



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Special Meeting – November 15, 2011

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Stephen Blume. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The Second Grade Class from Assumption School led the Board in the Pledge.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- present
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent (7:02)
Jason Bender, D2 - absent
Peter Danielczuk, D2 - absent
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
John Marini, R3- present
Robert Beall, D4 - absent (7:08)

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Jay Fainer, D5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - present
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present
David Knapp, D7- present
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

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

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2011 and the Special Meeting of the Ordinance Committee of October 11, 2011 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

[Alderman Duffus arrives at this point - 7:02 p.m. - 11 present]

Public Session

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

Members of Grade 2, Assumption School

We, the Second Grade at Assumption School have entered our school in a contest called "Rally for Recess." We have been collecting codes on specially-marked containers of Dannon "Danimal" products. For example: crush cup, smoothie, or collision yogurt. The contest ends January 31, 2012. If we win,

we can get an all-day recess party with activities such as a climbing wall, a dunk tank, an obstacle course, or a giant slide. We would also win a \$20,000 playground makeover. There are also instant give aways which include a street hockey stick, basketball, soccer ball, flag football set, kickball, or Wiffle® ball set. We are currently ranked number 15! If we win, we would like to donate our old playground to a school without one. Please join us by buying Rally for Recess Danimal products. We will be putting a box in City Hall to collect the codes. You can also enter them online at www.rallyforrecess.com. Thank you all for your help. Let's rally for recess!

Philip Tripp, 57 Eagle Street

Mayor Della Volpe, Chairman Blume, Board of Aldermen, I would like to speak on two things tonight. First, Chairman Blume, I would like to personally thank you for your 30 years of service to the City of Ansonia. I want it on the public record that I've always been very impressed by your polite demeanor. Sir, you've always been a gentleman to me with all your dealings, and I just, heartfelt thank you for all your service. I hope we continue to be friends in the future. Thank you for everything, sir.

President Blume stated, thank you.

Mr. Tripp continued, second matter, I'm here tonight with two very good friends, Tom and Liz Vannostrand. They live at 5 Clark Street. There seems to be a sewer problem on Clark Street with backup on that part of Clark Street and affects several of the homes in that area. I'm really not the subject matter expert on it; the Department of Public Works has been there before I'd just like to bring it to the Board's attention. That's about all I really have to say. Just for continuity I would request that the Chairman recognize them next, for continuity purposes. Thank you for your time.

Tom and Liz Vannostrand, 5 Clark Street

Mrs. Vannostrand stated, good evening. We have been in this area for at least 20 years. Over the last several years we've been experiencing sewage seepage out of our wet sink and our J-trap in the bottom of our basement. I feel we've been being used as a gauge or a barometer to decide when the pipes need to be cleaned. They really need to be inspected with a scope. It's my impression that a camera could really be of use in this instance. I think the pipes are cracked. I really would like to get on the list to have our street taken care of where the sewer system is. I can't tell you how distressful that is to go down and find that in your basement. The City has been out to the house several times now to take care of it, to no results. We need more than just... I recommended, I don't know if it's going to be any good or not, could you please perhaps clean the pipes out once or twice a month just until you can take care of the problem? Perhaps in the spring? I understand it's going to cost a lot of money, but I still would like it addressed. Thank you very much.

President Blume asked, has this been scoped with a camera?

Mrs. Vannostrand replied, no.

President Blume stated, we should do that.

Mrs. Vannostrand stated, I would definitely like that. It's very distressful.

President Blume stated, I will call UIC tomorrow morning.

Mrs. Vannostrand stated, I've been down to speak to someone in Public Works, I believe that 9 and 7 Clark Street have also filed a complaint. I believe the problem wraps around into Locke Street as well.

President Blume stated, I'll call UIC tomorrow and we'll get a camera; we'll do that right away.

Mrs. Vannostrand asked, and someone will get back to us, I would presume, on the results? Meanwhile the reasonable request once again, can we be put on a maintenance cleaning so I don't have to have that problem?

President Blume stated, well, let them scope and camera it first. I will have that done. If you would give your name and phone number to Tara Kolakowski, in the audience, I will get back to you.

Alderman Knapp asked, isn't this the same problem that Charlie was here about a month ago? Remember he said on Clarkson Street, and he wouldn't give us the address?

Alderman Jerome Fainer, addressing Mrs. Vannostrand, stated, it was brought up to us, but the individual that brought it up said that you want to remain anonymous. So we couldn't help you if you wanted to remain anonymous.

Mrs. Vannostrand stated, hence I'm here tonight. That is obviously why we're here tonight.

Alderman Knapp stated, he wouldn't give us the address, so we said, how can we help you if we don't know which house to go to?

Mrs. Vannostrand stated, until I was prepared to come down here with my husband, I'm very glad Phil Tripp came down and tried to help us out with this situation. Thank you.

[Alderman Beall arrives at this point, 7:08 p.m., 12 present]

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

President Blume stated, congratulations, Joan.

Mrs. Radin stated, thank you very much. Thank you gentlemen; I'll be joining you next month. And you all did a great job. Thank you.

A couple of things I want to address. I've had the pleasure of using High Street for two years since the bridge has been out, and I think it's disgusting the way it's been paved. I don't know who's responsible. It's like, I've never skied but they tell me that's what moguls are like. If our plows hit those they're going to be broken. If any of you have ridden that street, and I don't know how many have, going around that corner onto Lester Street is terrible. They worked there all summer long. I don't know, who is it that inspects this after the people have dug up or whatever jobs they have to do, because they did the same thing on Jackson Street. Two years ago they paved it. Last year it was gorgeous. Then they went down this year and they dug it all up again. Somebody should check and see who is digging first before you pave.

I have another complaint using again, High Street and Lester Street. I've been wanting to address this to the Chief if I could. At the corner of Lester and High Street, there's a car parked there. It's a very cute little car with a stripe on it, I believe it's got a Marine thing in the back window. It's parked almost on the corner. It is not maybe 10 or 15 - it is not the 25 feet from the corner. Across the street from it there's usually a pickup truck or something parked, so if you're coming around Lester into High Street there's no room for one car. If you're going High Street to Lester, and two or three cars are coming around, you can't turn at all. I think it's a fire hazard because that's where the fire engines come down. I don't know why. That road is horrible, absolutely horrible. I'm surprised nobody has paid attention to it. Maybe my car just doesn't work that good, I don't know.

Alderman Jay Fainer stated, Chief, the entire back window is a Marine insignia. You can't miss it. It's a white and purple. Sometimes they actually park a motorcycle in front of it.

Mrs. Radin stated, he parks, I went by it tonight to see if he was there. It was there, the same car. But on the other side of the street, sometimes I get out of work at 6 o'clock so sometimes he's parked there and there's a pickup truck parked, just wide enough for one car to make that corner. So if there ever was a fire, a fire engine would never be able to make it down High Street, and I know that Fountain Hose is right at the bottom.

The other question I have is, Mr. Adamowski mentioned an \$86,000 grant. Mr. Duffus did too. I'm not too familiar with grants. So where can I find a copy of the grant and what that money is going to be used for? I see you mentioned the Boys Club...

Alderman Duffus stated, our grant writer is here...

Mrs. Radin asked, through Eileen? Okay. Well I didn't know where they had them usually. I was just curious. I want to see. I'd like to see somebody help the juvenile delinquency in this town because it's gotten really bad. That's a lot of money and I think it should be used properly and I'd like to see how it's used.

Alderman Duffus stated, it will be used properly.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I would like to congratulate all the newly-elected members of this Board and I'd also like to express thanks to those that are going to be leaving the Board. Thank you for your service to the City. Hopefully with the new Board and the members, we will be able to turn the City away from the perceived reputation as being a benighted community.

In August I spoke to the Board of Aldermen regarding overcrowded development in Ansonia. In October an Alderman spoke out against what I said with some distorted facts and being critical. Considering where the comments came from, with some half-truths and distortions, I will not dignify it with any more of a response. One of the priorities of this Board and future Boards should get the unwarranted development, the single-family, two-family, dwellings under control. Some options you may want to consider, the Board of Aldermen and Planning and Zoning Commission could create a Plan of Development for Ansonia with no, or limited, single- or two-family developments, and no back yard lots. Perhaps a moratorium on building on single- and two-family dwelling units can be created. Perhaps the lot size could be increased to a minimum of one acre. Perhaps a building fee or tax commensurate with the cost of schooling of children equal to the number of bedrooms in these new homes can be developed. Also, perhaps include a fee to the developers equal to what we have paid to pay for the WPCA projects. Thank you.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview

I would like to compliment Sean Rowley and crew at the Jarvis Stadium. The field just was incredible this Friday night being Veterans' Day. They had a Charger emblem actually in red, white and blue. The boys actually ran out with a flag and everything was very good Friday night. Thank you.

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

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be held Friday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. in Veterans' Park. Everybody's welcome to attend.

The swearing-in ceremony for our new elected officials, which I'd like to congratulate Phil Tripp, Joan Radin and Charlie Stowe, will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 6 p.m. here in the Aldermanic Chambers.

I'd like to announce that the Cultural Commission is holding a "Deck Your House and Yard" contest. We have leaflets in the Mayor's office. That will be held. It's for each ward. There will be a committee going around choosing the best decorated house and that individual award will receive a prize awarded at the January Board of Aldermen meeting.

Finally, I'd like to thank President Stephen Blume, Jason Bender, Peter Danielczuk and Jay Fainer for your service to the City of Ansonia. You've always had the best interest of our City at heart and I really appreciate the work that you did put in. I wish you the best. Thank you.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

I would like to echo what the Mayor has said. Congratulations to the new Board of Aldermen; I look forward to working with you. Again, congratulations to those who were members and will not be with us. I was in that seat for a couple of years and I know it's a tough time to make tough decisions for the benefit of the citizens.

Two things. O'Neill's Court - this Friday, the 18th, I'm going to court to submit a paper which in essence we will be taking that easement. It just depends if I get the clerk there to sign the paper. They usually give it 24 hours but if I can get that person there they can sign it there. We can go on to the property I'm hoping for Monday, if not Tuesday. It's about a week and a half project. I talked to Mr. Schryver today; they're ready to go with the project. The property owner is not going to put an injunction to stop the fixing of this drainage system. They are going to address the appraisal; we submitted \$8,000 but we had an appraisal of \$7,000 and \$9,000. It's really just down to what the value is of the improvement on the property. Hopefully by the next Board of Aldermen meeting we will have the project done that's been going on since 1994.

Second thing is, we had a thing with Fountain Lake with the mortgage. I'd like to briefly address it in Executive Session to tell you what it's about. It's

something that came up and we need to address it. The mortgage matures at the end of this month.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

You may have read or heard that we conducted a major drug sweep several weeks ago in the North End. We are continuing those - it's probably a four month investigation that led into that and it's not done by any stretch. There is much more work to be done and there will be more warrants coming forward not only from that area but from other parts of the north end. We're going to continue the undercover operation throughout the City.

Winter parking rules will take effect December 1st through March 31st. We're on the odd side this year. There are several streets throughout the town that have special rules. We expect the Valley Independent Sentinel to print those rules again for us this year.

I will come forth in December with an appointment to the position of Detective. We have an opening and just recently completed the testing process. We'll have a name for you in December.

The new speed trailer is in; the one that you approved last month or the month before. It came in very quickly. We're waiting for one part that came in today, so that will be on the street by the end of the week. The other one is already out there so we'll be using two.

Our DARE unit is conducting their annual "Stuff a Jeep" this Saturday from 10-2 at Stop & Shop. This will benefit two local food banks - Christ Church and the Birmingham Group. If you're out and about you can tell people please. And we ask the newspaper to print that as well. It's this Saturday, Stop & Shop, 10-2.

Alderman Knapp stated, I have a resident on Sixth Street that says to keep up the good work. She also asks if we can keep those barriers up year round. That was just a suggestion. I told her I would tell the Chief.

Alderman Duffus stated, Ed and myself would like to personally thank you, Chief, for your great work on the North End. We owe you a great deal of gratitude.

Chief Hale stated, it's the officers.

Alderman Jay Fainer stated, Chief, last meeting I had asked you about the parking on Crescent Street hill.

Chief Hale stated, yes, we have a number of signs to put up; we had no posts. They just came in so Crescent Street should be “no parking” all the way down on the right side. Those should be going up hopefully this week.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think we sent a letter but I just wanted to remind - the Fire Department - Fountain Hose has complained a couple of times, right across the street, I guess there is someone parking almost near where Robert lives, and they are having a hard time getting the truck out of there. I know you had someone come over from the department to investigate it, just be sure the pole is tagged - it's the pole directly opposite Fountain Hose. They're looking for “No Parking Any Time.”

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

We're in the midst of all of our equipment going out for DOT inspections. Next month we're doing all the pump testing. By the end of the year our entire fleet will be certified again for another whole year.

Alderman Jerome Fainer MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

President Blume stated, this evening there is a ceremony at Rapp's. We've never missed it; we had to miss it tonight because we changed the Board of Aldermen meeting until tonight. It's the Firefighter of the Year, Police Officer of the Year and also the ARMS Person of the Year Award. Anthony Delucia is the recipient from the Fire Department and John Kahyaoglu is the recipient for ARMS. Officer Rick Esposito is Police Officer of the Year.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to send letters of congratulations to the three individuals that were awarded; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

ARMS has 230 calls last month; 6 calls for mutual aid to Derby and Seymour. We covered all of our calls and things are running smooth.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

I'm proud to announce that the Commission was successful in obtaining the second \$300,000 grant for housing rehabilitation in the City. We are very enthusiastic to see that program continue for the benefit of the City.

One project the Commission is working on is getting the Ansonia Business Council back up and running and meeting on a monthly basis. As the Board will remember, the Ansonia Business Council is a project spearheaded by the Mayor to get business owners meeting with each other and interacting, sharing ideas, concerns, suggestions, to get a stronger business community in town. We hope to be putting that into gear in the next couple of months.

Another project we're working on, we've gotten an offer from ESPN - they are interested in shooting a commercial at either the Armory or Copper & Brass. We are negotiating and seeing if we can come to an agreement that would pay the costs of the commercial. It's something that would bring nice attention to the City.

Thank you.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the refund report and pay the refunds in the amount of \$4,841.87 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

None presented.

Communications and Late 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 Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Purchase of Property located at Pulaski Highway

Alderman Nihill MOVED to TABLE Communication #1; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.

Alderman Nihill stated, we are waiting for other information that we need to make an informed decision.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #2

From: Alderman Gene Sharkey - Fire Committee
Re: Appointment to the Ansonia Fire Police

Alderman Sharkey stated, this letter recommends Burt Kirschbaum to the position of Ansonia Fire Policeman. The procedure is a Fire Company brings a name before the Fire Commission, the Commission then recommends that person's name to the Mayor, and the Mayor submitted it here. If we so approve it then the person is sworn in and there are certain powers that they can perform at a fire. We are pleased with this recommendation; Mr. Kirschbaum is a dedicated member of the Charter Hose Company #4.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve the appointment of Burt Kirschbaum to the Ansonia Fire Police; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Fountain Lake Note and Mortgage Modification Agreement

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Resignations

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Joseph F. Fabrizio from the WPCA; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Appointments

None presented.

Executive Session

At approximately 7:30 p.m. Alderman Sharkey MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss Communication #3 - Fountain Lake Note and Mortgage Modification Agreement, and invited Mayor Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 7:36 p.m., Alderman Beall MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Motions from Executive Session

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Fountain Lake Note and Mortgage Modification Agreement

Alderman Duffus MOVED, per the recommendation of Corporation Counsel Blake, to agree to a one-year extension of the note and mortgage modification agreement for Fountain Lake, LLC with the City of Ansonia, with a change to paragraph 2.3 regarding the road construction costs subject to ratification by the City Engineer; SECONDED by Alderman Jay Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Adjournment

President Blume stated, I would like to thank you for keeping me as President of the Board all this time. [Applause rang throughout the forum].

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen