



# CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

## *Regular Meeting – July 12, 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- present  
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 - absent  
Scott Nihill, D6 - present  
Gene Sharkey, D6 - absent  
David Knapp, D7- present  
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

President Blume declared a quorum of 11 present, 3 absent.

### ***Consideration of Previous Minutes***

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 14 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Danielczuk. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### ***Public Session***

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

#### Philip Tripp 57 Eagle Street

If I may, Mayor Della Volpe, Chairman Blume, Board of Aldermen, first I would like to thank you for your time. My name is Phillip Trip, I live at 57 Eagle Street and I just have a brief comment on a subject that I'm sure is going to be discussed tonight - graffiti, vandalism, and related crime. As graffiti, litter and blight increase, so does crime. This is known as the broken window theory. A November issue of the Journal of Science states, and I quote, "Signs of disorder, such as broken windows, graffiti, and litter, can open the door to individuals breaking other social norms and rules." In New York City's Quality of Life

campaign adopted in the mid 1990's, city filth including graffiti and signs of vandalism were removed; crime rates did drop.

Vandalism: punctured swimming pools and slashed tires on South Cliff Street, more slashed tires on Winter Street, 12 vehicles to be exact. These are quality of life issues that people use to judge how safe they are in their homes and their neighborhoods. When small children have to lay in bed at night wondering what is happening outside their bedroom window to their pool, that is a sad day for Ansonia. Graffiti leads to vandalism, leads to more crime.

This is not a criticism of the police department; this is a call for city government to do more to assist the police department. While details and amounts of rewards may be debated, Ansonia's neighborhoods need help now; indecision and inaction are not options. Ansonia's neighborhoods cannot wait for help; they need help now. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time.

President Blume thanked Mr. Tripp.

Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace

Good evening. I have come up with some information on last meeting we were discussing about sewage sludge, and in Oakland, California I guess they actually do it. Did you know that? Nevada is actually coming up with a way to dry the sludge; whatever information I got I thought I'd let you have. While I was discussing this with another friend in town, they brought to my attention that a couple years ago, that this Ward was talking about a water turbine system in the river; where did that come from? Nobody knows? Okay, we'll just leave it at that because I was talking about this and they said they talked about having a turbine in the river at "such and such" place so that was never brought up? Okay, that's fine.

President Blume replied, no.

Mr. Stowe continued, my second thing is, I would like to commend the police department. When the vandalism was going on, I own ten acres and they were wandering around on my property around 2:30 and my dog was barking at them and I was telling him to shut up and then I finally got out of bed and looked outside and saw them outside, they were talking to my wife through the window with the dog and they had the flashlights and they were wandering through the woods at about 2:30 in the morning so I really appreciate that you guys were up and working. I appreciate it.

Number three, this kind of addresses the Mayor through Mr. Blume here, I'm really curious of what's going on with the negotiations with the Union. I brought it up a couple of months ago, I haven't really heard a word about it. We all know what's going on in our state and our government and it's time to start working on what we spent, for now; this is my feeling and a lot of other citizens I have talked to because I have a couple of neighbors that what I would

consider have above average jobs for our community; one of them works sixty-five (65) hours a week and has hard work paying his bills and the other one's working seven days a week and spends the money as fast as it comes in and that's the case of most people I have talked to and they can definitely ill afford to pay more taxes. Anyway, this is an important issue; I don't want to see anybody make less money, that's not what it's about for me. Our community and this town and the State of Connecticut has real trouble financially right now and I know that next year when the Board of Apportionment and Taxation meeting comes again, that you know they're going to be asking for more money. And I don't really think that the taxpayers of this town can afford to pay any more as long as things stay like they are today. So, I really would appreciate some kind of knowledge as the workings with negotiating with these new contracts.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I could tell you right now that we've exchanged the initial proposals; we're in the process of making more exchanges for secondary proposals. A couple sessions have been postponed because an attorney has been on trial. I'm certainly not going to discuss the specifics here at this type of hearing but we are negotiating and I'll bring it to the Board once we've finalized it.

Mr. Stowe stated, I thank you Mr. Mayor, I know it's not easy. Thank you.

President Blume thanked Mr. Stowe.

Frank Zuraw 268 Prindle Avenue Cerbo?

I talked to the Mayor a few months ago about getting - what I'm trying to do is upgrade my heating system from oil to natural gas and I need a furnace and I really don't want to put another oil furnace in it; I want to have the, the gas is running right by my house but because of a city code, 24-17, which prohibits the issuance of a permit because of resurfacing for five (5) years. My particular case, it's been over four years, so I was wondering maybe if you guys could do something.

President Blume stated, we have a Resolution on that; it's coming up. I went by the house on my way down here. They said it was resurfaced in 2007; the road looks like it was just done.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I was told by the City Engineer that it was 2007.

President Blume thanked Mr. Zuraw.

Rich Boulay, 58 Johnson Street

It's kind of a trivial matter, but we have a population explosion of feral cats. I have tried to contact the Animal Control Officer two or three times, I left messages and I haven't heard anything back. Animal Control for some reason doesn't catch cats and I'd just like to know if anyone can offer any suggestions what we can do. I was told to call either Derby or Seymour's Animal Control and ask them for help but we're paying taxes here in Ansonia and I think if I called them I'd probably get laughed at.

President Blume asked, don't we handle that? I thought we handled that.

Chief Hale stated, you should absolutely call Ansonia in fact we have just received a grant to trap, spay/neuter, release feral cats; it's a problem throughout the city but I don't have to tell you that, yours is not the only area. She does it when she can among all the other things she's doing, but I'll make sure that I'll have her get back to you this week.

Mr. Boulay stated, if I could have some traps in my neighborhood, as quick as we can put them out, we'll catch them.

Chief Hale stated, we're getting a grant going, it's probably going to be a week or two but at the very least I'll have her reach out to you and start setting up and making arrangements to get the traps up.

Mr. Boulay stated, okay, thank you very much.

Angela Diaz, 80 Clifton Avenue

I'm an adjoining homeowner for Frank Halpin and also Frank Lonardo. I currently have a lawsuit against them. In 2006 I went to court as a witness for the City of Ansonia against Lonardo and against Halpin. I now have my own lawsuit, I have come to the City of Ansonia and I spoke to Kevin Blake, I had been back and forth here going through the minutes to find out information for my case. Kevin Blake claims that he doesn't have any of the information. I was looking for some of the maps; when I was able to pull the maps, what happened was these were falsified maps and what I don't understand is I first went to Planning and Zoning, I talked to Jim Tanner who told me to go down to Clark and Pierson and I can get the maps. When I went to Clark and Pierson, they said it's a false map, it was superimposed.

So then I called the person who designed the map and what I was told is that he had superimposed for Mike Lonardo. They put in a drainage system on my property instead of on the property of Halpin and Lonardo. They had a drainage problem. The City of Ansonia got involved in it and in their minutes it indicates in 2004 that the drainage system they could not put it on that property that they had to put it on my property but nobody called me.

And D'Amico, who is the city engineer, said it was okay with Berchin. I am in the Berchin's, I own Berchin's property, so no one ever contacted me and all I want is the information and I want the cooperation from the City of Ansonia. And Kevin Blake and D'Amico seem to not know where anything is but the information I'm finding is all false information and I already made an appointment to see Mayor Della Volpe, to discuss this matter but I do want cooperation from the City of Ansonia in this matter because they destroyed 60 feet of my property horizontally, 20 feet vertically and they came over onto my property with their sewage pipes and installed the full drainage system that goes from my property straight down to the city basin, and I would like results.

President Blume stated, if there is such material present, I'm sure the Mayor will make it available. Did you set up an appointment?

Ms. Diaz replied, yes, I set up an appointment with him for Friday.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I have been with Ms. Diaz several times, I have talked to her, I have even gone down to the court in Milford to look for the file because this file, my old law firm was closed and sent to storage. I got a request in to the storage company for the file; they have not called. I do not have the file in my new office. She's looking for the transcripts, they've already destroyed the transcripts at the court house because the case is closed. The exhibits are gone. I have been trying to, if we could get the records I will give them to her; I just haven't received them from this Murphy Moving and Storage in Clinton, Connecticut where we have stored our material.

Ms. Diaz stated, but even if I were to get a letter from D'Amico, D'Amico has been out to my property. He's told me he knows where those pipes are. Well if you know where the pipes are then give me a statement saying the pipes are on my property, instead they want me to go out and spend all this money in order to have this drainage system dug up. This wasn't a problem that I initiated, they initiated the problem and I am trying to find a solution to it. Thank you.

President Blume thanked Ms. Diaz.

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

First I'd like to thank Mr. Tanner, he did a wonderful job. He was out at my store a couple days after I was here at the meeting and within the month's time the properties on Wakelee Avenue have been cleaned up, lawns have been cut, he's doing a marvelous job; he really is doing a great job and I'd like to commend him for that.

Secondly, I do belong to the block watch on the 5th Ward, we've been very active in trying to work around and things and I think we're helping the police department, I hope we are. I think, not that they need help they're doing a great job, but they do need eyes and ears all over the city and I think the block

watches and the people in the neighborhood are trying to do a good job trying to help us out.

I know the other night somebody was banging on the window of my store, my grandson thought I was going to go outside and hit him or something, but I said no, I wouldn't do that I would call the police. I am pretty punchy, but not that bad.

The other thing, I read the minutes from last month's meeting and I'm not sure whether your microphones are working guys because on the report that the anaerobic people gave, quite a few of the words that the gentlemen was saying were unintelligible; she couldn't understand them to write them, so I'm not sure whether your microphones are not working or we need them fixed or what.

President Blume stated, his comments were inaudible to her because it's an accent; it's a little difficult to understand him. I speak with him on the phone....

Ms. Radin interjected, I thought I was losing my hearing.

President Blume stated, no, no it's an accent, I have to really concentrate.

Ms. Radin asked, but are the microphones working?

President Blume stated yes, they're very loud; it's just the accent.

Ms. Radin stated, thank you.

President Blume thanked Ms. Radin.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview Road

A couple things I was thinking about, about this new trash plan that you want to propose and buy and sell, whatever it is going to be; what about the smell from it with the new Riverwalk that is going to be going in; is that going to interfere with that?

President Blume replied, there will be no odor, no noise either.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, okay, sound good. Also I have a question about recycling. I recycle everything to the last tuna fish can, whenever I have to recycle newspapers, and I see other people not recycling at all. How could we get that so more people recycle?

President Blume replied, people need to be educated.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, who is going to do that?

Alderman Nihill stated, it's my understanding that trash companies are supposed to be policing that when they pick up. They're supposed to issue people warnings if they are not complying with the recycling.

President Blume stated, there's a state order now to create this new food chain; just strictly waste food, no cans, no napkins that's for the hospitals, colleges, and schools. That's just starting, that will take a few years to get going, it's just very difficult to educate.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, the last thing, maybe Alderman Marini can answer this if he would like, I just had a question about the graffiti. Why can't, I see that companies can do it professionally of course but why can't our Public Works do it, what do you think about them doing it?

Alderman Marini explained, traditionally our Public Works has done sort of a quick fix for the graffiti, which is better than nothing, which entails concrete paint over the graffiti. The problem with it is, it builds up over time and it does have side effects. For example, the integrity of the actual flood wall becomes hard to assess because of all the layers of concrete you're putting over it. Also if you actually do want to do a complete removal one day, all of those layers of concrete paint will make it much harder and much more costly to do so. They simply don't have the tools that the professional companies do to really strip it all the way to the original wall, which is what they've demonstrated, this company from Wallingford, had demonstrated that if they wanted to, they would be able to successfully remove everything. It's just a matter of having the funds to do that; right now we're not in the position.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, is there any guarantee on that, will they do a guarantee with that?

Alderman Marini stated, I think we've seen that if we were to raise enough money to do it and hire them that they can do it. They've proven that by clearing out an entire panel; an entire piece came out wonderfully. Of course we need to have a) the funding in place to do it, but b) more importantly, we sort of need a foundation which sort of maybe begins with the Anti-Graffiti Ordinance that this Board has been talking about, making sure that if we do go ahead and clean it, there is a protocol in place for preventing it from happening again. Then as Alderman Blume has actually mentioned last week at the Police Commission meeting, the idea of a sort of roving camera, a camera that can be positioned in different areas. A way of maintaining surveillance in these areas only when those two things are ready, if we have the foundation should we really spend the money to do the real deal clean up? But it's good to plan ahead and that's why we're doing these things now.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, very good, thank you.

President Blume thanked Mr. Plavnicky.

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

Thank you President Blume, members of the Board of Aldermen. First of all I'd like to thank Spero Jordanides for his years of service. As we all know, Spero has become ill and is unable to fill out his term and we are certainly going to miss him. He came on back in 1999 and I know he has served on the Board of Education prior to that and he was unsuccessful in his run for Mayor back in the 80's, but we are certainly going to miss Spero, he did a fine job for the 5th Ward.

The Ansonia housing authority is working towards its application for demolition. They have the new consultant, it should be submitted some time in the first couple weeks of August. All the tenants have been involved in the whole process and the Housing Authority is also working with legal aid in their relocation plan so that is an update on what is happening with the Ansonia Housing Authority.

Public Works will be starting vegetation control, that's the spraying of all the streets. We see the weeds coming through the sidewalks and streets and they're going to start that tomorrow.

Also the community garden up at the Nature Center is going smoothly, we haven't heard anything recently that I know of and everybody is having a good growing season. As I mentioned to Charlie earlier, we're still in negotiations, I have some sessions scheduled for the end of July and early August. Hopefully we move along a little quicker now that we know what the state is doing with their budget. There should be no fall out, the governor has approved all the aid to the municipalities even though he is going to start the process of laying off state employees. That will not have an effect on us at this point in time.

I met with the chairman of the Library Commission and two members of the Board to discuss restructuring the library schedule for the fall. We did a survey of all the other libraries within the Valley and we found out that we have the highest budget amongst all the other cities but they have more hours, they're open more hours so we sat down with them, we proposed a new schedule for the fall and hopefully their commission will approve it and we'll have more hours for the library opened up in the Fall.

I got a call today from Rob Scinto, he's the developer up at Fountain Lake, he started blasting so if anyone hears any blasting on the west side, they're starting to put the road back, they're going to put the road in up on Fountain Lake. He has a couple potential developers. A couple years out, it's going to take a while to get this road developed.

He is very pleased that there is some activity and he has assured me that they'll follow all the rules and procedures and safety policies that are put in place by the city.

As I mentioned last month, we're also meeting with the City of Derby in regards to the regionalization of the water pollution control facility. We're going to be meeting with them this week. That's all I have for now, I'll entertain any questions that the Board might have.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

---

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Middle Lane, I guess for several years there's been a water problem in back of the houses. I was able to get a hold harmless agreement in order that Public Works can go in back of these properties and try to figure out why there's a drain that might have been cracked causing water to go down into Reservoir Drive. They're starting today to try to fix this property.

I did a late communication because I was hoping to get a response back from the Valladares from O'Neil's Court. They have not responded to an e-mail and two certified letters in order to finish the drainage issue on O'Neil's Court. I got a motion in to proceed on the Statute to take the property. We had offered them \$4,000 for the temporary and permanent easement based upon our appraisal. I gave them that and no response. So I'm thinking they're just ignoring it. We're going to court. We get to go within six months of a vote and get it to court, we're going to start tomorrow. I have nothing else.

Alderman Marini asked, on the O'Neil's Court issue, when we do proceed with the filing in court, what's the time frame that we're looking at in terms of hearing back from court?

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, I believe it will be short - 30 to 45 days - to get the hearing to get that done.

Alderman Marini asked, and they have a certain amount of time to file an objection?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I believe we're going to submit the proposal, they'll fill in the date when the hearing will be, and we go to court.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Welch.

---

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Chief Hale stated, this has been, quite obviously a very busy year for us and for the City. Not so much in call volume but the nature of the calls and our detectives and officers are working very hard every day of the week.

A case the other day was a suspicious fire just around the corner, last Friday, so officers are putting in the time and detectives are putting in the time and effort necessary. Some of these cases are very complicated; they're not simple, and they may take some time. So again we're telling people these cases are still very much at the top, we're spending a ton of time with these cases and will continue to do so and continue to follow through. It's not always easy to be patient in these cases but that is what is needed. In the meantime things continue to come in; the phone continues to ring.

We had the spree of vandalism up in the north end and up on Cliff Street so we're following up on those as well. We've added patrols up in north end, we've added seven days a week marked and unmarked, uniformed and plain clothes officers up there. We're also addressing some quality of life issues up in the park and up in the surrounding areas up in the north end. We've received complaints and also by officer's observations we're going to continue to pound away at those as well.

Again, you already know this, but your officers are working as hard as they can on this and will continue to do so. Mrs. Radin mentioned the block watches, and I tell you I really love block watches. I started with those years and years ago and they are really run by the residents, it's not the police department that is running these. These are the residents, the citizens taking ownership and the theory is, there is strength in numbers. So instead of one person in a neighborhood complaining about something, it is the entire neighborhood or a portion or majority of that neighborhood complaining about that particular issue and we have always encouraged that. Block watches start and they fade away, people move or pass away or whatever and they tend to fade away but the west side is going very strong, we're very happy with that. We've got two officers, a detective and an officer as liaison with that. The north end as well, we would like to see more of these. We've had some major success, especially on the west side, not only recently but years ago catching some people doing burglaries over there. The phone chain couldn't work any better; we were able to make two arrests. I would encourage not only the citizens and residents but you as well to encourage your people to get involved in these. It doesn't take every single house in the neighborhood; every other house, every third house. It takes people who want to pay attention. You don't have to confront anybody; you don't have to run out the door. You just have to pay attention to the neighborhood. Nobody knows your neighborhood better than you do.

One final suggestion as well - we see a lot of the advertising for Homeland Security - "if you see something or hear something." It's not just the bag and

the bus or something on the train, it's if you see something or hear something that - again - you know your neighborhood better than anybody else. If you see it or hear it and it's abnormal or doesn't make sense, please call us. I can't tell you how many times we hear after something - gee, I saw something or I heard something but I didn't want to bother you. We are there 24/7 - if you see or hear something please call us, please say so.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale

---

Joseph Miller, Comptroller

We are closing out the fiscal year of 2010-2011 today and we open up 2011-2012 tomorrow. We will still make some processing entries but we are all right. The auditors have already started their audit work so hopefully we'll have the report before December 31<sup>st</sup> and that's about it.

### ***Committee Reports***

---

*Alderman Dave Knapp - Community Property Sales/Land Trust Committee*

The Committee met a couple weeks ago. A couple of property owners of the City had approached the Mayor about interest in maybe the City purchasing a couple of properties. Initially the offers looked real well, but after further delving into it, the offers weren't as appealing as we initially thought them to be. So, it didn't go anywhere.

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

---

*Alderman Edward Adamowski - Public Works Committee*

I just wanted to thank the Public Works Committee for all their hard work along with Mike Shryver and President Blume. It looks like we're going to go out to bid the first week of August for the demolition of the transfer station process and have it all back by the first week of September. We hope to have it back and hopefully award it early September.

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

---

*Alderman Jerome Fainer - ARMS Committee and Ordinance Committee*

We did 163 calls last month and we collected \$43,461 and that's it for that report.

The Ordinance Committee met and we came up with a preliminary greenway rules and regulations and we also came up with a graffiti ordinance and we forwarded it to the Police Commission who met last Wednesday; I was not able to attend that day. Thanks to the other Alderman who attended and showed up in my place and the Board of Police Commissioners that are reviewing it now and they are going to get it back to this Ordinance Committee and we'll have a final ordinance on both of them to send to the full Board for that.

President Blume stated, the reason why we brought both of these ordinances to the Police Commission meeting was out of respect for the commissioners. They are the governing body of the Police Department and it wouldn't be fair to do anything, impose a fine or anything unless we went through them. They are going to review it. I'm sure we'll be back to the next meeting and then we'll make a report to the Ordinance Committee and we will come up with an ordinance.

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

---

*Alderman John Marini - Economic Development Committee*

I'd like to recognize some of our Economic Development Commission members that are still implementing the business survey. Actually one member is here with us tonight, Mr. Vinny Scarlotta, who was out pounding the pavement on Main Street this past Monday; visiting owners and following up on those who have yet to return the survey and congratulating business owners that had, all in the interest of creating a tighter, stronger business community in town.

Secondly, I have invited, as I mentioned at our last meeting, Dr. Lisa Lowe who is the consultant on our Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Program, to come out tonight and talk to us about the program and answer any questions that we might have.

Ms. Lowe stated, good evening, my name is Lisa Lowe as you heard, and Adam Kinkel- who is the construction manager for what we do for the town. First of all I want to thank you for hiring my company as your consultant. We are very excited to be working for Ansonia and we hope to bring good things for some years to come.

In the last year we have been running a housing rehabilitation program, we received an award for \$300,000. Most of you are probably aware we've begun a program of rehabilitating private homes. We have had a flood of applications since we opened the application pool in December. We've had sixty-five families come to us looking for assistance, which is an absolutely huge number; it's a number that has impressed Department of Economic and Community Development, which is the funding agency. As a result of this large number we have gone in with a second request this year for a greater amount of money.

We're asking them to lift the cap. The typical cap on this particular program is \$300,000 but we're asking for \$500,000.

If we're awarded that means we could do 15 to 20 further homes. So we can get to about half of the list by next year. I understand that you have some knowledge of this program but that you might have some questions about exactly how it works and so we came here tonight at the request of the Economic Development Commission which we're obviously affiliated with, to try to answer any questions that you might have.

Alderman Jerome Fainer asked, how do you come up with a per unit amount? You said \$300,000 and John told me you're going to do 10 units. Where do you come up with the \$30,000 number? When we have 65 applicants, and you gave it all to 10, maybe you could have...

Ms. Low stated, I see. So you're thinking maybe we could reduce that number and do more homes. That's possible, but one of the prevailing activities for the program is to address code violations. That can become quite costly. If anything, we're finding that even in homes that look to be simple, you very quickly run to that \$25,000 cap. There is very little you could really end up doing for say, \$10,000 or \$12,000. I certainly appreciate the idea of having that money be spread around more quickly to everyone. We would certainly like to get to everyone, but we want to also do a good job. I don't know if, Adam, you want to say a few things about that or not.

Adam - stated, the guidelines we follow is housing quality standards, HQS. Like Dr. Low indicated, it's really tough to try to satisfy all the requirements and guidelines the program has for us with the \$25,000 cost cap. Unfortunately several projects that we've already taken on we found that we've had to make some really important decisions on what we're going to take care of on a home. Most of the time we're able to find we can take care of big items that the owners want us there for - roofs, furnaces, windows. So it's been really good. But unfortunately we're having a hard time just trying to get projects done with \$25,000. We really wish we could have \$40,000 to \$50,000 to lend to some of these homes.

Alderman Fainer asked, does this go out to bid?

Mr. Kinkel replied, oh yes, absolutely.

Alderman Fainer stated, I'm in construction, and I've never seen, where does the bid list when you...

Ms. Low explained, the original thing you do is advertise generally that the award has come through, and we ask that anybody who is interested in being a part of the program go in and get an application. Contractors applications are available from the Economic Development Office. It's always open. People can always come in. We do have that initial advertisement. Plus we also had a

PowerPoint presentation. We gave an orientation to homeowners and also to contractors as to how the program works. Not everybody is familiar with working for the government. As you know there's a fair amount of rules and regulations.

Alderman Fainer asked, do we look to look to local contractors.

Ms. Low replied, absolutely. That's very important to the program to serve local contractors - that's a big part of it. Ultimately this money comes from HUD, and they are very interested in serving the local populations where these beneficiaries are. That's whether you're talking about the homeowners or the contractors. That's been a very important aspect of this - advertising locally.

Alderman Nihill asked, how many local contractors are you utilizing in your program?

Mr. Kinkel replied, we've actually got one that's been handing in bids right out of Ansonia. He was present for three of the bids and I believe he put bids on all three of those projects. He was awarded one; unfortunately the owner rescinded from the contract. The last two projects that we put out to bid we advertised and he did not show. We do have other contractors that are in the Valley - Seymour, Derby. Really only from Ansonia, sadly, one person.

President Blume asked, how do you let them know?

Mr. Kinkel stated, we did receive a couple of other applicants from contractors in Ansonia, unfortunately they did not meet the requirements or the referrals to participate in the program.

President Blume asked, how do you alert the contractors to this? How do they know this is happening?

Ms. Low asked, are you talking about the original advertisement to bring contractors into the program or with every bid? With each bid - we have a running roster of contractors that have responded to the ads. Then we send out bid documents by e-mail.

President Blume asked, and only one from Ansonia?

Mr. Kinkel replied, yes.

President Blume stated, well your expertise is certainly noted. I met with you when I sat in for the Mayor, and with Mr. Perry. You're doing a good job. I know it's not a lot of money; it goes very quickly.

Ms. Low stated, it does. Again, every year we can apply and every year hopefully, as long as Department of Economic and Community Development is aware of the need and those funds are available, we should be pretty good. I

mean, Mr. Perry said, "Let's get in the loop, let's get back in the loop." It had been about 10 years. Once you're into the program it's a little easier to stay in the program. That doesn't mean you're promised an award but I think the level of need indicates a good chance of it this year again.

President Blume stated, we're very comfortable with you. Thank you.

Alderman Knapp asked, how do homeowners become eligible to participate? How are they selected? I mean, you had 65 - did you draw straws for the 10?

Ms. Low explained, we advertised quite a bit at the beginning of the program and let people know the program was there, and encouraged people to come in quickly because it's a first-come first-served basis.

Alderman Knapp asked, and eligibility requirements?

Ms. Low explained, eligibility is, it's a fairly comprehensive process that we go through for eligibility. But the primary considerations are income - you have to be a low or moderate-income person and that means you have to be within 80 percent of area median income, depending on the number of people living in your home. HUD publishes income limit charts for every community in the country. So use the Ansonia income limit chart. The other thing for qualifying is, you have to have equity in your home. We won't loan to somebody who's under water, which is tough because a lot of people are under water right now. That puts the City's assets at risk so we don't do that.

Alderman Marini stated, Dr. Low, we began this program just about a year ago, last summer. Can you make a comment on the pace of the program as opposed to other communities, other towns in the State?

Ms. Low stated, yeah, we're going fast. It's very, these contractor awards are for two years. And typically they take two years or more to enact. We knew there was a need here in this community so we came into this with our hats set to accomplishing within one year what's usually done within two years. We are on track for that. We expect to close out by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first set, this first 10. If we are awarded again, that funding will become available February 1<sup>st</sup>, and we do the exact same thing. We go through those quickly and then just keep it going.

President Blume stated, we've applied for \$500,000, that's \$200,000 over the cap. If you're denied the \$500,000 can you drop down to the \$300,000?

Ms. Low stated, oh, they will do that. If they have to allocate funds based on the amount of awards... That happened to us this year in another community; we did get a reduced amount compared to what the request. But it doesn't mean we'll be knocked out.

President Blume stated, because we're asking for more doesn't mean we'll get knocked out.

Alderman Duffus asked, is there anything more you're going to do to get contractors from Ansonia involved in this program?

Ms. Low replied, we would love to. We have great interest in doing that. We did have the orientation session, and quite a few of the contractors that came were from Ansonia. I think it can be overwhelming if you're not used to working with the government. There's a certain amount of paperwork, and I think it could be difficult. We have talked about offering training and that's a possibility. If you have referrals, if you have people that you want to steer toward this program, and say "Look, this program is available, get in there," and Adam is very, very good about working with people. He will help everybody.

Alderman Duffus stated, I find it unfortunate that only one contractor from Ansonia was involved. I think you should offer training for people that want government contracts.

Mr. Kinkel stated, actually we did at that contractor orientation. We sent applications out. First it was the advertisement publicly that Ansonia was going to have a housing rehab program and we were looking for contractor. In fact, you've got a bulletin is posted right downstairs regarding that. Just recently we had two contractors that have been qualified for the program and they are not - they don't live in Ansonia but they were here doing business in Ansonia and they noticed the flier and saw Ms. Forcier down in the Economic Development Office and said, how do I get involved?

The biggest thing is the requirements. They need to have several licenses in place. Some of the contractors that we did turn away simply, most of the time they just needed to have their EPA license for lead-based paint. So we said, "Take the class, come back and see us, and we can get you right in." They had great referrals.

Alderman Jeanette asked, are you offering them help on that to move that along?

Mr. Kinkel replied, the only thing we can help, and I did, was just to say, "Look, I've got a list of these different companies that you can reach out to, spend the \$180 and get yourself trained and come back and see me."

Ms. Low stated, also on that point, we're actually collaborating with the Naugatuck Valley Health District. This is one of the very helpful suggestions we got from Mr. Perry. The Navell (sp?) Program which is paying for some of our costs, so we actually have more than \$300,000; we have \$350,000 we're working with because they're chipping in \$50,000.

They offer training, but they haven't offered it in the last year. If we could get a critical mass of people interested in taking the class we could offer it for a reduced amount; and we have announced that.

Again, you have to have workers compensation insurance, there is a certain bar you have to cross in terms of professionalism to qualify, unfortunately, because it's a government program. I think that may be a factor.

Alderman Knapp stated, maybe that's something the Economic Development Commission can work with this group to try to bring in more Ansonia contractors. Advertise, train, workshops, whatever.

Alderman Marini stated, it seems maybe two things we can do from here. Talk with the Office of Economic Development first of all about identifying contractors in the area and communicating directly with them. It's as simple as a phone call. I'm not sure if that has been done; it had been talked about. We have been starting to assemble a list of all businesses in the City. My guess is that a certain share of that represents contractors. If we can put telephone calls and mail out we'll make sure we are reaching our target market in the most efficient way possible, rather than just a flier. The second thing it seems like maybe getting together again with the office, representatives of this Board and Dr. Low and determining how a training seminar could be effectively offered and instituted in Ansonia. Those seem to be two things I think we'd be able to follow up on.

Ms. Low stated, and frankly I'll just say we are very excited to help with that. We really are.

Mr. Kinkel stated, Mr. Marini, actually Miss Forcier did hand us a list of all of your vendors, and we went through it looking for, sadly, only general contractors. We can't hire a painter that's not interested in subbing out plumbing or electrical because frankly, what we're doing is satisfying a laundry list for a home, and that involves several facets of construction. Sadly, also is that a lot of contractors, the fact that it's so involved and it's such a little project, they don't want to bid on these jobs or do these projects. A few from Ansonia felt that way. In fact, one of the builders is from Ansonia and said, you know, "I'll give it a shot, I'll see what we can do, I'll see what this program is about," and he did. He gave it his best. He was actually, he found out how to bid and how it all works. It was a little bit too complicated and involved for him to really carry it out. So we're really looking for a special contractor to do these projects.

Ms. Low stated, it's almost an area of expertise, and again, we can help train to get people in a position where they feel they have that expertise. It's a beautiful niche. We find in some towns that we would have a certain body of contractors that come back again and again and they've learned the system and they do a terrific job.

Alderman Marini stated, it sounds like the training could have a longer lasting impact on these contractors beyond just this project. If they're equipped to handle this, they'll be equipped to handle other projects. I'm excited to start to take a look into what we can do.

Ms. Low stated, the State actually holds seminars on Working for Uncle Sam, that kind of thing, and there is a lot to learn about that but it's a wonderful business niche. Once you find the way in, it's a wonderful niche to be in.

President Blume thanked Ms. Low and Mr. Kinkel.

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

*Finance Committee - Alderman David Knapp*

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

***Municipal Reports / Annual Reports***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Tax Refunds***

None presented.

***Accidents and Claims***

None presented.

***Communications***

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

---

**Communication #1**

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: 216 Prindle Avenue

We've been down this road before. It's very hard to open up a road. I was surprised that this road is in as great shape as it is for being done in 2007.

I just couldn't believe it. Whoever did it - it looks like it was done a year ago. It's in beautiful shape. The last time we allowed this was up near the water tower on the hill. We allowed that road to be opened but it was strictly under the supervision of Mike Schryver. It wasn't a little strip. Mike made the person go from curb-to-curb and almost pole-to-pole. It was not just a strip down the center or across the road. If you were to entertain opening the road early to allow this I would ask that in the motion you put Mike Schryver involved in this and whatever Mike says goes. If this has to be 25 feet wide by the width of the road, so be it. This runs out in another year.

Mr. Zuraw stated, it's another year. They tell me next July. According to the gas company it's not going to be a whole thing where a lot of the road is going to be dug up. The line is already in to my house. It's just a case of hooking it up in the street.

President Blume stated, in looking at the road I thought this was a new road and this would be hard to do. I don't think it's a hard decision, but again, whatever the Superintendent of Public Works says and no matter what the gas company says, if it's to be done, it has to be done to his specification or it won't be done.

Alderman Nihill stated, I feel for this gentleman; he wants to improve the efficiency of his heating. But we also have this ordinance in place and it's a compromise.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to have Mr. Zuraw meet with Public Works Superintendent Mike Schryver and see if they can come up with something equitable and report back to the Board of Aldermen next month with his recommendation; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus.

Mr. Zuraw stated, I'm going to be honest with you, if it's going to entail a whole circumference of cost and money to rip up the road, I'll wait another year. I've waited four years. I can wait another year now and be done with it. I have the gas line already in the house.

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

---

Communication #2

From: Ansonia Recreation Commission

Re: Current Status of Redwing Pond House

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept communication #2 and place it on file. SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Resignations***

President Blume stated, we have a resignation from Spero Jordanides. Spero has been with us for a long time. It's been said before, I'm really going to miss Spero. He did take ill a little more than a year ago. He made most of the meetings; we was faithful to the WPCA appointment. He was very involved in that and very knowledgeable. I came on and started being interested about three years ago in WPCA and he was a wealth of knowledge. He just constantly read up on all sorts of new ideas. He will be missed.

Alderman Knapp stated, he is a dear friend of mine and I would prefer to move not to accept the resignation.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Spero Jordanides from the Board of Aldermen and the Water Pollution Control Authority and send him a letter of thanks and our gratitude for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. 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 July 7, 2011 as follows:

**WPCA**

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Alderman Steve Blume of 58 Hoinsky Way - Jordanides replacement - Board of Aldermen Representative; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

**NOTE: The following motion was rescinded later in the meeting:**

Alderman Beall MOVED to remove Resolution #1 from the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Resolutions***

President Blume stated, there are five Resolutions and three Late Resolutions. He asked that the Board take up Resolution #5 first, followed by the Late Resolutions

---

**Resolution #5**

Re: Rehabilitation of Solid Waste Transfer Station

Aldermen Edward Adamowski of the 1st Ward, Peter J. Danielczuk of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Robert Beall and Jerome Fainer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Eugene Sharkey of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Stephen Blume and David Knapp of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward introduced the following Resolution:

## REHABILITATION OF THE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Resolved,

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia has hired United International Corporation to design and assist in the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be located at the Public Works Complex on North Division Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen Public Works Committee met on July 5, 2011 to review the consultants' drawings and bid specifications with respect to the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station which would include the demolition of both the incinerator and shredder; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen Public Works Committee approved the drawings and request that the City of Ansonia seek bid specifications for both the demolition and of the shredder and incinerator and the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station located at the Public Works Complex and that the Mayor of the City of Ansonia be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary in order to seek soliciting of bids for the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station which includes the demolition of both the shredder and incinerator;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen approve the designs and specifications for the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be located at the Public Works Complex, which would also include the demolition of both the shredder and the incinerator and that the City of Ansonia proceed with advertising for the solicitation of bids for the aforementioned project, upon approval of the documents by the office of the Corporation Counsel and that the Mayor of the City of Ansonia be authorized to sign any and all necessary documents in order to request the solicitation of bids for the demolition of the shredder and the incinerator as well as the rehabilitation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #5; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

---

Late Resolution #1

Re: Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program

Aldermen Joseph Jeanette and David Knapp of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Wards, respectively, introduced the following Resolution:

Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program

Resolved,

That the Legislative Body of the City of Ansonia met on July 12, 2011 and adopted a Resolution by the vote of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ which:

- 1) authorizes the submission of the Valley-Wide Transit-Oriented Development Planning and Improvement Program to include Ansonia's West Main Street/Train Station Improvement Facilitation Program and the Ansonia-to-Seymour Riverwalk Connection Study in accordance with the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program Request for Applications;
- 2) authorizes the City of Ansonia to enter into and if necessary to amend a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Valley Council of Governments, or any successor organization, which incorporates the requirements outlined in the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program Request for Applications, as well as identifies any other specific responsibilities that the City chooses to delegate to the Valley Council of Governments in administering the grant, if awarded, as agreed to by the parties, and;
- 3) authorizes the individual serving as Mayor or their successor(s), to sign the grant application, to negotiate the terms and conditions of the MOU, to sign the MOU on behalf of the City of Ansonia and to sign any other documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded, including any amendments thereto. Such grant application is attached to and made a part of this record.

**Alderman Fainer MOVED to ADOPT Late Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

---

#### Late Resolution #2

**Re: Housatonic River and Naugatuck River Flood Protection Projects**

**Aldermen Edward Adamowski of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward and Stephen Blume of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward introduced the following Resolution:**

#### HOUSATONIC RIVER AND NAUGATUCK RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS

Whereas, the City of Ansonia has along the banks of the Naugatuck River and Beaver Brook levees constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineering;

Whereas, the City of Ansonia needs to, by February of 2012, certify the integrity of the levee system in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certification requirements so as to receive that agency's accreditation;

Whereas, the accreditation of the levee system is important to the approximately 180 property owners, including the City of Ansonia, with respect to the level of flood insurance necessary to protect their property;

Whereas, the City of Ansonia needs to have the Board of Aldermen, through its Public Works Committee, seek solicitation of bids in order to, by February of 2012, complete and submit to FEMA Section 2 and 3 of the Housatonic River and Naugatuck River Flood Control Projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Ansonia seek solicitation of bids so as to complete and submit to FEMA Section 2 and 3 of the Housatonic River and Naugatuck River Flood Protection Projects with respect to the certification and accreditation process of the levees which will be reviewed by the Public Works Committee of the Board of Aldermen for final selection of a vendor by the Board of Aldermen. Furthermore be it resolved that the Mayor of the City of Ansonia is empowered to execute any and all necessary documents on behalf of the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to ADOPT Late Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

---

#### Late Resolution #3

Re: O'Neil's Court

Aldermen Robert Beall and Jerome Fainer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward introduced the following Resolution:

Whereas, the City of Ansonia, upon having an appraisal completed for the area to correct the drainage at 59 Pershing Drive and/or 159 O'Neil's Court, submitted an offer to Mr. and Mrs. Valladares to compensate them for the cost of completing the repairs and obtaining other easements;

Whereas, the aforementioned property owners have not responded to the offer of the City of Ansonia in a reasonable time;

Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Ansonia, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 48-6, authorizes the Office of the Corporation Counsel to proceed to court to obtain authority to proceed with obtaining the necessary easements on or about 59 Pershing Drive and/or 159 O'Neil's Court in order to complete the drainage repairs on or near O'Neil's Court.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to ADOPT Late Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

President Blume stated, we have three Resolutions that we need to discuss. They were introduced by Alderman Marini.

Alderman Marini stated, Mr. President, fellow Aldermen, before you are three proposals offering rewards for recent crimes in Ansonia.

The three proposals involve 1) the serious and unusual vandalism spree that occurred from June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> on Ridge Road, Sunset Drive, North Cliff Street, Winter Street, and surrounding areas. As you know, the vandalism resulted in thousands of dollars worth of property damage. Second, the tragic March 9, 2011 homicide of Daryl Rys Venson of Cliff Street and finally, the tragic March 16, 2011 homicide of Isaiah Hernandez of Jackson Street. As you know, all of these crimes remain unsolved at the present moment.

Mr. President, I have nothing but the utmost faith in our Police Department to solve these crimes and to bring the criminals involved to justice, but as Ansonia's Board of Aldermen we have an obligation to do all that we can and all that's within our power to bring these criminals to justice and to assist and aid the Police Department in their efforts. Fortunately, our City Charter provides us with a means to help. Section 92 of the Charter specifically authorizes this Board to offer a monetary award for information leading to the arrest and the conviction of any person committing a crime in our City. I believe that if our City Charter gives us the power to assist the Police, then we have duty to exercise that power.

The idea behind the offers is pretty simple. Somewhere, there's someone that knows who the individuals are that are behind the vandalism; somewhere someone knows who's responsible for the murder of Daryl Venson and who's responsible for the murder of Isaiah Hernandez. All that we would be doing is providing an incentive, a monetary incentive - however small - for those individuals with information to come forward. In a depressed economy, I would have no doubt of the power of even a modest financial incentive to bring those people out of the shadows.

With these proposals, I believe there is nothing to lose but much to gain. I would remind this Board that a monetary award would only be paid in the event that a perpetrator is arrested and convicted. That means that not only would he be cuffed and taken away, he would be prosecuted, and he would have to be successfully prosecuted. Whether it be a guilty plea or actually going through the process of a trial.

If the reward works, then the crime would be solved. The victims would attain closure and a criminal or criminals would be taken off of the street. Also a strong message would be sent that the Board of Aldermen will do anything in its power under the Charter to protect our residents and keep our City safe. If we could achieve that with a mere several thousand dollars, then I'd say we would have gotten our money's worth. On the other hand, of course, the reward may not work. In that case the crime would remain unsolved, the money wouldn't be paid out, and we'd be in no worse situation than we are right now. But in the very least we can say that we tried, that we made an effort, and that we used the powers that were available to us and I will tell you that we would still, in that event, send a message - the message that this Board will do whatever we can, when we can and the message that we will not sit on the sidelines while criminals have their way with our City.

I'll say Mr. President and Board members, these resolutions are not intended to be set in stone the way they are. The details are certainly up for discussion. In particular, one of the provisions I put in was where the money is coming from and I stated the Reserve Fund. At the time it seemed to maybe make sense. I think reflecting on it a little more, I sort of think maybe the Claim's Fund is the more appropriate place to draw that money. As Corporation Counsel is already in place to administer that fund and look after it, we wouldn't have to go to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. But in any event, I would think that this is the very least we can do to help the Police, and we'd be able to rest assured that any money spent would result in a criminal placed behind bars.

Alderman Fainer stated, on our Board we have Seymour Police Detective, Scott Nihill, and I get a little input from him, he's a police officer, he's a detective, he's worked on a lot of cases in his career.

Alderman Nihill stated, well, John brings some good points to the table. I can't take away what he said, but to be honest with you, rewards, they're out there. There are some cases we have with \$50,000 to \$100,000 rewards and still the telephone isn't ringing.

Alderman Fainer stated, I understand the whole purpose to this thing, but you know in tough economic times with people not stepping forward for \$50,000 and \$100,000. I agree with the whole theory of it but I don't know if \$1,000 is going to get you anything. How do we set a dollar figure? Vandalism is \$1,000; a murder is \$2,000.

Alderman Bender stated, I have a question also, I mean I do agree with the theory, I think it's a good idea. What you say sounds great and it was turned over to the Police Commission, correct?

Alderman Adamowski stated, and we are waiting to hear back from them, so obviously I don't think we can act on anything as of tonight anyways.

President Blume stated, what I wanted to do was have as many questions as possible and John could try to answer them and come up with his own ideas. It's going to be on tape, it will be transcribed. We'll send the transcript to the Police Commission, let them go over it and see if they can add to it. You know, there's a lot of things that have to be figured out.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I think it's a whole scope of things that have to be looked at as far as, I mean we're taking into consideration the three issues that we have in front of us which were the two homicides and the vandalism. It is going to obviously, let's not fool ourselves, it's going to turn into everything that happens in the City. It's not going to be just for the three items. So, we're going to have to, if this does get adopted, there's going to have to be a scale of how much everything is going to be worth. Somebody's going to have to sit down and figure all this out.

Myself, and like I discussed at the Police Commission meeting, quite frankly if somebody offered a \$2,000 dollar reward for one of my children being murdered I would have a problem with that.

Alderman Duffus stated, it's insulting.

Alderman Adamowski stated, it's, it's insulting to me. Especially when, and I'm not saying anything about what you said, I'm just saying the dollar amount, this is why it all has to be figured out because saying we're going to give \$1,000 for vandalism, but yet on the other hand we're giving \$2,000 for a homicide. So I think the monetary value of what we're trying to accomplish, first of all, has to be looked at and taken into effect on how the program would work if we went that route first of all. And second of all, we do have to figure out a channel of where we're going to get the money to produce in case any of these do come through and we do have to pay the reward.

Alderman Fainer asked, what decides to go into the reward? If my neighbor's car gets broken into, or my house gets broken into, does it automatically justify a reward or...

Alderman Bender asked, what is going to happen later on when, well you offer a reward for this vandalism and somebody threw a rock at my car. You guys better offer a reward for me. You know, you may be opening a can of worms. I really think that's something we really have to look into. I mean every crime that happens in the City of Ansonia they're going to want the city to put up cash to offer a reward. I mean I think the Police Department, I commend them, they do an excellent job. I mean, I feel that this is maybe undermining their effort a little. Maybe telling them that we don't think you're doing a good enough job so now we want to put this out there. Let them do their job, they're doing an excellent job. I'm sure they're working on it; they have leads. I think we should just really think about this before we just throw this out there.

Alderman Beall asked, is there any way where we could do like, I don't know, get involved with the families of Daryl and Isaiah and try to do like some type of like fund raiser or something that we could do? A block party or something just to raise money? Is there anything we could do as the city, if you don't want to give city money, where we could provide a space or something for them to have something where the community or families can come and donate money?

President Blume stated, the problem is that takes care of the two; what about the next?

Alderman Adamowski stated, it's not the idea of giving city money because if I had to personally vote to give city money to capture a murderer I'm sure I vote for it. I don't want anybody to take the wrong idea but it just opens yourself and the Board up to a lot more than we're looking at. We're looking at three cases that are, correct me if I'm wrong Chief, three months, two months at best old? And everybody in this room know that stuff doesn't get solved over night.

It takes time to track people down or whatever leads they have or they have to go through the court system, which we know is not something that happens the next day; seven days, ten days, sometimes fifteen days or they could get warrants issued or whatever work that the Police Department has to do. Nothing just happens tomorrow, we all know that. I met with the Police and they are working on it.

Alderman Fainer stated, I had serious damage, they had run my fence into the ground. They took off; the cops caught them. They went to court, had a list of charges against these guys, they did \$3,000 dollars worth of damage to my property, the courts did nothing for me, so I contacted the victim's advocate and they never got us a dime and their answer is that people don't have any money and this and that so... The courts can't get people to do things.

Alderman Knapp stated, can I ask the Chief, based on your knowledge of rewards and success solving crimes and success rates, does any figure come to mind, a 10 percent rate?

Chief Hale replied, I really wouldn't venture a guess because we really don't deal with a lot of that. I can't remember, I don't know about Seymour, even you know major cases in the past.

Alderman Knapp asked, how about other communities that you know of around here?

Chief Hale replied, it would have to be researched to be quite honest with you. I really couldn't venture a guess.

Alderman Nihill stated, somebody hit the nail on the head over here - usually the rewards are something where you're on a dead end you start maybe coming up with these rewards, you try to regenerate public interest in the case and sometimes it sparks some talk and that's what we need in these cases. So this gentleman out here said it, somebody out there knows something but it's just what's going to motivate them to get involved and bring forward the information.

Alderman Marini stated, to respond, and I know there were a lot of points made and a lot of good fair points made, I'm glad that we're having a nice open debate. I think it's going to be good to share this with the Police Commission. But to respond as best I can to some of the points: first, effectiveness; obviously we don't lose anything if we offer it but there's a question of if it works. I took a little look and there is, if I can introduce you to this guy, this guy was known as the East Coast Rapist, Aaron Thomas and he was just arrested in New Haven back in early spring and his arrest was based on a reward. He is alleged to have assaulted 17 women in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, and Virginia. He committed these crimes up and down the east coast; eventually found in New Haven.

The reward that was eventually paid out on him was issued out of state by three different organizations at a total of \$3,000 dollars; that's what it took to bring him to justice. Now, rewards of varying success rates are put out there in surrounding communities. In Canton in 1996 right after the crime, they offered \$1,000 dollars to solve the crime of a fatal hit and run that occurred on Route 44, in East Hartford they offered \$5,000 in 2002 for a hit and run that critically injured a 13 year old girl, the Town of Stratford offered \$5,000 for a homicide that occurred in 1990, in Newtown there's an undisclosed amount being offered for a vandalism that occurred in 2009 - a reward actually would be offered at the time for the vandalism of a cemetery. In Southington a \$2,500 reward in 2009 for an arson, and in Stamford a \$2,500 reward in 2008 for another arson. These are just sort of cursory news articles I was able to get together. An organization called Crime Stoppers has a little better statistics. Overall this private organization Crime Stoppers, which sort of puts money together from volunteers and fund raising reports that it has paid little under \$100 million for successful tips that led to 871,216 arrests. A very small local branch of that organization in Hartford recently paid \$200 in rewards in 2009, which is the utmost updated results, unfortunately, I could find. So that \$200 resulted in four arrests.

I would say whether or not it's going to work or not I would say, you're right we don't know. The question we have to take a look at is, is it worth the cost. In terms of the cost, there's some fair points made, there's some fair issues made. The first one that I'm hearing a lot of is well, if we offer a reward here, what about the next crime, what about if it happens again, are we going to be mandated to do it every time for every type of offense? And I would say this; it should be done on a case-by-case basis. Someone, just like I'm doing now, would offer a resolution and this Board would make a decision. This decision tonight should not be dismissed because we're afraid of making tough decisions; that's why we were elected and that's why we're on this Board. I have trust in the members of this Board that on a case-by-case basis we would be able to determine whether one crime have a reward offered on it and another crime shouldn't be. Here we have two murders, very serious crimes which, we're fortunate, is not an every day and every month occurrence. We also have the very unusual and very serious string and very public string of vandalism. However it is wise to think ahead if we do it in this instance how to do it in the future and I would suggest if we do have a real concern taking a look forward, why not get in touch with one of these groups called Crime Stoppers, just one of the many organizations. We know they're active in Connecticut, they would actually consist of volunteers from Ansonia; perhaps our block watch if they were so inclined and this group would be able to fundraise for future rewards. Sometimes work in tandem with our Police departments and certainly there is a trail that's been blazed here because we know that they have been working in Waterbury, in Hartford, in New Haven and a lot of other little towns as well. So that could be something that we look at for the future.

But right now when we don't have that infrastructure set up, I'd be worried about acting before the case gets too cold. In terms of the amount of the award, I certainly hear that, and if it was up to me and if we had all the resources; \$2,000 of course for a life, that's too low. \$20,000 would be better, \$200,000 would be better but we don't have that, We can't use that as an excuse from doing what is in our means; if that's \$2,000 so be it. I would remind you that there is a price put on human life if we do not and that price is zero. That's the value we decide if we don't act at all; however there's also some other interesting stuff in between my original proposal and now that I've seen, the State of Connecticut offers large rewards up to \$50,000 for homicides and that sometimes is put out on its own and sometimes it supplements what the city police department are doing to add to it. The way you get the Governor to issue this award is to make an application through the local State's Attorney. Our Judicial District is the District of Ansonia/Milford so we would make a petition to him or her and get them to apply for us. Now if that reward, when we got it, that could be added to the reward for murder and then we can something that makes a little more sense. Again, as I pointed out in some of these earlier cases it is possible, especially in these times that a small reward like this East Coast Rapist, may be all it takes.

Again, all we're looking for is who knows the reason why they'll have to come forward but it seems like if there's a low cost to do it and we have the power to do it, why not?

I think at the end of the day we have to say, did we do all we could. In the grand scheme of things, I think in a cost benefit relationship it only makes sense to exercise our power here, to act and hope it works but at the very least we could say we tried; at the very least we can say we did all we could to solve these crimes; we did all we could to protect our City.

President Blume stated, the Chairman of the Police Commission is here, we did go to their meeting and we did ask him to attend, he is in attendance. We'll send them a transcript John, is that, like as we talked about it outside, we'll send this transcript to the Police Commission, we'll go to the meeting next month and we'll see what they say and we'll come back here. It's simply not without merit, just, it needs to be done right and I certainly wouldn't like to do it without them or without the Chief's input. Is that all right with everybody?

Alderman Adamowski stated, I think the point we want to make is, we want this to be researched and thought out and done properly; it's not worry or afraid of doing anything let's just put that on the record right now; it's not jumping into something before we know the specifics about it, that's my concern.

Alderman Duffus stated, and John, be absolutely clear about this. I personally know Daryl and he was a good kid, and it was definitely a sad situation for him to pass away the way he did. As the Board of Aldermen I think we should do something at some point, but we have to make sure that it's done properly. We should do things properly and in an orderly fashion.

Alderman Marini stated, well luckily we have people that have blazed the path before; we have other towns that have gone in this direction, we have private organizations that we can learn from, and certainly I share the sentiment. Fear cannot be a guiding principle, we cannot fail to act simply because we are afraid to make difficult decisions.

President Blume stated, I have one question for you. This group Crime Stoppers, was that a tip line or a reward?

Alderman Marini stated, they actually do two things; they establish a tip line and they put together a fund for a reward so I could certainly see a merit to involving in the future an organization like this. Perhaps the word came in hand with the block watch, maybe its made out of the same people that make up the block watch to have this going forward but there's no reason that we as a Board can't send a strong message that this city does not tolerate criminal behavior in this town.

Alderman Nihill stated, I'm all for your ideas John; sometimes it takes just a little publicity from something to spark somebody from making that phone call that would turn out that little fragment of information to get the ball rolling forward. On the other hand, I think these cases, being somebody of experience in the police field, these cases sometimes need time to get developed and to get going, and sometimes you could do the complete opposite by trying to do too much at the beginning of the case to put up road blocks on information that the department has already developed and is working on.

Alderman Marini stated, that's why I certainly like to hear the opinion of the commission of the department, they know where they are best. But it seems that the case has gone somewhat cold - if there are no leads, that can only help to bring more leads in. And of course your experience goes...

Alderman Nihill stated, I'd like to see if we do move forward as a Board, I'd like to sit down with the Chief and discuss this further and get his opinion; not run out and try to get all these organizations involved without his input on what he feels he needs.

President Blume stated, I've done a little research on the tip lines and we should discuss that too, I think that's a viable way to go also. All right so we will send this to the Police Commission; I will see you there and we will discuss it. Thank you.

---

Resolution #2

Re: Monetary Rewards for Information - Incidents of Vandalism

PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING VANDALISM

Alderman John Marini of the Third Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes an increased criminal presence in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it must act proactively to combat crime in Ansonia; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is authorized to offer monetary awards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals pursuant to Section 92 of the Ansonia City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the various incidents of vandalism that occurred from June 1 to June 21 on Ridge Road, Sunset Drive, North Cliff Street, and Winter Street and surrounding areas remain unsolved crimes,

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, extend a public offer in the amount of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the vandalism spree; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award will be split and shared equally in the event that multiple persons furnish such information; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award will be paid from the reserve funds of the City of Ansonia.

No action.

---

**Resolution #3**

**Re: Monetary Rewards for Information - Murder of Daryl Rhys Venson**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MURDER OF DARYL RHYS VENSON

Alderman John Marina of the Third Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes an increased criminal presence in our neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it must act proactively to combat crime in Ansonia; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is authorized to offer monetary awards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals pursuant to section 92 of the Ansonia City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the March 9, 2011 homicide of Daryl Rhys Venson of Cliff Street remains an unsolved crime,

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, extend a public offer in the amount of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the murder of Daryl Rhys Venson; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award will be split and shared equally in the event that multiple persons furnish such information; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award will be paid from the reserve funds of the City of Ansonia.

No action.

---

**Resolution #4**

**Re: Monetary Rewards for Information - Murder of Isaiah Hernandez**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MURDER OF ISAIA HERNANDEZ

Alderman John Marini of the Third Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes an increased criminal presence in our neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it must act proactively to combat crime in Ansonia; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is authorized to offer monetary awards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals pursuant to section 92 of the Ansonia City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the March 16, 2011 homicide of Isaia Hernandez of Jackson Street remains an unsolved crime,

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, extend a public offer in the amount of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) ) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the murder of Isaia Hernandez; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award will be split and shared equally in the event that multiple persons furnish such information; and

HEREBY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award will be paid from the reserve funds of the City of Ansonia.

No action.

[Ms. Eileen Krugel notified the Chair at this point that she was awaiting action on Resolution #1 - for the Homeland Security Grant]

Alderman Bender MOVED TO DEVIATE from the Agenda to go back to Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to return RESOLUTION #1 to the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

---

#### Resolution #1

Re: Authorization to Execute Documents with State of Connecticut DEMHS

Aldermen Peter Danielczuk and Eugene Sharkey, of the Second and Sixth Wards, respectively, introduced the following Resolution:

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, that James Della Volpe, as Mayor of the City of Ansonia, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that James Della Volpe now holds the office of Mayor and that he has held that office since 1999.

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

#### ***Unfinished Business***

President Blume stated, we have two items of unfinished business; one is with the Tax Assessor - a request to waive the bid for revaluation. The other is with the Comptroller, a request to waive the bid for specialized audits.

#### ***Request for bid waiver - Assessor***

Alderman Knapp MOVED to remove from the table Late Communication #2 from the June, 2011 Board of Aldermen meeting from Assessor Marge Dzwonczyk

regarding Request for Bid Waiver - Revaluation for the 2012 Grand List; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10 Yes, 1 No (Nihill), 0 Abstentions.

Tax Assessor Marge Dzwonczyk addressed the Board regarding waiver of bid for revaluation.

She stated, good evening President Blume, members of the Board of Aldermen. I am here at your request. I sent a late communication last month in the hopes, I had been out ill and I had attended school and I was a day short and I could not make arrangements to come to that meeting. I am here this evening to answer any questions that you would have with regard to this communication that I sent you with requesting a waiver of bid for the revaluation.

I will state again what the letter had stated at the time and Vision Appraisal is the current company that we have our software with. They were the ones that did our 2002 and 2007 revaluation for the municipality so we have a 10-year relationship with this company. I had entertained to go out for bids. The revaluation companies that are out there are either very small, and local to the area that they are, or they're very big and they want to do the large municipalities. I did get information from another company, however I do not think that they would be suitable for Ansonia; they did not have a good track record, they're kind of new. Their bid was about \$30,000 lower than Vision, so Vision had given me a price to do upfront, so I kind of entertained the two of them but Vision, because we have their software, we also have a licensing agreement with them that the software has to remain on site, which means any revaluation company coming in would have to have an in-house office and they would have to use the software in my office and there's just no way that that can happen. Or else they would have to add additional \$20,000 to get the release of the license from Vision in order to complete the job. Vision would also comply with all the RFP's that I would be asking of them to complete the revaluation. In the 2002 and 2007 as far as any appeals, the appeal rate was extraordinarily wonderful. I was very pleased; we had very few appeals. We went to court on the 2007 reevaluation on three cases; one we settled out of court, and two we had settled before court and that was very good. In the 2002, another excellent there were, I think there were three appeals that we went to court on. So I am very pleased with them. The \$220,000 was the proposal that they gave me and I am confident that this revaluation company will do an excellent job. They have been very cooperative in the past and they continue to be supportive in their software and it would be a seamless revaluation in that we have the software in place and everything would just go smoothly and they'd be able to start their work in August if we go ahead with this bid waiver.

President Blume asked, Marge, what was the bid 10 years ago, was it around this?

Ms. Dzwonczyk replied no, it was in 2007, I believe that was just an update where they didn't have to go out and do a full revaluation; this is a full

reevaluation where they're actually going to go house to house and do an inspection. In 2007 I believe it was \$150,000, that was just an update where they would take information that we have, update it, buy all new permits and do a field study by neighborhood drive-bys and all the permit work and market analysis and that didn't involve as detailed as this one is going to be. So I also feel that the price is very fair in calling other municipalities; they're all around the same.

I also want to tell you that in the last two years I had budgeted in my line items for my department was \$50,000 last year and \$80,000 this year so I hope that we'd be able to come up with the difference next year because we have to get this ball rolling and it would be completed within the next year budget.

President Blume stated, I understand they have the expertise and they have the software; I don't want to do a Wal-Mart thing but would they entertain a motion to come down to the other bidder, the price?

Ms. Dzwonczyk replied, I tried that. That was what my intentions were when I was discussing this and calling these revaluation companies and seeing what they would do and what kind of price they would offer and that's where I got \$190,000 for one and \$220,000 for the Vision and I was kind of bidding them against one another. They originally came in with \$230,000, so they did come down \$10,000 but then they also pointed out the fact that they have the licensing agreement and the only way that another company could come in and do their work, they'd have to pay \$20,000 for that extra to take it off site.

So in that, it's seamless and I'm confident that this is very competent and they're the best ones out there in my opinion in Connecticut and that's why I was asking for this bid waiver.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to waive the bid for Revaluation for the 2012 Grand List and award it to Vision Appraisal; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Request for bid waiver - Comptroller***

Alderman Knapp MOVED to remove Late Communication #3 from the June, 2011 Board of Aldermen meeting from Comptroller Joseph Miller regarding Request for Bid Waiver - Hiring of Firm to conduct specialized Audits; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

President Blume stated, this was to hire Milliman for the City of Ansonia for preparing the other post-employment benefits, GASB 45 Actuarial evaluation. He wants to hire Milliman for the audit.

Mr. Miller stated, they did the audit two years ago. We are required to do a full audit every two years so they can include it into our financial statements. Post

employment benefit ... is the type of benefits that the retirees get; there's a list of information that we have to supply them as gender, birth date, hire date, union code, what medical plan they have, dental plan, annual compensation both for the active employees and the retirees, and this includes the Board of Education. Two years ago our un-funded liability as stated in the annual audit was \$31 million; that was two years ago. Lord knows what it will be this year but sooner or later, and I'll interject this, we're going to have to start funding it; we're going to have to start putting money aside to fund it. It's going to be a requirement and I would certainly recommend Milliman to accomplish this and I believe in the neighborhood of last year or two years ago it was around \$10,000.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to waive the bid to hire the firm to conduct Specialized Audits and award to Milliman; SECONDED by Alderman Danielczuk. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### ***New Business***

None presented

### ***Executive Session***

None presented.

### ***Adjournment***

Alderman Knapp MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen