



CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting – May 10, 2011

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

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

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Spero Jordanides, D5 - absent
Jay Fainer, D5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - absent
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 Knapp MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Public Session

President Blume asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board.

Scott McNulty, 15 Golden Rod Drive

I have a complaint about dead end, since 1995 it's been washing out and it's gotten worse, the culvert itself and where the drain pipe is going into the brook it's starting to collapse. So before it gets any worse it'll be good to have the City come and take a look before it costs them a fortune to try and fix it. It's 15 Golden Rod Drive, I've talked to Mr. Knapp, he's in my ward.

President Blume stated, I'll call Mike Schryver in the morning.

Mr. McNulty thanked President Blume.

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

I'd like to mention that we're having a problem on Wakelee Avenue because Catholic Services has programs or something that people have to go to on Monday and Tuesday nights and unfortunately the cars park on both sides of the street. In order to turn from Jackson Street into Wakelee you cannot see, so maybe you should have the Chief look at it or something so that they don't park right up to the corner. They park right up there so if you're turning from Jackson into Wakelee they're parked on both sides and you don't see a car coming down the other side. It's very close, it's a very tight area. It's usually on Monday and Tuesday nights.

The second thing is, about 4:30 this morning I almost fell out of bed. Next door at Klanko's they dumped the dumpster about 4:30 this morning. I know they did it a few years ago and I asked if somebody could check with them and have them do it later. My bedroom is at the other end of my building, they're at the other end. The people at that end, it must be horrible. It was about 4:30 this morning and I don't know who their dumpster people are, but you hear it backing up, then of course you hear the big bang. It sounded like a bullet and it really truly scared me. I'm sure if anyone has children, they go to school and everything, I'm sure it wakes them up.

One of my customers lives on Church Street and she said there's a lot of activity in the cemetery. She was wondering if something could be done about maybe closing the gates at night. She said they do during the winter months when the snow is there. But there is an awful lot of activity going in and out of the cemetery off of Church Street, and I know there are a lot of drug addicts around our neighborhood. I don't know whether that's feasible but they do have gates there, so I think it might be a good idea.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, we can contact the association.

Ms. Radin stated, I know they're not afraid to go into the cemetery. When I was a kid we were afraid to go into the cemetery.

[Alderman Duffus arrives at this point, 7:06 p.m. - 11 present.]

On Church Street there's an area four or five houses up from the church, on that street. They had a plastic bag - something over the top of something that's on the sidewalk. It's either a pole that's sticking up out of the sidewalk or something like that. And the person was telling me that there was a plastic thing over it, and now it's not there any more. Maybe Public Works can look at it and see what it is because she said it's right in the sidewalk and probably should be, the people that own it, it should be their responsibility but maybe somebody should look at it.

She said they've been trying to get somebody to do it for quite a while. It's on Church Street, the same side of the church, about four or five houses up on the sidewalk. Something is sticking up out of the sidewalk. She said maybe there's a hole there or something got broken off there.

President Blume stated, I will give that to Mike Schryver tomorrow too.

I was at the meeting last night, I would like to know about the budget. The only one I don't understand, and I realize some things have to go up and some things have to go down. But I don't understand City Government going up over doubling. What is City Government? There's no listing of what that includes or what those things are. Is there any way we can find that out? Why something should go over double the amount?

Alderman Marini explained, I am under the impression that this was a consolidation of many different [inaudible] but maybe we can jog our memory.

Alderman Jerome Fainer stated, we had to move all the Public Works stuff into City Government, and something else. All it was, it was in the budget, but in another line, so they consolidated.

Alderman Marini stated, yes, it wasn't one line item exploding, but ...

Ms. Radin stated, so Public Works doesn't have a special spot on here?

Alderman Marini stated, these were other specific departments...

Alderman Sharkey stated, Public Works, if we look at one of them, whether it's Streets and Bridges and the other one is Building and Refuse - one went down by \$1 million and the other one went down by \$500,000. They went down just took the increase in City Government.

Ms. Radin stated, in other words, you just moved it around.

Alderman Sharkey explained, what they did was, they didn't just move it, they took all the City utilities and put them under City Government. Instead of, before they had different buildings were in different accounts all over the place and everything else. They took all the electricity that the City of Ansonia pays and put it in a certain account. They put all of the oil, all of the utilities that they pay, all went there. I'm pretty sure they put all the insurance there as well, that covers all the individual City buildings. I had to put it where the Finance Department oversees it. Public Works shouldn't be the one overseeing how much we're paying for oil and how much we're paying for utilities and so forth and all, so they put it all in City Government. So now the Comptroller and Assistant Comptroller in the Finance Department can look at it.

Ms. Radin stated, okay. It just seemed outrageous that everything else went either up or down a little bit, and this one went sky high. Thank you.

Alderman Marini stated, at our meetings we even noted that, that when people saw that without a good explanation. Initially we had our little asterisk in our handout, we did, because we realized that right off the bat people would say, "What's this?" It's a very reasonable question.

Alderman Sharkey stated, when we accepted as the Board of Aldermen the budget that was presented by the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee we spelled that out. That was on the sheet of paper, but then Apportionment and Taxation didn't explain it.

Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace

I have a few questions and I hope you can help me answer them. I believe this year the union contracts are to be renegotiated. Does the Board have any influence in that, or is it strictly on the Mayor?

President Blume replied, the Mayor does the negotiations.

Mr. Stowe stated, we all know the pressure that's going on here, and I feel for you guys, you have a helluva job to be in your positions at this time of the town's life, the city's life, you have a lot of responsibilities. Mayor, you are a loved individual. People from other towns that I know, know you and have a lot of good things to say about you. Being that I work in the private sector and that I used to be in business, I know a lot of people, and I know a lot of what's going on outside of public workers. We all know that our Governor and our State Senator, Mr. Crisco, all voted for a big hefty tax raise and that we're going to have energy tax raise, plus they raised on business four percent tax on the federal unemployment. Whatever happens in this town is not the only thing is not the only thing that's going to happen to the citizens of this town. They're going to get taxed by the State more. Most people know, and based on what the Governor just did, he tried to raise the taxes and tried to satisfy and keep the State workers, and now they won't even go to the negotiating table with him. That is the thanks he got. That is probably what is going to happen here. It may not be the wishes of the individuals that are employees, but that's what their union reps are going to tell them.

I would like to know, is this town going to try to do everything it can do to keep the peoples' taxes down, including negotiating with the unions? I personally believe that we all have to give. If everybody gives, and then I have to give some too, I can afford - I can live with it, but there are a lot of people in this town because you know last year I knocked door to door and I looked at these people's houses and listened to them. They don't have the heart or the stomach to come to these meetings. They don't want to fight with City Hall. But they complain everywhere. I'm sure we all know - we see it. They complain but they don't come. I feel somewhat of a responsibility to some of these people to speak for them, because they really don't have a voice. I was here last night and two or three people talked about it and the rest was one

after another. I don't blame them; they have to take care of themselves too. My question is, are you going to do whatever it takes to negotiate with the workers here so that they can give a little to make the burden on the taxpayers a little less.

Mayor Della Volpe replied, the answer is yes.

Mr. Stowe thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Alderman Sharkey stated, when we met as the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee we came up with several recommendations and sent them on to the Mayor and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. The Mayor is working with the Valley Council of Governments in an effort to consolidate some services and save the City money.

Mr. Stowe stated, I appreciate it; I'm glad I asked. I know that people, when they read what happened tonight they'll be very happy to hear that you guys are going to do something.

Alderman Danielczuk, when the Mayor tells you he's going to do something, he will. When you look at the past negotiations over the last few years you can see that he has gotten some concessions and has worked hard in getting the unions to listen to him. When he says he's going to do it, I'm sure he is going to negotiate very well with them.

Alderman Marini stated, we are certainly very proud to have worked on the recommendations that this Board passed concurrent with the budget. It's one of the first times that such a recommendation package was passed. I certainly agree with you, we have to follow things up and keep our eyes on the situation. As far as the negotiations, if this Board feels that the results aren't acceptable then I think as a Board we need to say so and need to reject anything that doesn't put the taxpayer first.

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

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

I'd like to congratulate Larry DiPalma who is the principal at Prendergast School. He was named Principal of the Year for the State of Connecticut and we're extremely proud of him. I also would like to thank him for letting me address the entire student body at Prendergast in regard to Autism Awareness Month. I was able to go up there, and it was a very moving experience to address the whole student body.

The Historical Commission held their awards ceremony and had an essay contest on People That Make A Difference. The winners were Raymond Hagan of Assumption School, second place was Taylor Healey of Assumption School, and third place was Ryan Amato from the Ansonia Middle School. If the Board could get a letter out to the winners it would be nice.

The Maple Street bridge - we all know it's under construction. The construction has stopped because the carpentry union has gone on strike. The strike hasn't been settled - they've reached a tentative agreement and will vote on it Thursday. Hopefully they'll get going - it was supposed to be done by September 1st but because of the stoppage and if they do go back on Thursday or Friday we're now looking at October 1st as a finish date for the Maple Street bridge.

There are a lot of announcements to make for this month - Saturday is our Clean Up Ansonia Day - from 9 a.m. to noon. Hopefully a lot of residents will meet in front of City hall and Mike Schryver, Superintendent of Public Works is picking out sites throughout the City and we'll be assigning residents to go and clean them up.

Also on Saturday is the Health Fair at the Ansonia Armory.

On May 18th the Social Security is going to have an open house at 10 a.m. at their new office downtown. If any of the Aldermen can make it please let the Mayor's office know so that we can get you an invitation.

On May 22nd the Woodbridge Avenue AC will be having their ceremony at the Woodbridge Avenue Memorial. They hold a ceremony each year and it's been going on for over 65 years. It's a very touching ceremony; it's at 2 o'clock on May 22nd.

Also, the Police Awards Ceremony will be held on May 24th at 7 p.m.

The Human Relations Club is holding their seminar at Quinnipiac University on May 25th at 8:30. I'll be speaking to 15 high schools from throughout the State that will be attending this conference at Quinnipiac.

On May 29th we'll hold our Memorial Day Parade at 2 p.m.

On June 12th, there is a bike race coming in from New Haven that will be ending here at Veteran's Park. I don't know the time they'll be arriving here, but there will be a short ceremony in the park and if any of you can attend that would be great.

We have scheduled negotiations with the Police and City Hall unions throughout May, June and July. We're trying to get through as quickly as possible and want to make sure we get the best deal for the City.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to send letters of commendations to the winners of the Historical Commission's essay contest, "People That Make A Difference":

- 1st Place Raymond Hagan of Assumption School
- 2nd Place Taylor Healey of Assumption School
- 3rd Place Ryan Amato of Ansonia Middle School

SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

In regard to Communication #3 - the Nature Based Pre-School, I'd like to have that tabled. I spoke to Attorney Coyle who is representing the Friends of the Nature Center. He wants to hold up on any additional discussion until FANCI goes through the site plan application with Planning and Zoning. That should hopefully take place this week.

Resolution #5 is on the agenda again because what we passed was an old resolution. Public Works submitted a new resolution to cover the streets for this current year.

In respect to the Resolution regarding Lisa Lowe and Associates, I've requested that the initial resolution be amended to include language regarding my review.

With respect to O'Neills Court - I spoke to Fred D'Amico today. He should have in a couple of days to me the meters and bounds where I can go to an appraiser and get a cost I can bring back to the Board in June and get that project hopefully completed before the end of the summer.

Lastly, the matter involving Franks Service Station - the U.S. District Court did come down with a decision on the City's motion for dismissal with respect to whether or not Frank's Service Station or Frank Heusser and his father could be on the tow list. It was favorable to the City that there was no right for them to be on the tow list. That matter is in limbo right now in terms of whether or not they're going to appeal that to a higher court or they will submit the same lawsuit into the State courts. I'll give you more information at the next meeting.

Alderman Marini stated, as far as following up on O'Neills Court - obviously as I've stated in the past, I'm very concerned about this issue dragging on and I'd like a result achieved as soon as possible. I would like to know what has been going on since the last meeting when we talked about this.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, Mr. D'Amico had to go out there and do a sketch of the area that we need to provide with the compensation or to go and do a temporary easement and also another easement in order for the drainage.

I know he is busy this month with respect to the Riverwalk that was getting done.

Alderman Marini stated, I understand we probably would need that. But no filing has been made, an enforcement of contract?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I need to first get the opportunity to say this is what it would cost to do the easement and also do the temporary easement. We've got to do that first. I need to have the appraisal done. I can't do the appraisal without the engineer's drawings. That should be done, I'll get that done very quickly, we will present to them after [inaudible] next month and if not we can go quickly to court. We don't have to dilly-dally at all.

Alderman Marini stated, I'm just worried that when we get it to court we're going to be held up and you know as well as I do that the system sometimes grinds very slowly. Even it were to put an action to enforce that's already signed, it would seem to light a fire under them. I understand your direction.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I spoke to my partners who all do this. They said it's going to be quick, especially when the e-mail that they gave to me pretty much says what they wanted for an outrageous offer to pretty much buy the whole property for \$32,000. The City's not going to do that.

Alderman Marini stated, no, we don't want to fall for any of that. Obviously we want to argue with a strong hand. To reiterate, the Charter allows us to do this because overflow of drainage is a problem that causes damage, monetary damage. And that's why the Charter allows us to go in there when this thing occurs and fix it; quash the problem right there. It's been ridiculous. Twenty-five years is just as asinine as anything I've ever heard. I understand the process and the only thing I have to say is the Spadaro's and the other residents that were in here need to be kept informed of what's going on. They are in the dark; they are very upset, they say they make phone calls and get no responses. Even update me and I'll gladly update them.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, the only person that's called me is Charlotte, who is the daughter. I called her back and left a voice message. She called me Friday when I was away. No one else has called me. They're free to call me; they have my number.

Alderman Marini stated, I'll gladly take any information back to them.

Alderman Fainer stated, I talked to her months ago, then she called the Mayor's Office. Every time she calls me I call her back.

Alderman Marini stated, this is Charlene?

Alderman Fainer replied, yes.

Alderman Marini stated, well, I mean, we are on their side. We want to get it done. They may be upset, they may be fuming, but guess what? After 25 years [multiple speakers - inaudible].

President Blume called for order.

Alderman Marini stated, the second issue, I think we need to address a situation that came up last night. This concerns that we have a solid procedure in terms of Freedom of Information and what we're doing. We had a meeting last night that involved the Board of Apportionment and Taxation - obviously they had their budget meeting. At the end of that, they broke into a workshop where they sort of had half of their Board, and not enough members to meet quorum, go off and have one meeting, and the rest of the members remained in another room. The press sort of got wind of the fact that there were two meetings going on and they sort of raised questions as to the propriety of that. Certainly while a group of members of any board that doesn't constitute quorum, usually it's a private meeting, but certainly looking at the whole circumstance, does look a little disingenuous that a board that certainly is there in full quorum breaks up for the purposes of being able to exclude the press. First, from your opinion as Corporation Counsel, what is our appropriate position on that? What is the right thing to do there?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, first, there's no such thing as a workshop because it's either a meeting or not a meeting. It could be in separate buildings and if either of them gets the information by tag type of situation, it's a quorum. My understanding, they split up the two things, there was, I don't know the exact what was talked in the thing, but it appears that neither party, I'll put it, the two parties, ever got to talk to each other, the thing just dissipated and the people left. So I'm not sure it's in violation of the Freedom of Information Act. I think we should have a transparent government and have these things - there is a meeting scheduled tomorrow night and if necessary the next night - special meetings of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation that opens the public to go over the information that was at the public session last night. So they've already been posted out there. I'm free if you want I will do a seminar on Freedom of Information and invite all the boards and commissions and their secretaries over this.

Alderman Marini stated, if there's a situation, really this was just a one-time experience and I think their intentions were good certainly. If it comes up that something like this occurs again, is it correct to exclude the press or the public under the pretense that it's not a full quorum so therefore it's a private meeting? Is that correct or is that wrong?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, in transparency, [inaudible], but in terms of Freedom of Information it's just a quorum and they meet and they don't talk to the rest of the board afterward, there's no violation of Freedom of Information Act. If they don't go talk to all of the rest of the people that were missing and gave that information as to what they talked about and made decisions.

Alderman Marini stated, which is a little strange because at the time that the press comes or the public comes and says I want to sit in this meeting, you don't know if after the meeting whether that group is going to go and share information.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I don't know either. If there is a problem most boards do call me, even in the middle of meetings I've gotten called at home if they had a problem, as to what to do. I'm available; everyone has my cell phone.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, what happened last night was that they adjourned right away, and we only had a week left to finalize the budget. So as they were walking out, I asked a group to come over into the Erlingheuser Room just to find out what they were willing to change, if anything, and to set up a date because we only have this week to do it. When we were in there, if you recall, I asked you, we didn't have a quorum.

Alderman Marini stated, then I gave my impression of it.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, that's right. There were no ill intentions because you and I went out in the hall and we discussed everything. They were out within a few minutes and we were scheduling a date, either for tomorrow or Thursday, so that we could have an open meeting, so everyone could hear the discussion. That's what went on as far as I was concerned.

Alderman Marini stated, in terms of intentions, I think we're all on the same page. Certainly it was just to move things forward. But in terms of doing it right, I mean, I don't like the explanation that it depends on if they're going to share information afterward, because that means, that doesn't make any sense. You'd have to time travel in order for that to make any sense. I think we need to figure out what the right policy is. Because if it's wrong it can't happen again, and if it's right we're going to stand by it, knowing it's right. There was a bit of a bad taste in my mouth, I was even there at the meeting. I talked to Ed Norman and the Mayor afterward and said, you know, technically there doesn't seem to be a quorum; it doesn't seem to be transparent either. So we didn't know if it was the right thing or not to do.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, there was no ill intention.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, again, in terms of legalities and in terms of Freedom of Information whether or not what was done violated Freedom of Information, again, it depends on who was there and whether or not all the members are somehow going to be getting all the information.

Alderman Marini stated, is it an open meeting or not. I get the impression of when a member of the public comes to the door is he turned away or is he let in? That's all that really matters. That seems to be a black and white question

that we have to resolve.

The other question is, who, and I know you weren't there, who called that meeting last night, that break down into the workshops.

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, I don't know, I was not there so I'm not going to know.

Alderman Marini stated, so certainly you wouldn't have told anybody that. Say, for example, I called the meeting.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, as I said, as I was walking out I grabbed several people, I said, let's go in here, are you willing to make adjustments to the budget, and if so, we have to know when we're going to do it.

Alderman Marini stated, oh yeah, I was actually invited, Ed Norman told me to come along. But that's, I didn't call the meeting.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, the information I know is that there was a meeting and someone either talked to you and said whether or not this is a good meeting or not... [inaudible]

Alderman Marini stated, well I'm not Corporation Counsel.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I asked for legal advice, you're the only attorney in there.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I had a conversation with the Valley Independent Sentinel and they asked me, well, you're not Corporation Counsel so whatever you said does not have the same weight, but I said was you thought probably in your best heart you thought it was proper. And I said, okay, but in terms of whether you called the meeting, and someone said that you called the meeting, they got that wrong.

Alderman Marini stated, the Valley Independent Sentinel told me that you said that I called the meeting; but that's incorrect.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, that is incorrect.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Police Chief Kevin Hale

The Mayor mentioned the two events May 22nd and the parade on May 29th - that will follow the same path as it did last year. It will come down to the Maple Street Bridge and go up Olson, over Bridge, and then Kingston down Main Street.

Last week we had a mock DUI accident at Ansonia High School. Alderman Sharkey was there and a ton of people were there. This was an excellent working accident to show the juniors and seniors at the High School what really happens. It's about as lifelike as it can get. The cooperation that we see at all events like these between the Police, Fire and EMS was outstanding. Students had tears in their eyes. They added a little twist to it this year, to really send the message home. I talked to the kid who was the drunk driver after the accident, and he was handcuffed, he was put in a Police car, he watched the little girl get removed from the car and get put in a body bag. He was just stunned. He had volunteered for this. He said that he just was speechless afterward, he couldn't believe, it was that realistic. It's a necessary evil if you will, and I wanted to make everybody aware of the great job that all your departments did, plus the students. The student actors, we had Lifestar come in, so it was a really phenomenal display. We hope that the message went home. We think it did, to a number of students, and we hope everybody gets the message.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Just to add to what Chief Hale said, I was going to mention it also. While it was a pre-prom thing to show the hazards of drunken driving, is why they did it, and just to mention, it was Fire Department, and Police, and ARMS. We had ARMS ambulances there. So they actually cut the cars apart; they used saws, they used the jaws to cut the cars apart up there. It was very realistic. They had one girl that was supposedly dead when we showed up on the scene that was laying on the hood of one of the things and one of the Fire Chiefs that has two daughters in the high school, he put on a show that, "Oh my God, it's my daughter," he had to be restrained by the Police. I mean, there were high school kids that were actually crying. They actually brought up someone as the coroner and he had on a jacket that said Coroner and he pronounced the person dead on the scene and they put the person in a body bag, and that person left here but other people were actually taken to the Lifestar helicopter. It was quite an endeavor and entailed three pieces of Fire equipment and involved two or three pieces of ARMS equipment. The police officers, and it was staged as an actual accident, first the police officers arrived with their lights and sirens and that sort of thing. It was quite a working together of the departments.

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

I don't have my numbers on the calls, but we did collect \$45,000 in April.

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Cultural Commission - Alderman John Marini

As the Mayor mentioned, there's going to be a bicycle rally on June 12th and that's to celebrate one of the inventors of the bicycle who happened to live in Ansonia at the time - he invented one of the aspects of the bike. It's going to be a ride from New Haven into Ansonia as the ultimate destination. It's going to be a small ceremony at the park next to City Hall. They're going to award a plaque in the name of Pierre LaMillette who was the Frenchman residing in Ansonia who patented the bike. There will be refreshments, likely courtesy of Big Y. Certainly everybody is invited to attend. The idea is to hopefully in the future, years down the line, it will be bigger and bigger. Now it will be a modest event but they're excited about it.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Sharkey stated, because he mentioned the Cultural Commission, can we somehow tie the Cultural Commission and the Memorial Day Parade Committee together somehow and get some publicity for the Memorial Day Parade? I mean it is really disheartening to be a marcher in the parade to go there and to see such a small crowd that turns out to watch Ansonia's Memorial Day Parade. We also participate in the Derby-Shelton Parade and the Derby-Shelton Parade, maybe because it's 9 o'clock in the morning and doesn't disrupt the day, the people are four and five deep. You march and attend in Ansonia, and there's nobody there. It's really a sad thing. It used to be a very well-attended parade. In Ansonia, it can't start until the time that it has to start on a Sunday because there's something, I don't know if it's in the Charter or if it's an Ordinance, that a parade can't start until that time because of the church services on a Sunday. So we can't move the time; we can't move the date. But at least maybe we can publicize it. We have a lot of new people that have moved into Ansonia. I don't know one, if they know we have a parade, or two, if they know when it is, because you see the same people that live in Ansonia attending the Derby-Shelton Parade. Somehow we need to get some publicity out there that we actually do have a parade.

Alderman Marini stated, at the very least maybe we can send a communication to the Cultural Commission to see if they're interested in sitting down and talking about this. Sort of form a publicity committee that could explore. It's

not something this Board should be taking on itself to do, but hopefully there are interested people out there that could start exploring ways to get the word out. One thing we do have when we have a display in our parade, the Fire Department's procession is award winning - it's taken awards home from places like New Haven, and it's seen all over the State in different parades. People should be aware that that's in their back yard. It's likely they don't even know that it's happening. Publicity just may be about taking a step to get the right people together. I would recommend reaching out to them after this meeting.

Alderman Marini MOVED to send a communication to the Cultural Commission; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Duffus stated, I would like to say thank you for turning off the horns finally.

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 Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and grant the refunds for the month of April in the amount of \$1,743.71 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Accidents and Claims

4-11-781 Jeremy Gormley - car damage
4-11-782 Denise Bailey
4-11-783 Brian Orgovan

Alderman Bender MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Danielczuk. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communications

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept all of the communications, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If an Alderman wishes one read or acted upon, the communications will be brought up individually in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Release of Superior Water Disposal Services

Corporation Counsel Blake noted that ADS has been taken over by this company and we are releasing ADS's bond for this company - they're already in place.

Alderman Bender MOVED to release the service contract performance bond of ADS of Connecticut; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #2

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Michael Carpinello claim

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Nature-based Pre-school - Ansonia Nature Center

Alderman Sharkey MOVED TO TABLE Communication #3; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #4

From: Chairman John Finnucan - Board of Public Works
Re: Bid Award - Cold Milling, Road Reclaiming, Vegetation Control

Bids were opened at 11 a.m. April 13, 2011.

Alderman Jerome Fainer MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works, to award the bid for cold milling to Costello Industries, Inc.; SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works to award the bid for road reclaiming to Rafferty Fine Grading; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jay Fainer MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works to award the bid for vegetation control to Coastline Consulting, LLC; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resignation

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read the letters of resignation aloud.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Paul Mengold from the Recreation Commission and 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 11-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the resignation of Sean P. Rowley from the Recreation Commission and 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 11-0.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Lynda Williams from the Recreation Commission and send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to accept the resignation of Anne Marie Caporale from the Cultural Commission and send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James T. DellaVolpe's appointments as outlined in his letter of May 5, 2011 as follows:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Alderman Marini MOVED to appoint Vincent Scarlata of 99 Pulaski Highway, Edwards replacement, term to expire 02-28-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

CULTURAL COMMISSION

Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Mary Gibson of 16 Arbor Terrace, Mendyk replacement, term to expire 12-31-2012; SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED to appoint Christine Colicelli of 10 Lindgren Terrace, Caporale replacement, term to expire 12-13-2011; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

ADA COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED to appoint Tara Kolakowski of 253 Main Street, Lynch replacement. SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Five-Year Local Capital Improvement Plan (LOCIP)

R E S O L U T I O N

Aldermen Edward Adamowski, Jerome Fainer and Stephen Blume of the First, Fourth and Seventh Wards, respectively, introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works submitted a Five-Year Local Capital Improvement Plan dated April 7, 2011 to Mayor James Della Volpe; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA that the Five-Year Local Capital Improvement Plan dated April 7, 2011 is hereby adopted and approved.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resolution #2 (Amended)

Re: Agreement with Lisa Lowe & Associates for Application and Implementation of Small Cities Grant Application

R E S O L U T I O N

Alderman Stephen Blume of the Seventh Ward, introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia has selected Lisa Lowe & Associates (LLA), of 293 Riggs Street, Oxford, Connecticut 06478 and desires to retain their services for its 2011 Small Cities application to the State of Connecticut for \$500,000 in order to undertake a Small Community Development Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen, in approving the selection of Lisa Lowe & Associates, empowers the Mayor of the City of Ansonia to sign all necessary agreements and/or contracts upon acceptance of the language and terms of the agreement and/or contract by the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the City of Ansonia;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN that James Della Volpe, Mayor, is hereby authorized upon completion of the review of the agreement by Corporation Counsel to execute an agreement between the City of Ansonia and Lisa Lowe & Associates (LLA), for services to the City of Ansonia for the Small Cities grant application and implementation.

Alderman Marini MOVED to adopt Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resolution #3

Re: Small Cities Community Development Program Assistance Agreement - State of Connecticut

RESOLUTION

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C., Section 5301 et.seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Community Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c and Part VI of Chapter 130 of Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Ansonia make an application to the State for \$500,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and
2. That the filing of an application by **the City of Ansonia** in an amount not to exceed **\$500,000** is hereby approved, and that **Mayor James T. Della Volpe** is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commission of the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide such additional information to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an

Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp.

Alderman Marini stated, this is an extremely big step forward for the City. This is the second time we're going to be applying for a Small Cities Grant for Housing Rehabilitation. We successfully got the money after almost a decade of being denied under the Small Cities Grant. Now Lisa Low's intention here is to apply for two entire cycles of housing rehabilitation at the same time. It's never been done before in Connecticut and we're looking to make this huge step forward for Ansonia and really start letting the State know that we're out there and we're doing good with their money.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Unfinished Business

Alderman Duffus MOVED to send a letter to the Ordinance Committee in regard to the graffiti and the blight in the City; SECONDED by Alderman Marini.

Alderman Duffus stated, I think that the businesses have insurance and should be able to take care of their own graffiti.

Alderman Marini stated, I think it's a great idea that the graffiti issue is carried along into any Ordinance Committee meeting to start putting together, as we talked about at the last Blight Committee meeting, new ordinances to deal with blight - graffiti should be part of that. A while ago we talked about graffiti. In fact, coincidentally, we have a proposal now from Off the Wall Graffiti Removal Company from Wallingford, and I will share that proposal with the board through e-mail so we can talk about it at our next meeting. They've actually cleared one of the walls - it stands out because it's the only slab that isn't covered over. In terms of what we can do to prevent graffiti beyond just paying to remove it, there are certain ordinances and laws put into place that don't just make graffiti a crime to apply, but also make it an offense to just possess the implements that you use to put graffiti on, like brushes, markers. Certain towns have enacted ordinances that make it a crime, make it a violation to possess those implements within certain feet of say, an underpass or a retaining wall. So the police don't have to catch someone red-handed in the act of actually doing it, they know you can't have those implements within a certain distance. Definitely worth exploring as part of the Ordinance Committee.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jerome Fainer stated, I have a question - you were talking about applying for two more \$500,000 grants. We got \$300,000 last year. I'm looking at the numbers here. Sixty-one people completed applications. As of April 30th 10 projects have been inspected but only two have signed contracts. We're looking to get more money and we haven't even done anything with this money.

Alderman Marini stated, from what I understand talking to Lisa Low that we are on track and making progress. Obviously there's also the office of Economic Development that I can make an inquiry with. Everything I've heard from Miss Low on this has been very optimistic and that we're making good progress and that we're going to complete it by the end of the cycle. But let me by the next meeting, I'm going to touch base with the Office of Economic Development that coordinates that with Miss Low, and I'm going to have an update for you. That number does seem a little misleading.

Alderman Fainer stated, yes, 61 people have completed applications but only two have a signed contract.

Alderman Marini stated, yes, that doesn't sound too good. Let me follow up. Everything I've heard on the program has been very positive from them.

New Business

Executive Session

At approximately 7:54 p.m., Alderman Knapp MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. 72 Myrtle Avenue - Foreclosure, Municipal Lien
2. Michael Carpinello Claim

And to invite Mayor Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers during the Public Session; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:08 p.m., Alderman Knapp MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Action on Executive Session Items

1. 72 Myrtle Avenue - Foreclosure, Municipal Lien

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to authorize Corporation Counsel Blake to proceed with the foreclosure of the municipal lien; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

2. Michael Carpinello Claim

Alderman Knapp MOVED to authorize Corporation Counsel Blake to settle the claim; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Beall MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen