



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Regular Meeting – August 9, 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- absent
John Marini, R3- present
Robert Beall, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - absent
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Jay Fainer, D5 - absent
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 Danielczuk MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 12, 2011 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. 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.

Rich Boulay

Good evening. I want to revisit what I spoke about last month, the feral cat problem on my street, and I guess on the whole East Side. I had gotten a cage from the Animal Control Officer; we caught one cat. Looking at the population, I think they had another litter in the meantime. So one cat, I guess they are going to get spayed or neutered and it looks like another cat had gotten run over by a car, but there still are about 15 or 20 cats there. From what I understand talking to Animal Control, these animals that are caught will be spayed or neutered and then returned to the same place. I have a problem with

that. I can't go outside and sit in my yard because the smell of cat feces is just overwhelming. There are flies all over the place. I was out working on my flowerbeds today and ended up stepping in it. It's all over the place and I really don't know what to do.

I think that trapping these animals, getting them neutered and delivering them back to my neighborhood is not solving the problem. It may over time, over a year or two, but for right now it's not doing anything. Does anybody have any suggestions on what we can do?

Chief Hale stated, the Animal Control Officer works for the Police Department. If you're trying to get hold of her in the future just call the Police Department and they'll get her out to you. That has been the standard procedure in here and other communities for a very long time. If we take the cats, we can't just dispose of them. We have to make sure that they don't belong to somebody because if you owned a cat and we trapped it on a public street and had it spayed or neutered or removed or whatever, then the City would be liable, you would have a case - it's your actual family animal. So we're aware that there is a population explosion going on for quite some time.

We don't always get these grants; they're expensive - we get a good deal from Dr. Nanavati, but there are still costs involved. So if we trap, spay and neuter them, they have to go somewhere. We can't just bring them up to the Nature Center, we can't bring them to Colony Park; traditionally they go back to the neighborhood. Eventually in time if you catch enough of them we don't have this problem, but they do go back to where they came from they're just not going to be producing anymore and that's the whole idea of it.

What we also find is, they're there for a reason - somebody is feeding them somewhere.

Mr. Boulay stated, oh absolutely. Someone is because there are empty plates.

Chief Hale continued, we try to make the argument, if you are caring for the cat, then technically it is your cat. Using you as an example, if you are feeding these four cats, guess what? They're your cats. And you say, oh no, they're not mine, I don't want to see them starve. Well, they won't starve. Cats are predators; they will survive. We run into that all the time. They are there for a reason and we kind of run into a brick wall in some of these matters sometimes and we deal a lot with the State, the Department of Environmental Protection Animal Control Officers. There's only so much we can do with the cats. Cats are a problem for us. If a cat's injured on the side of the road, we have to take it to the vet just like a dog. And you spend a lot more on cats than you do on dogs. So I understand the frustration but that's where they go, we can't dispose of the cats. If they're healthy and if they're spayed or neutered they have to go somewhere.

A lot of times Jeannie will find - there are farms that take them for rodent control - but they're not going to take 100 of them. She does her best to try to place them but if not then they often go back to where they came from. It's the bigger picture, the future goal of them not producing. I understand your frustration; I wish there were a better answer. This is the process we've had for a very long time.

Mr. Boulay stated, I don't know who's feeding them; I do see about every other day there is some kind of plate or aluminum foil that has food on it and the cats are all gathered around there. I don't know how Jean captures them, in the morning around 5 or 6 a.m. they congregate in the street - there could be 10 of them there - and they could all be picked up at one time maybe. Again, that doesn't do anything about them not coming back into the neighborhood.

Alderman Marini asked, are the plates on property?

Mr. Boulay replied, they're on the sidewalk.

Alderman Marini asked, does it seem like they're in the vicinity of one property on a regular basis?

Mr. Boulay replied, they've been, I don't know what the number of the house is, but if you're familiar with Johnson Street, you go about 2/3 of the way up and there's a driveway on the left that has three houses off of it; people used to turn around there. It's right across the street from there. It's right in front of a house that someone had moved out of about a year and a half ago and no one is living there right now.

Alderman Marini stated, Chief Hale has a good point; someone owns the cats. It seems like maybe we can focus on them and almost treat it as a blight problem. Because if there is someone who lives at a residence who has plates appearing outside of their yard, someone must be putting them out and that person is really permitting blight to accumulate on their property. Maybe we can get Mr. Tanner to somewhat enforce it from that end and stop the feeding. It won't remove the cats but it cuts off the demand. The plates couldn't migrate too far from whoever is feeding them.

Mr. Boulay stated, they're pretty much in the same area that they have been for the past year or so.

Alderman Marini stated, so maybe Mr. Tanner can identify two or three houses that it must be coming from; make it known that if it happens we'll pursue it through blight.

Mr. Boulay stated, it still comes down to the fact that, even if they're being spayed or neutered, they're coming back into my neighborhood.

President Blume stated, but if we could nail down the person that's feeding them, and notify the blight officer...

Alderman Marini interjected, they won't accumulate if they're not being fed. They'll find somewhere else to eat so at least it breaks up the...

President Blume interjected, maybe the blight officer can knock on the door and say, "Listen, you've got to stop feeding them because if you don't there's going to be a fine," and maybe the person will stop feeding them.

Mr. Boulay stated, I don't know exactly who it is who is doing this. I know one person had done it for several months; that person doesn't live there any more. I don't know who is continuing the feeding.

Alderman Marini stated, finding out is probably the first step.

President Blume stated, we will have Mr. Tanner call you. Thank you.

Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace

Good evening. I have one of the same questions I've been asking every month - asking the Mayor how he's making out with the union negotiations.

Mayor Della Volpe replied, we're still in negotiations. We only met once this past month because of vacations and the fact that the attorneys were on trial. We have another session for the end of August and we have several scheduled for September.

Mr. Stowe asked, and that's as much as you can say about that? I understand. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Stowe continued, another question I have is, there is a development off of Castle Lane - a 23-lot subdivision I believe. I've had a lot of neighbors leaving notes at my house wanting me, because I live close, to go to some of the meetings. So I went to a Wetlands meeting that was strangely, to me, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon when everyone hardly can make it. It just went right through. I was very surprised and I didn't say a word and the people were upset there - there are a lot of people upset because they didn't feel that they were able to talk about it - and being my experience and my trade, I found it rather odd that the wetland corridor that goes into Colony Park - the pond that was dug out by the Army Corps of Engineers some years ago, it was never addressed that the project could do harm to that. Being in my trade, I found it odd that the engineering firm that was there didn't touch on it, they had no information about how they would prevent any of that from happening. Then I had my wife look up the Zoning meeting and the minutes, she couldn't get any minutes from February.

President Blume stated, there was no meeting; there wasn't a quorum.

Mr. Stowe stated, so the next meeting on that particular project will be when?

Alderman Sharkey replied, August 29th. At that meeting they'll set the date for the public hearing.

Mr. Stowe stated, I don't know how I feel about it because I've always believed if it's your land, you should be able to do what you want to do with it. My neighbors are up in arms over this and I've been hearing a lot of mention with the economy, they're worried about the value of their property if something does end up getting put in there. I mentioned to Mr. Marini, if that does get passed there may have to be some type of deed restrictions for a certain type house to be in there so it doesn't affect the people around it. I was just kind of ignoring it; it didn't bother me. But the people were coming to me. They were talking about if we have budget problems now, we'll have more people introduced to our schools, and then we'll end up having to spend more money. We have an Economic Development problem in a way here, and if we could get our city back in order economically with some businesses, it really wouldn't matter if there were more kids in the school. That's all I have to say about that.

President Blume stated, we follow all of the meetings; we try to make all of them. It's in Planning and Zoning now. It went through WPCA. You're right, if a person has land he has the right to develop it but he has to do it properly and obey the laws. WPCA made them change the way the sewage is going to be taken out, it's more expensive for them but it's got to be piped, they were going to have pumps. Every board does its own thing but it's in Planning and Zoning now, they're going to set the date for a public hearing. They're a really careful board and we'll go and we'll see. We watch, we watch them all. We did one off Shortell and on Hoinsky, so we're watching.

Mr. Stowe replied, I know you are. There is a lot of animosity about that project, but not from me personally. Thank you, gentlemen.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I would also like to speak to you this evening on the development of properties in the city. I understand the feelings of the people living in the area of the proposed development. Actually, this is not their problem alone; this is a City taxpayer problem. Every resident, taxpayer, should speak out on this and be irate about the contemplation of putting in this number of new homes in Ansonia. Approximately 20 years ago, the airport property was proposed for development. Resident taxpayers of the area spoke out loud and clear regarding their displeasure with the amount of homes that were going in this area. The reasoning for their displeasure was the overburdening of city services, schools, sanitation, sewers, water pollution, the police, fire, public works, all of these resulting in tax increases as well as overpopulating the small area. The homes would not generate sufficient tax revenue to support the additional costs that cost the city. Evidently we were ignored, evidenced by the

outcome. Today, we the taxpayers are paying for the action of the powers to be at that time; they would not listen to us. There was a famous philosopher that once said, 'Déjà vu all over again.' Please do not ignore the public outcry this time. You must do something about the lack of planning in this city. Failure to learn from one's mistakes will lead to commit the same mistake again; please don't let this happen. Thank you.

Alderman Marini stated, I'd like to echo the same concern of our last two speakers. I am also concerned with the boom of residential developments and the fact that we don't exactly have a plan for where we're going with future housing developments and increasing the population. I think it might be a benefit to at least form a commission to look into what could be done to avoid a problem in the future. We don't want to leave the fate of Ansonia up to housing developers. Everyone has the right to do what they want with their land; we also, as the representatives of the city have the right to look long term and to see if we could head off problems before they get to us. I am certainly open to input from other board members if that's the best step to do, but it seems harmless enough to have a commission take a look at what other towns have done. I certainly know that other towns have put in place zoning plans together with their zoning boards to preserve open space, to reserve areas to prevent over development. It seems harmless enough to have a commission in place to at least start taking a look ahead to see if something could be done in the future.

Rob Scinto - Developer, Fountain Lake

Mayor Della Volpe introduced Mr. Scinto, the developer at Fountain Lake, to give the board a brief update as to the progress of what's going on up there.

Mr. Scinto stated, I asked the Mayor if you guys wouldn't mind if just I came in and gave you a quick update. It's been a few years since we've been up there. Fountain Lake is the property off of Great Hill. We've got the road in to rough grade. We don't have the road down low enough for my utilities but I have the road in so I can drive up there. We've gotten rid of 35,000 yards of material so far out of 300,000. We are up there and are working. We blasted the road in and now I basically got all the overburden off, which is the harder part of the material to sell as you all know, fill, and now we're into the rock. We plan on starting to blast the rock in the next couple months or so and start processing the rock up there and try to get ourselves down to an elevation where you can build a building.

I have two tenants right now that are looking at the site. One is three years out and another is five years out. Those are the dates I am trying to meet right now to get the job completed.

President Blume stated, we're certainly glad to see you up there, we've been watching it and waiting.

Mr. Scinto stated, the economy slowed me down as you could imagine, but now there is activity; there is tenant activity out there. Even getting rid of the rock is a problem, but so far we're doing pretty good at it.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview

I just want to bring up, over the weekend there was a carnival over at Holy Rosary. It went very well and it was a nice thing to have. I don't know if this is the place where I'm suppose to say it but it brought everybody together I thought, and it was a nice thing to have. One question I did have was for the Chief if that's okay if I can ask him, because there's no Police Commission in August. Chief, I see a lot of officers walking around together. I would think that, I think the officers should be stationed at different locations, rather than just walking together in and out, up and down the aisles. I believe station one here, one there, you know, in each corner, it would be a better thing to do.

Chief Hale stated, I appreciate that, we kept them in teams intentionally. That was discussed, we had some issues down there last year - some security issues. There were some assaults and what not, so we beefed up the presence there. Again, working with the church and met with whoever was running it each night and agreed on the spots that needed the most attention - the ride area. So we kept the officers in teams; they split off when they had to and obviously the other end where the money was; there was money coming in so you always want to have an officer there and then a couple that would stay together but also spread apart if they had to for some trouble areas outside. I was going to bring that up actually in my report. Last year could have been better so we learned from last year; improved on it this year. We did work with the church on that. Good observation and that's why they were together.

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 am going to make it brief tonight because I'm losing my voice. I've already discussed with Charlie the negotiations.

This Saturday there will be a march by the family of Daryl Venson at 5 o'clock. It's going to start at Hill Street and come down to City Hall where they're going to have a rally. It's to remember him and to also raise awareness of the unsolved murder so that's going to occur this Saturday at 5 o'clock. Whoever wants to participate is welcome to join us.

I want to commend Officer Esposito and Joanne Zecock for the job they've done at the block watch in the north end and also the residents for their attendance

and participation and I'm sure it's going to be as successful as the one they have on the west side.

I'd just like to remind the board that we're going to have Ward meetings start in September. The first one is going to be Wednesday September 7th down at ARMS at 7 p.m. and Thursday September 8th we're going to be at the Hilltop Hose at 7 p.m.

I'll entertain any questions that the board may have at this time.

Alderman Marini stated, I had some concerns of residents around South Cliff Street about the streets. Obviously there was a lot of work being done, there's a lot of patching. They were basically interested in knowing when repaving would be done to smooth it out. There are a lot of rough, jagged patches on the road.

Mayor Della Volpe replied, the City Engineer is working with the Regional Water Authority who put in new pipes. They put the temporary patch down and they're going to let it settle. Once the temporary patch settles then they're going to pave it permanently. We'll make sure that it's done correctly. The City Engineer will monitor that.

Alderman Marini asked, is there a projection for how long that the time frame is?

Mayor Della Volpe replied, they're looking for the middle of September. Also, the Bridge Street bridge we're looking at the middle to the end of October.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

I'll start off the first thing with a little bad news: O'Neill's Court. We're ready to go to court but we had a problem with the appraisal we had done; there's a question possibly that the appraiser may not have done it completely to statute and it may be an issue as to his certification. He is away but I am addressing it and we also found that we need a second appraisal done by the court. Just to let you know the people have never responded to this thing. So we will get that done, once we go to court with it and within 35 days we'll have the go forward with it to get the work done for the season. I have talked to the people, the neighbors involved and I talked to them a few months ago that we'll get it done before the end of this season; before the winter we will get it done and they were agreeable to that. I want to get this done for the neighbors too because especially with the flooding we had last week. We'll be in court some time later on in terms of the value of the property but I just wanted to let you know that that was glitch that we found when we went in. We had to go get it to court and we found out there was a glitch there.

Other than that in June we had a blackout at the Ansonia Middle School and we had a company come in and do the work on it and they sent us a bill; I was able to negotiate down almost 50% of the bill which has also now gone to our insurance company who have come down yesterday. Hopefully we'll get most of the money back if it's covered, the covered loss.

I've got some other issues to talk about; worker's compensation and some other thing, Mr. Tanner is here about that.

ARMS is going to do a ride along; they have EMT's that want to do ride alongs and I'm working on that similar to what we did with the Police Department.

Other than that I have nothing else. Thank you

President Blume asked if there were any questions.

Alderman Marini asked, I have a question about O'Neil's Court; the glitch, did we discover the glitch or did the court?

Corporate Counsel Kevin Blake responded, we discovered it before we went in there; we looked at the statute and we found we needed a second.

Someone asked, okay and so the problem was there needed to be two?

Corporate Counsel Kevin Blake replied, Two and then we found out also about the certification for the appraiser. We have questions about it and we're not sure. He's on vacation so we want to be sure because we know we're going to be a contest at some point in time with the value of the temporary easement and the permanent easement. So I'd rather be sure it's done right because we want to get stuff done.

Alderman Marini asked, So is certification for the actual appraiser?

Corporate Counsel Kevin Blake replied, the appraiser has to be a state board-certified appraiser.

President Blume asked, so right away are we going to get two of them?

Corporate Counsel Kevin Blake responded, we are going to get two, I already talked to the people, we're done. They will be in this week or next week; they will get it in. It should be very quick because a lot of the legwork has already been done on it. We already got the thing done by the city engineer in terms of the metes and bounds so it should be pretty quick.

Alderman Marini stated, the one problem I always had was it seemed like if we went ahead under the Charter and did it ourselves, it seems like we would put the ball in their court to get the appraisal done. To pay for the appraisal, to

comply with the statutes and bring an action against us and if they were so inclined they'd have a lot of hoops to jump through before they got to court with us whereas we seem to be taking lion's share of the work by doing it this way.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, one of those things that I think with eminent domain, is you go to court to take someone's castle and that's the decision; you're taking someone's property, we just can't come in here and take someone's property. That's how I look at the statute.

Alderman Marini stated, that's true, but I think that you have the legitimate stayed interest of the fact that there's a drainage problem that's causing property damage and not the possibility of causing property damage but is and has been. Coupled with our ordinance. I think it puts us in a different place.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, This is a 30 year old problem that will be resolved this year. It will be resolved this year, we're two thirds of the way; this last property was a glitch that no one anticipated from the last superintendant. When Mr. Maffeo was there he had said, you need to talk to these people, we would have talked to them. Never talked to them. When we were starting the building, that's when they came out and said 'stop.' Mr. Spadaro was the problem we had and it took us several years to get him resolved.

Alderman Marini stated, I believe the problem we've had; not for just this session of the Board but for 30 years the problem we've had is we've sort of made excuses and not gotten it done. Whatever these property owners say, whoever is saying what, our job was to fix the problem.

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, and we are going to get it fixed; we are getting it fixed. Thank you.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Just to touch on the major cases, the information comes in, we track down leads, we go wherever the information takes us. We're continuing to work on these cases and we will continue to work until we get a resolution on all of them.

As was mentioned, the festival at the church was a success from our end. I believe the church probably enjoyed it as well. We had some issues there last year; quite a number of issues, so we corrected that with the increased police presence this year.

Pershing Drive, from actually the exit ramp in Derby, Route 8 all the way up to Main Street will be paved, they begin milling this week.. They're doing it over night because obviously the impact of having that bridge closed and this one

paved during the day wasn't going to work, so they're working 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. I believe, weather permitting, they should have the project done by next Wednesday. This is what I am told but just so you know, the bridge is a mess so I am glad they're doing that.

We had a heck of a storm last Monday night, I believe and I want to thank the fire department for their efforts. I think we worked pretty well together that night; there was a lot of rain and damage in a short period of time so I think it came together nicely. It really came up quick, it kind of seemed like the storm just kind of stalled over Ansonia.

President Blume asked if there were any questions for the Chief.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I just want to commend Chief and his Police Department also for Monday night. We had a tremendous amount of calls coming into the Police Department for fire and a lot of other incidents going on and being with the fire department they handled it tremendously with the call volume and with only one dispatcher on. It was handled very well last Monday with the volume of calls we had in town.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

President Blume stated, Mr. Perry, our Economic Development Director, is ill so he's not here this evening.

Joseph Miller, Comptroller

The audit of the City dated June 30, 2011 has already been started. They are here and have already been to Board of Education. The information that has been submitted and the requests to outside agencies for information that they have to supply the city has been done. Hopefully we won't have to wait until December 31 this year to get the audit report and that's all we have.

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

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

We recently had a fire at American Brass early in the morning. What that pointed out to us was the presence of unknown hazardous materials that we found on the site there. We don't know the location of them all and we don't know what is in some of the hazardous materials.

Our Fire Department has made a decision that any fires in there will be fought without people entering the buildings. Just want to go on record, we do have some stuff that's there that even when we called DEP that day they had absolutely no idea what was in the barrels. We had the owner on site and we did determine that that barrel was of non-lethal hazardous material, but up until that point we were unable to fight the fire because we didn't know what we had. So just to let you know, we do have some of that stuff on site.

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

Graffiti Committee - Alderman Dave Knapp

The Graffiti Committee recently met with the Chief, and had preliminary discussions regarding graffiti and the ordinances. The Chief has offered to reach out to the surrounding communities to see what other types of things that those communities do, and he's going to report back to us.

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

President Blume stated, I didn't officially appoint the committee, it was in the paper though. So they sat down with the Chief; I am going to do that tonight, officially appoint. It was just a fact gathering session they had - horse before the cart a bit.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Stephen Blume

This very busy month, because of the heat. I am just going to read this it's from Jared, "This July has been a record month for ARMS as far as the amount of calls. ARMS has been called to assist with rehab not only in town but to Seymour as well. ARMS also assisted in a number of hours in Seymour when a local, elderly housing apartment building lost power while still maintaining our staffing levels in Ansonia."

In the past we've gone out town and our in town coverage suffered for it but with the new system, we're covered fully in Ansonia no matter where we go to help other towns. "Three of our EMT's are also credited with bringing back a male who was found in cardiac arrest in his front lawn." Needless to say they were very busy. "ARMS responded to 253 calls, transported 193 patients, total patient transport was advanced life support with 67, mutual aid responses- we've been to Derby 6 times and Seymour 9 times and Shelton 4 times, keeping our numbers current in Ansonia. Note worthy ARMS has covered every call for service in July. No calls were passed but because of mutual aid."

This is the second month in a row that we are very proud of our volunteers and our staff and with the paid crews at ARMS. Things have totally changed; we appointed a new director, Jared has put his heart and soul into this thing,

everybody's happy, we got some volunteers back, and it seems to be working very well. We billed \$119,033.05 and so far this month we collected \$52,537, which is just about what happens; all the bill calls are not collectable.

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

Economic Development Committee - Alderman John Marini

Our thoughts and prayers are definitely with Mr. Perry and with Carol Forcier, Economic Development Secretary, both going through some tough personal times right now.

We have a film company out of New York that again picked up on the film tour that the Commission did back last summer. This production company is working with the History Channel in developing a new show, which is going to be about several guys that go out to old locations and find salvageable materials in historic spots. So to do a show about how that spot would have looked in its hay day and also try to almost do a little bit of an auction type thing with valuable material that might have been left behind that maybe no one knows the value of. It's supposed to be starting within 6 months. They're interested in maybe coming down and seeing some of our properties. They had a big interest in Copper and Brass, the Opera House and the Armory. So we're trying to get something together with all of the owners possibly for next week to come down and take a look around; another mini-tour. And of course that's the second production company that's expressed a desire to come down. We had a movie that was filmed in the Armory back last winter. It's been filmed, was finished, but not distributed or put out yet. So we're still waiting to see; it was intended to be a made-for-cable type thing when that comes out.

Additionally, the Economic Development Commission had taken a hiatus over the summer. Some of the members were a little disheartened by that. We have some very active members that over the summer continued the business survey and continued to work on ideas. Even without a Commission meeting. So there's a lot of people eager to see it get back after the summer break. It will be the 1st Tuesday in September and certainly everyone from the board is invited to come down and see what's going on about that.

Lastly, under the umbrella of Economic Development, the idea that we sort of brought up before, a commission; I guess nothing is really concrete but I'd like to see if we could get a commission together to start at least floating the idea of where we are going as a community in terms of residential development; are we putting at risk open space in the course that we're taking? Are we putting at risk basically having the last free parcels of land eaten up? I know Pulaski Highway seems to be a big concern with this Board only a year ago when we talked about the possible need for a new middle school. Certainly there are also ideas about what business space is going to be taken up by housing development, what open space and free land is going to be taken up. It seems

prudent that we look at the long-term thing and at least start to think about what the consequences could be and what we might do to counteract it. So I guess I am sort of asking if the Board would entertain a vote to put together a small commission to start looking at these things.

President Blume replied, we could do that. I don't think we have to vote on it. I'll put some people together; it's a good idea.

Alderman Adamowski asked, As far as the Copper and Brass, you just said we were in there for the fire - I understand that we're pretty much on the way out if not already. What are your thoughts on that property should that become available as being involved in Economic Development? What would you like to see into that area if it does become vacant?

Alderman Marini responded, well that opens up a door of possibilities. Certainly anything could be there from business to city use. Certainly there's an obstacle in the way with the very buildings themselves present. Even if Copper and Brass does leave those buildings, the clean up and cost is tremendous. Which is why, again, it's planning. We need to come up with a long-term idea, several ideas really, of where to go with that. Even if we were able to take them sort of into the wing of the city, we'd get stuck with the cost. There's really no clear plan for action. That's maybe another area where a dedicated commission could play a role and maybe not only using the Board of Alderman but sort of getting some of the other boards and commissions together because I think we need as many ideas and sort of as many eyes on the project as possible. At this point you can say well there's an advantage to taking them under the city's wing so it opens up state-federal grants to do the clean up. Then again it seems maybe prudent to look for investors; maybe do a public-private cooperation. Any concrete plan for it I think would probably be a little too early. I think we do need a start; start thinking today on what to do. Any ideas yourself?

Alderman Adamowski replied, no I don't, that's why I was asking you. It's a tough thing because we end up with a lot of businesses that are vacant.

Alderman Marini said, exactly. If the downtown area could be taken care of and of course at this point it's a long way off but if those factories could be converted into something else, we'd open up the whole downtown. It would change the entire character of the city.

Alderman Adamowski stated, the contamination is a big issue.

Alderman Marini replied, exactly, the contamination stands in our way but certainly the problem isn't going to solve itself. I think we've sort of seen that just putting a for sale sign on those buildings isn't going to entice an investor to come around and say 'hey I'll sock in millions of dollars on the chance that this might be profitable.' So I think this is somewhere where the city has to have some involvement. Do we go in alone? I don't think so, but maybe there's

an opportunity for a public-private partnership here. That of course, we're going to have to look for that private partner; not only would we just look in Ansonia, not only would we just look in Connecticut, we need to figure out how we're going to open this up. That's why this film idea seemed really beneficial. It gets eyes onto the location and say if the History Channel were able to pick this up, it goes to a national audience and now people are taking a look at it. So, you never know who's going to be interested from the film tour, you never know what interest may come from this thing coming on TV. You never know who you'll find.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think it was last year or the year before our Planning and Zoning Commission passed something called the City Center Plan. They have a plan for the whole center of Main Street and they have something of what it was supposed to look like and they really researched and did an enormous amount of work on this. They had included at that time the Farrell property and the American Brass property in the City Center Plan; both companies, Farrell's and American Brass hired lawyers and threatened to sue the Planning and Zoning and the City of Ansonia if their property was included in the City Center Plan. They wanted to be left totally alone and leave their buildings the way they were; they didn't want any more oversight over them and so forth. They were removed from the City Center Plan and then American Brass chose to close.

So probably a good step is to maybe pump up the Planning and Zoning to go back and take a look at their city set up plan and take a look at including that property back in it again so that lends itself to more future development. So then if someone comes in and decided to develop that property; whether they are cleaning it up, leveling the buildings, whatever it is... it is already written what they have to put in there. So there is a lot of work already been done.

Alderman Marini stated, that's great that someone started the digging of it.

Alderman Sharkey stated, well we attended all of those meetings. We witnessed the City Center Plan.

Alderman Marini said, I think actually economic development, as far as I know of, hasn't known about it. So it's something they'd love to see for their meeting. So, if we can get it to them and sort of see what someone else had thought about it. Yeah but all options have to be on the table and the thing is it's not going to fix itself. If we're not doing things like taking a look at what's already been done so we don't reinvent the wheel and think about new solutions; it's not going to fix itself.

Alderman Knapp asked, wasn't there a study undertaken by Yale a couple years ago about downtown?

Alderman Sharkey stated, they spent a lot of time on the Center Plan. It's been done; it's there.

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

[Alderman Duffus left the meeting at this point, 7:45 p.m. - 9 present, 5 absent.]

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 Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve the Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,299.57 if found to be correct. SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Knapp).

Accidents and Claims

Alderman Bender MOVED to forward the claims to the Claims Committee and Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Danielczuk. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Communications and Late Communications

Alderman Adamowski 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 Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Belko v. Officer Magero - Executive Session

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #2

From: Police Chief Kevin Hale
Re: Bid Waiver Request for Police Vehicles

Alderman Sharkey stated, based upon what's going on out there, I don't know if all of the Aldermen know that Ford has decided not to make the Crown Victoria any more. That is the standard police car in the United States. They have decided not to make Crown Victoria any more. The last ones that are possibly

available are 2011 models. Chevrolet and Dodge are going into the business. Ford is thinking about coming up with a new one sometime in the spring, all will be smaller than the present police cars that we have. The Chief and his people were able to find two of the 2011 models still available. We have put away money in the budget for these two cruisers.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to purchase under State Contract Pricing from Crowley Ford two Crown Victoria Police Interceptors at a cost of \$33,915 each and allow the trade-in of a 2007 police car and a 2004 police car; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Communication #3

From: Alderman Edward Adamowski, Chairman, Public Works Committee
Re: Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers - FEMA Accreditation

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to award the bid for the completion of the Housatonic River and Naugatuck River Flood Control Project Section 2 and Section 3 as it pertains to the Federal Emergency Management Agency accreditation project to United International Corporation of Wallingford in the amount of \$368,700; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Worker's Compensation Claim - Edward Henry

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #5

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works
Re: Bid Awards - Armory Roof and Permanent Patching of Street Excavations

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to award the bid for the Armory roof to Quality Roof Systems of West Haven in the amount of \$57,400; SECONDED by Alderman Beall.

Alderman Sharkey noted that this money is still part of the original grant we received to do repairs on the Armory.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to award the bid for Permanent Patching of Street Excavations to the low bidder, Birm 1 Construction; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Beall).

Public Session on Late Communications

President Blume asked if any member of the public wished to address the Board on the following two Late Communications:

Late Communication #1
From: Zoning and Anti-Blight Officer James S. Tanner
Re: 7 Lester Street

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Late Communication #2
From: President Nicholas L. Amico, Board of Police Commissioners
Re: Proposed Riverwalk Guidelines

Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept both late Communications; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0

Late Communications

Late Communication #1
From: Zoning and Anti-Blight Officer James S. Tanner
Re: 7 Lester Street

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Late Communication #2
From: President Nicholas L. Amico, Board of Police Commissioners
Re: Proposed Riverwalk Guidelines

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to refer Late Communication #2 back to the Ordinance Committee to discuss the changes the Police Commission made to our recommendations; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.

Alderman Sharkey stated, when the Ordinance Committee met they came up with this list of recommendations for the Ansonia Riverwalk. It was sent to the Ansonia Police Commission. They revised two of the things that we sent to them.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Resignations

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read the letter of resignation aloud as follows:

Mayor Della Volpe, it is with deep regret that I resign effective July 25, 2011 from the position of Emergency Management Director for the City of Ansonia. Over the past 8 months I have had many scheduling conflicts with the EMD position and my full-time career. At this present time I cannot offer any free time to this position. I believe that the city needs an individual that can offer the necessary time to meet the needs of Emergency Management Director. I would like to express my most sincere thanks for entrusting me in this position for the last two years. Regards, Nicholas A. Gentile III

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Nicholas A. Gentile III from the Emergency Management Director position and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James T. DellaVolpe's appointments as outlined in his letter of August 4, 2011 as follows:

Ansonia Police Department

Alderman Sharkey stated, I know the Chief will have something to say here but before I make my motion to appoint this person, I have to say I attended the last meeting of the Police Commission, we were there for the Riverwalk and a couple of other things that they did, and I saw Mr. Lessard being presented to the Ansonia Police Commission and heard his background and was very impressed. Also, I think there were as many as 500 applicants for this job. It was eliminated down after extensive interviews, testing, and this was the person who came out to be the top candidate. So out of 500 applicants I can really say we have the cream of the crop here. So I know the Chief is going to have something to say to introduce him personally but I'd like to make a motion that we appoint this person.

Chief Hale introduced Jean Pierre Lessard stating, there were actually 576 applicants for two positions. We will be back in another month hopefully with a second one. J.P impressed everybody throughout the process. A little bit of his background: he's 24 years old, from Farmington, is two semesters shy of his Bachelor's degree and has assured me he's going to finish that at some point in the near future. Most impressive though, J.P. is an army veteran and has two tours of duty in Afghanistan. I believe the second was a Sniper team leader and served this country very well and I am very proud to present him tonight.

He's an exceptional young man and I think he's going to make all of us very proud.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the appointment of Jean Pierre Lessard of Farmington, CT as a Probationary Police Officer for the Ansonia Police Department; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Youth Service Bureau

Aldermen Edward Adamowski and Robert J. Duffus of the First Ward introduced the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the State of Connecticut, Department of Education Youth Service Bureau service contract extends financial assistance to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Ansonia make application to the State in such amounts that may be available for undertaking a Youth Service Bureau, and to execute a grant application request to the Department of Education.

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 Section 32, Public Act 99-1, 10-19m through 10-19p of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- 2) That it recognizes the responsibility for the provision of local cost-sharing grant to the extent that they are necessary and required for said program;
- 3) That said program will be administered by Ansonia Community Action, with all rights and responsibilities of a subcontractor;
- 4) That filling of an application by the local agency is hereby approved and that the MAYOR is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file such application with the Commissioner of the State Department of Education, to provide such additional information as the Commissioner may request, to execute a Grant Action Request with the State of Connecticut for State 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 local agency.

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

President Blume stated, I have two committee appointments. I would officially like to appoint Aldermen Knapp and Adamowski to work with the Chief on the Graffiti Committee. I also am appointing Aldermen Marini and Danielczuk to work with Police Commissioners Tyska and Goldson on the Rewards Committee.

Executive Session

At approximately 7:58 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Belko v. Officer Magero

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Edward Henry - Workers Compensation claim

Late Communication #1

From: Blight Officer Jim Tanner

Re: 7 Lester Street

and further MOVED to invite Mayor Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers, and Blight Officer Tanner for the last item; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Alderman Sharkey MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

It was noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Items from Executive Session

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Belko v. Officer Magero

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to receive the settlement in accordance with our litigation and debts counsel to resolve this matter; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Edward Henry - Workers Compensation claim

Alderman Knapp MOVED to proceed forward with on an appeal to the compensation review board; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Late Communication #1

From: Blight Officer Jim Tanner
Re: 7 Lester Street

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED that the Anti-Blight Zoning Officer in conjunction with Corporation Counsel Blake be permitted to negotiate and resolve the anti-blight lien with the proviso that he comes back for the final approval of the Board of Aldermen; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen