The next piece of data is 2009-2010, that's comparing Third Grade Mathematic scores from the previous year of tests to the most recent. Those are taken in March, as you know, March of 2009 to March of 2010. There was a decrease there. F/R Lunch Gap stands for Free and Reduced Lunch. As you may know,

the district's improvement plan, which has been approved by the Board of Education, targets that group. It's one of the sub-groups that identifies Ansonia and many other school districts as being "in need of improvement." The federal law requires that we not just look at the overall scores but that we subdivide our population into demographic groups. The digit you find next to that 15.9 percent is the current gap. That means there's almost a 16 percentage point difference between students who pay full price for lunch versus those who received free or reduced lunch.

I'm not going to take you through each and every data point on this piece of paper. Suffice to say that this has generated a lot of interesting conversation at the Board of Education meetings and with Superintendent Merlone and myself.

There are some quick pieces of news I think this Board can glean from this. Number one, I think optimistically you'll find much more green on this piece of paper than red. The Ansonia Public Schools are making progress. They are moving ahead in many, many areas. This is due to a lot of work that has happened over the past two years. This is useful for us at the school district because we can read it both horizontally and vertically. That is, we can look across the row and find out what grades might need more help, and we can look vertically to see what programs - reading, writing, mathematics, science - that might need more help. An example of how we're using this data is, one thing that might stand out is if you look at the reading column you'll see some concern found in Grades Four and Five. Using this data Superintendent Merlone along with others of us in the Administration decided to focus some of our personnel assets in that area. In other words, we have reading intervention teachers targeted specifically for those grades for reading.

Again, I'm not going to take you all the way through this, it's meant to be a fairly quick look at how well the school district is doing. The one thing I do want to highlight is, if you look across, Grade 6 is really worthy of note and worthy of congratulations to those teachers. That's because nearly every one of those teachers, and if you look across you'll see almost all green arrows, almost all improvement, nearly every one of those teachers had never taught in the current format in which they're teaching. That is, those teachers were formerly stationed at Ansonia Middle School, and then when the school district was required by federal mandate to restructure, they were then put at Prendergast and Mead School. They went from being teachers of, probably English only, to now being teachers of everything in the elementary school format. So these teachers not only showed excellent improvement but also overcame some real adversity.

The next chart is for Mathematics Grade 7. I selected this one because this is exactly what we hope our data should look like. The green bars are the overall average - the whole Grade 7 population's ability to reach what the State test calls "proficiency." Then, the lines subdivide the population to those that receive free or reduced lunch, that's the blue line, and those that don't. This chart does exactly what we hope all of our charts do. It trends upward, but you'll notice as it does trend upward, the two lines come closer and closer

together. That represents a narrowing of the gap between those who pay full price and those who do not.

The next chart is another sample of what I would call a challenge. We've got progress being made from one year to the next, but the 2009-2010 years have been flat.

Reading in Grade 5, as we saw on the front sheet where we saw red arrows pointing downward, this is the detail as to why. We'll see all of our groups - overall, the free and reduced lunch, and those students who pay full price - decline from one year to the next in Grade 5. That's why the Superintendent decided to assign more personnel, reading intervention teachers, to that grade to help remediate this challenge that we see here.

Finally, before I close, is another really strong point worth celebration and congratulations to these teachers. You can see outstanding growth for Grade 6 from 2009 to 2010. Somewhere on the order of 15 to 17 percentage points, depending on which test you look at. This is an outstanding and quite extraordinary amount of growth.

In closing, we're making progress in many, many areas. We are making progress but what the federal government defines and the State Department of Education defines as "adequate yearly progress" is about to get much more rigorous. That statistic moves in three-year chunks. We're at the end of one three-year chunk and we're moving to the next. Those expect that we would move our scores up 10 percent for every grade every test between this year and next. So, will we continue to make progress? I'm confident that we will. Will we be able to match 10 percentage points for every test across all grades? That would be an extraordinary amount of progress in just one year.

Those are my brief comments; obviously there's much, much more data that I'm quite willing to provide this Board should anybody request. I'll be happy to answer any questions that any of the Aldermen might have this evening.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, President Blume, I would just like to commend the Assistant Superintendent for the job he's doing. I had the pleasure of sitting in on the presentation when the teachers came back to school, and he did a tremendous job and we're very glad to have him here in Ansonia. I know he has a long commute home. But he's done a tremendous job since he's been here, as you can tell by the graphs that have been presented to us.

We have a good relationship with the Board of Education; we've worked very hard to get the test scores up and we're seeing results. I think the Board of Apportionment and Taxation has to be brought into this. Obviously they are the ones that fund education and we know that you always don't get what you want. This Board certainly will work with you and the Board of Education.

Alderman Beall stated, you separated the kids between kids who pay full price and kids who don't pay for the lunches. I coach the little kids in football and stuff like that - and I do 5<sup>th</sup> Grade this year; I did 4<sup>th</sup> Grade last year. Is there

any program, or teachers working on a Saturday or something, or going to the Boys and Girls Club, or every day after school, where these kids that need it can get help on the side? I know in summer they go to the Community Center sometimes and they have teachers come in.

Mr. Gasper replied, the Board of Education does have a relationship with the Boys and Girls Club - there is an after-school program called the Charger Club through which a lot of kids do get this kind of academic help. There's another program which is part of a federal/state mandate that's called SRBI - Scientific Research-Based Intervention. That is a big project for us now. Within the school day we use regular testing to identify which kids need help and which do not. The kids who need just a little bit of help - they're pretty much getting it but they need a little bit more help - they're assigned to what's called Tier 2. So they'll get their regular 90 minutes of language arts and then they might get an extra 15 minutes or twice a week, just to give them that little boost. That program also is going to identify the kids who are much more significantly behind - the kids who are 1, 2, 3 grade levels behind. Those students will be getting something called Tier 3 support, which, you might be in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Math class but you're also going to be in a supplemental math class that is really going to find out exactly what level you're at and give you instruction. So, if you happen to be in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, but your math skills are equivalent with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, you're going to be getting both simultaneously. So that is where we stand.

Alderman Beall stated, my son is in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and I know that 2 years ago he had a hard time with the reading, and we put him in an after-school program and it helped him a lot. But you've got some parents who don't have the ability to get their kids to the programs or pick their kids up. I'm just saying, bring a regular teacher in over the summer to help those kids. I think they'll respond more to their actual teachers than the subs, that's all.

Mr. Gasper stated, that's a great point. Like most things it's obviously going to be cost-driven. The Charger Club does work very hard to provide whatever support it can. We continually do look for those kinds of funding opportunities - any way that we can provide extra support.

Alderman Sharkey stated, one last comment. The Board of Education is to be commended for the work that they're doing and I'd like to state, let's all remember the Axe the Tax group wanted no money going to the Board of Education. Think of where this would be without all the additional help that went into this budget. We're going to go around and around - back in January and February again when it comes time again for the Board of Education budget. We just need to keep these things - the end result - in mind when we're looking at figures. People kept saying, "You can throw money at education but you can't improve it." I think that they are improving it.

President Blume thanked Mr. Gasper.

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***

President Blume stated, I have a couple of things to tell you. The petitions for the hydrants have been sent out. They went to the Department of Public Utility Control and to Blumenthal's office with a cover letter. We'll see what happens with that. Everyone has a new list of committee assignments. They're about the same but because Dave came on I had a new list made up. There is a Video Recording Committee chaired by Robert Beall. Everyone has a copy of that.

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**Presentation - Patrick Coyle**

Mayor James Della Volpe stated, the Coyle family is here with us tonight. To the Board, we have a young gentleman here who had a very life saving experience. We're very proud of him as a City. At the last meeting I explained to you the e-mail I received from his Dad explaining what he had done. He had saved a 14-year-old girl, he was the first responder, when she was out jogging. He was there and he saved her life. We wanted him to come in and say the Pledge of Allegiance, but he was a little late. We do have a Letter of Commendation that I would like to give him and acknowledge him to the Board. [Mayor Della Volpe read the Commendation aloud as follows:]

**CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION**

This evidence of Commendation and Appreciation is hereby bestowed upon

Cadet Corpsman Patrick Coyle

Recipient of the Navy Commendation Ribbon for his life saving skills as a first responder to a 14 year old girl who collapsed during a training run, and he provided emergency care that saved her life.

Patrick is an honor student, class president, and member of the Soccer Team at Emmett O'Brien Regional Vocational Technical School, a volunteer at the Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services in the Junior Corps, and hopes to attend one of the United States Military Academies and major in Medicine. He is also involved in many other volunteer activities and is a positive role model and mentor to his younger brother, Sean. His services are held in high regard.

It is our wish on behalf of all the residents of our City that he receives this Certificate and Recognition of our appreciation for his dedicated service to the citizens of this community and all others that he serves. We extend to you our sincere congratulations for your outstanding performance of duty.

Patrick, congratulations. [Applause rang throughout the forum]. Patrick has a few words.

Patrick Coyle

Hello, my name is Patrick Coyle, like he said. I just wanted to give a special thanks to the Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services for the training they provided me in aiding this girl. Without any of the training that I received from them I would have been clueless and she could have died. I recommend this program, Ansonia Rescue and Medical Service, to any of my peers 14 and older to 18 years old to join the program. It's a great program; you learn a lot of things, you get a lot of opportunities. It's a great program. I would also like to thank the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. It's a great military program - it's a junior ROTC program that's based in New Haven. I would also like to thank my family for the moral support. My step-mom for always being there for me, my brother, a person I always look up to because, he may look up to me but I look up to him to learn. And my father, he's always there for me. I just love him very much, and he's always one step ahead of me, he's always trying to get my name out there. He's always there for me, I'd like to thank him very much. I love you, Dad.

[Applause, a standing ovation, and many tears filled the Chambers.]

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you for having me here. It was a pleasure speaking in front of you and receiving this award from you and having all of you take time out to hear what I had to say. I would also like to thank the Mayor for giving me this Proclamation. Thank you very much guys.

President Blume thanked Patrick. He stated, Mom and Dad, it looks like you've done a great job.

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Mayor James Della Volpe

First of all I'd like to thank all who participated in the successful Harvest Day Festival. The Rotary Club took over the food this year and Cultural Commission and Mayor's Office had a lot to do with it. I'd like to thank each and every one for what they have done.

To address some of the comments that Joan had made here in regard to the paving - the paving on the Hilltop is being done by the stimulus money, which has a 45-day contract. The other roads which are Jackson and Prospect Streets is State money. O & G is in charge of doing that. They said they would be starting this week. I'm going to meet with them and the Superintendent of Public Works tomorrow to make sure that they do. If they don't I'm going to look into whether or not we can break the contract and go to another contractor to get this done. It has been far too long.

One other issue that she brought up, and very seldom do I agree with her but I'll agree with her on this, is the reverse mortgage. Unfortunately I'm caretaker for one of my elderly family members and he has a reverse mortgage. I wouldn't recommend that to too many seniors because it really could be devastating as they get on in later years. It's been very traumatic for my family having to deal with something like a reverse mortgage. I'm going to talk to Mr.

Miller about it; we're going to be very careful on how we address it with the seniors at the Senior Center.

I'd also like to commend the Public Works Committee of the Board of Aldermen for putting together the plans for the new Transfer Station. This will make it a more efficient place for our residents to discard recyclables and leaves. This will also fit in very well with our new Waste Water Treatment Facility.

The Human Relations Club will hold a breakfast on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Ansonia High School to discuss their upcoming events and strategy with local businesses. This is a great event; hopefully some of the Board of Aldermen members can attend. You'll get to meet the Human Relations Club in person. It's a great group - they're doing tremendous work within the schools in regard to bullying and now cyber-bullying, which we've been reading a lot about recently in the newspapers. If you get an opportunity, it's October 20<sup>th</sup>.

The remediation at the ATP and Palmer Building will be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately last time I mentioned it would be completed earlier, but they had found another tank under the Farrell Building and they had to dig under that to get it out. They assured me it would be done by November 1<sup>st</sup> and this will give us a clean site and we'll finally be able to sell the building.

The Ansonia Nature Center will hold its Holiday Fair on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 4.

From our Energy Committee - the Solar Project at the Ansonia High School is expected to be approved by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund at its October meeting. We were awaiting a determination by the CCEF as to the amount of the grant for the 200 kilowatt facility, so as to begin the energy pricing. The completion of this project will lead to an energy cost savings for the High School and reduce the carbon footprint of the City and provide some short-term employment. We're looking forward to having that completed. They're also in the process of completing the audit for all the City municipal buildings. That should be done by the end of the year and will give us a plan on which way we should go to reduce energy usage and reduce our carbon footprint and to save money.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

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Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

The Tax Office is going to do tax sales on the liens in November on several properties that we're having trouble collecting on.

[Inaudible] some Planning and Zoning cases - Tug, LLC - the property behind Shortell Drive and Hill Street, that's set for a hearing on December 10 in either Milford or Derby court.

Complete Construction on Monday at 9:30 - that's going to be heard in court probably for the third time.

I attended a Safety Committee with the Workers Compensation Third Party Administrator and right now it looks like claims are going down again. Last year they spiked up but this year claims are down, which is good for the City.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

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Chief Kevin Hale

The Harvest Fest, as the Mayor had mentioned, was a success. From our point of view there were no issues. There was a lot of traffic because of the bridge closing up here we had to turn Tremont Street around and push people in the opposite direction. That seemed to go well without any major complaints. We're working with that committee to try to improve it every year as far as accessing for the vendors coming in. There were still people milling about when they're breaking down so we need to make sure nobody gets hurt.

It was mentioned before and please remind your constituents, if they see something, say something - it's a big motto of Homeland Security. If you see something, say something. If something doesn't look right, if something looks suspicious, say something - call. You're not putting us out, we're there 24/7.

We had a spat of car break ins - but they weren't really break-ins, they were people not locking their cars and other people going through them. A reminder to make sure your cars are secured.

We are running a Sergeant's exam on November 10<sup>th</sup> and we'll fill that position soon after that - we will come to the Board with a recommendation at some point toward the end of the year.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

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Joseph Miller - Comptroller

You have my report in front of you. I sent a letter of response to Mrs. Radin. We have been meeting with the Auditors - they were appointed at last month's meeting. They gave us a questionnaire that we passed out to each department so we can gather up their information, we'll give them all to the auditors.

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

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

For the month of September, we dispatched 222 calls and transported 153 patients. We assisted the Fire Department on 16 calls. We missed three calls. We provided mutual aid to Derby for eight calls; Shelton for one call; Seymour for one call. We collected \$67,000.

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

*Alderman John Marini - Economic Development Committee*

I think our new Economic Development Chairman Pat Henry did a good job sort of wrapping up what was done this past month. What hasn't yet been brought to the Board's attention is that the Commission had done a bit of work with Eileen Krugel and Rich Bshara, who constitute the Website Committee, or as force for the City. Right now if you go on the City website there is a new section of "Doing Business in Ansonia," which is sort of a tentative venture in expanding the website to help out existing businesses.

In addition to that, as Mr. Henry had alluded, by the next Board of Aldermen meeting the Commission hopes to be presenting a business survey to this Board that will be sent out to business owners.

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

***Municipal Reports / Annual Reports***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Tax Refunds***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to grant the refunds for the month of September in the amount of \$3,709.81 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Claims***

10-10-766

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to refer the claim to Corporation Counsel Blake and the Claims Committee. SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Communications and Late Communication***

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

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Communication #1

From: Nancy Siwy

Re: Signs for Christmas Fair - Christ Church

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve the Christmas Fair signage; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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Communication #2

From: Walter Kirk

Re: Land Studies - 64 Pulaski Highway

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, when I received this from the Town and City Clerk, I wrote back to their attorney, and never got a response. I did write a letter to Mr. Kirk and told him that if he needs to get copies of what's been approved by the Planning and Zoning he can contact Mrs. Flaherty to make those arrangements. They're public records.

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

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Communication #3

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Bid Award - Screened Sand for Snow and Ice Removal

Alderman Sharkey MOVED per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works to award the bid for Screened Sand for Snow and Ice Removal to the low bidder, Y B Paving LLC of Seymour at a cost of \$13 per cubic yard delivered and \$12.50 per cubic yard picked up; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.

President Blume stated, the State is not in favor of using sand any more, however it can be used on the hills. That is where this will be used.

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

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Communication #4

From: Chairman John Finnucan

Re: Bid Award - Treated Salt

Corporation Counsel Blake noted that this was the only bid.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to award the bid for Treated Salt to the International Salt Company of Clarks Summit, PA at a cost of \$85.51 per ton; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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Communication #5

From: Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning and Zoning Commission  
Re: Referrals

Alderman Sharkey stated, last month we sent in three 8-24 referrals to the Planning and Zoning Commission. They have responded favorably to each of the three requests. We granted our approvals contingent upon receiving these favorable 8-24 referrals.

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

***Appointments***

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James Della Volpe's appointments as outlined in his letter of October 6, 2010, as follows:

**CULTURAL COMMISSION**

Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Jennifer Dombroski of 6 Columbia Street, term to expire 12-31-2012; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to appoint Suzanne Frischkorn of 80 Garden Street, term to expire 12-31-2012; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

***Resolutions***

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**Resolution #1**

Re: Salary Resolution for Non-Union Personnel

[A copy of the full text of the Resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk]

Alderman Sharkey stated, we met as a Salary Committee to look at salary increases. I fear there is a mistake in one or two of them.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED TO TABLE Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

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**Resolution #2**

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

**RESOLUTION**

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT AT A MEETING HELD ON Tuesday, October 12, 2010 the Ansonia Board of Aldermen authorize Mayor James T. Della Volpe to

execute all documents as it pertains to State Project No. 02-125, Federal Project No. H183 (001).

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to Adopt Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

### ***Late Resolutions***

Alderman Nihill moved to accept the following two Late Resolutions:  
SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

1. Late Resolution #1 regarding First Supplement Agreement - Ansonia Park and Riverwalk Phase I - State Project No. 02-127 / Federal Project No. H124(004).
2. Late Resolution #2 regarding Application for State financial assistance from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development - Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

President Blume opened the Public Session on two late resolutions. He asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

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#### Late Resolution #1

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

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#### Late Resolution #2

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Late Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Marini.

Alderman Sharkey stated, that's the Small Cities Grant that Mr. Henry was talking about before - \$300,000 for rehabilitating houses as needed.

President Blume stated, this was handled about a month ago by Mr. Perry's office. He did a lot of work on it. I'm glad to see we're back into the Small Cities business.

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

### ***Unfinished Business***

Alderman Sharkey stated, I feel as things come up we need to address them. Several times tonight we've heard the response letter that Mr. Miller wrote to

Mrs. Radin. Last month, Mrs. Radin raised a question about insurance co-pays and you should all know what we're talking about here. Many times Mrs. Radin brings things forth to this Board, and a lot of them are good things, however some show up with comments such as, "I heard," or "Someone told me," and on it goes. We have a lot of investigation to do to sort through these things. I'd like to quote from our minutes that we accepted of September 14, 2010, on Page 2 it states, Mrs. Radin talking, "One of the things I don't understand, I heard a few years ago, it was being done. I don't think it should be done because everybody has to pay their own co-pays. I understand the City of Ansonia if you turn your slip in for your co-pay whether it be a doctor or pharmacy, you get the money back." She goes on further to say, "The City of Ansonia is a business but they're paying insurance premiums for the whole family. The worker does not have to pay any bit of it." Further went on stating, "I want to know and I'm asking, I know for a fact people are taking the receipts I give them for their co-pays, they're presenting them to the City and they're getting the money back." I responded and said, "I've never heard of that." Mrs. Radin stated, "Well I did, I know it's happening." Final comment that night when she asked, "What is a co-pay on?" We need to address these as they happen.

Mr. Miller did write a response. He wrote it the next day after looking into this. It talks about all the co-pays are collected. Co-pays are the amount of costs withheld from employees, retired and active, pension and salaries, to reimburse the City for health care costs according to Union Contracts. He lists them all out here. In addition, as the co-pays are collected, they are placed in a liability account as stated in the Treasurer's Report. When the invoice is processed, the City takes the funds from the liability account and the balance of the invoice from the expense account. To address the issue of reimbursing employees for co-pays and prescriptions, I've been told by employees of the Finance Department there is no such thing happening. The City does not reimburse their employees for co-pays or any medical costs.

We need that to be on record because people all understand that was raised. And if we just say, "He answered it," we don't know what the answer is. Every Alderman has a copy of that. The press who wrote about it last month also has a copy. Thank you.

President Blume thanked Alderman Sharkey.

President Blume stated, I'd like to recognize Jared Heon who is in the audience. He is our new account executive at ARMS. He's done a great job and we just gave him a real difficult job to do and he's handling it just fine. Congratulations, Jared.

### ***New Business***

Alderman Marini stated, in connection with the presentation that we've had tonight from Mr. Gasper, I think maybe it might be appropriate for this board to do something in recognition of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class, which I understand from this update and from the Board of Education meeting last week really has

excelled - both the students and the teachers seem to really give an example to the rest of the school system, sort of a success story as a result of the tests. I don't know if it will be a commendation, or inviting the class and maybe some of the teachers to single them out, but I think that showing our recognition of their success is important to set an example for the rest of the system.

President Blume stated, it's a good idea - have the Mayor's Office...

Alderman Sharkey interjected, I taught for 32 years and I commend you for, every teacher, for doing whatever they're doing. However they take the test early in September. The teachers that got these people to this point were the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers. Those are the one, it always comes back that the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade scores reflect back on the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers. You always have to go back one year. If you don't mind, I'd like to maybe suggest that we commend all of them, because many of the teachers in different class levels, they increased by hard work and so forth.

Alderman Marini stated, I think it makes sense, as long as we're shining a spotlight on the fact that there is success, I think it's very important that our residents understand that there is progress in the school system. In particular we're talking about the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class, and Alderman Sharkey makes a good point that it's actually the former 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class that we're talking about. I think it is important to show there is particular success there and that their hard work doesn't go unrecognized. You're right, certainly we should do it in a way that recognizes and improvement overall.

Alderman Marini MOVED to draft a letter and get it out to the principals of each of the schools; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

### ***Executive Session***

No executive session was observed.

### ***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen