



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN Regular Meeting – July 10, 2012

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Gene Sharkey. 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 - absent
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Kevin Mott, D3 - present
Anthony DeLucia, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Joan Radin, R5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - present
David Knapp, D7- present
John Marini, R7 - present
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 13 present, 1 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

1. Regular Meeting of June 12, 2012

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the minutes as corrected; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Public Session

Mark Reba, 41 Beaver Street

I have a petition signed by many concerned residents on the lower half of Beaver Street. For the past two years, the hill behind the residences on Beaver Street has been eroding and deteriorating. Many of the trees fall, and they have caused thousands of dollars in damage to properties, homes, vehicles and pets, and are a danger to the children in the neighborhood. This petition is being signed to bring attention to the town as many people are concerned of the potential dangers. Something needs to be done before regrettable situations happen. Many people are very concerned after the incident on our property, so I started this petition and hopefully we can get something done about it. We had six trees come down, and luckily they got cleaned out. People right now are

not letting their children play in the back yards. As a matter of fact I drove by the other day and a girl who has three kids put the swimming pool in the middle of the driveway because they're all afraid of being in their back yards.

Alderman Tripp asked, has this happened before, and is there a situation with the house on top of the hill?

Mr. Reba replied, yes, this has happened before. This gentleman back here, he has lost thousands and thousands of dollars, he has had them falling off of the hill twice on his property. He has lost three cars that were absolutely totaled; we have pictures if anybody would like to see them. Also, an older gentleman that lives on the street - trees have come down on his property and destroyed his garage. They called it an "act of God."

Alderman Knapp asked, are they falling down from Tremont Street?

President Sharkey replied, no, it's on the hill between Beaver, Williams, and James Streets. It's the entire bank that starts almost near Beaver Drug Store, across the street, the Assembly of God Church there. It's the whole hill that goes all the way around and comes all the way down to Big Y. We would have to establish ownership of the property - who needs to maintain it.

Mr. Reba stated, the property is absolutely useless; you can't even climb up that hill. All the trees look like they're getting uprooted. We have no idea who owns the property. That property is useless, you can't do anything on it, and you can't even climb up it without grabbing a tree to hold yourself up.

President Sharkey stated, I will take the petition, and we will have our City Engineer and our Zoning Enforcement Officer try to determine ownership of property. I do not think this is City property. We will try to determine what it is and look at it as a safety hazard and start from there. We are aware of the problem that happened at One Williams Street. The Fire Department is aware of it, the Building Department is aware of it.

Mr. Reba stated, I'm surprised the Pastor of the Church isn't here today because half of it fell onto his property too.

Alderman Stowe asked, is the tree still there?

Mr. Reba replied, no, yesterday a 30,000 pound truck showed up and a crane lifted everything out of there. Today they finished cleaning everything up so now we have a back yard again.

Alderman Stowe asked, did you call City Hall and talk to someone?

Mr. Reba replied, James Tanner. He was there the day it fell.

Alderman Stowe stated, I got called to look at this and the property that's up on the hill I think is in some type of blight issue. The people who own the house - a woman that owned it died and the family has no insurance. The tree has been cut and gone, so that's a good thing. When I looked at it, somebody could have gotten killed over there in the church parking lot.

Mr. Reba stated, as of yesterday I believe I saw some more inspectors looking at it and I think they were looking at how to demolish it.

President Sharkey explained, the City was made aware when the tree fell. Within hours the Mayor was there, the Chief of Police was there, I was there representing the Fire Department, the Fire Marshal was there. The property was deemed a hazard. The building itself is unstable and we don't know what's going to happen there. The building has been determined to be uninhabitable; there is a blight issue. The house itself has moved off the foundation. The porch is in jeopardy. We are well aware of the problem at the top.

Mr. Reba stated, I would also like to mention - I went out there last night. People have still been going into that house in the middle of the night.

President Sharkey stated, they have been told - I don't know if we'll have to look at that - when the Chief of Police was there they were given permission to only be there during the day and no later than 8:00 because we are very worried about the fact that if someone steps on the side bank, it is unstable, the porch is unstable, the sidewalk is separated from the building by about two feet. Everybody is aware of the problem. The Fire Department has deemed the building will be a one engine response to the top of the hill and the second engine to the bottom of the hill right where you people are to try and mitigate the problem.

Mr. Reba stated, it is very unsafe and a lot of people are worried. That, and the trees and everything like that is up on the hill where everything is disappearing.

Chairman Vinny Scarlata, Economic Development Commission

We are a puzzle piece away from our first Farmer's Market downtown. It's sitting here tonight. Right after the Bike Festival, we went back to our list of things to accomplish next, and the Farmer's Market was on that list. Shortly after the Festival, we got in touch with our three growers - our three farms here in town - Marcucio's on Benz Street, Hilltop Nurseries, and East Side. Come to find out that each of them grows produce as well as plants. It seemed like a pretty good fit. We continued doing our homework on this.

I called the State to find out what kind of criteria we needed for a Farmer's Market, and they offered to come and certify us that same week. Rick Macsuga from the Department of Agriculture came down and tutored our growers right

at the site and has since certified Ansonia's Farmer's Market under the State guidelines.

We put a list of locations together as to what might best suit a Farmer's Market for the town. If you look through the proposal I put there, you'll see locations that were tested. These were all suggestions that had come to us as we were doing our homework. We looked at Nolan Field, we looked at the City lot behind City Hall. We looked at the West Main Street commuter lot. We looked at the new paved lot up at Farrell's. We looked at the City Hall grounds right at Veterans' Park. The Nature Center was another one. Each of them had their own particular draw, and good and bad points. We put a score card together, with the criteria, and scored each lot to see which one best suited the goal of Economic Development. The West Main Street lot turned out to be the prizewinner. If you look at what the criteria was, and how we scored each one, you'll see what we came up with.

We tried to think of everything while planning all of this. We have also talked to Eddy's Bake Shop and to Tidmarsh Bakery - the State said it is not uncommon to have fresh baked goods on site. Anything that is sold at our Farmer's Market needs to be Connecticut grown - not necessarily locally grown - but for now we're staying with just our local farmers. We will have the nursery on 34 - Marcucio's Nursery - will participate, and there's another Marcucio relative in Derby that has a growing farm and has produce and plants that he'll bring as well. There is a pretty good mix to start. We will test this and see how it goes. I've tried to think of everyone. We even talked to Big Y - which was a bone of contention at our commission meeting. We didn't want to step on Big Y's toes, they are a good neighbor and asset to the City. I talked to Tracy the store manager and he was 100 percent behind the initiative. He couldn't be happier for us. In fact, he said that anything that they can do to help us, just give him a call. Any produce that we sell is insignificant to their sales; it's not a factor. I offered him the opportunity to put a stand up with us and sell his organic line of products, and he just may do that.

The whole idea behind the Farmer's Market, more than just selling lettuce and tomatoes, it's another vehicle we can use to draw pedestrian traffic onto Main Street. That was the draw of this parking lot here. East Main and Main Streets are through traffic streets; West Main is not. It's very quiet over there. We will expect to see some senior traffic - it's going to be a lot more comfortable for a senior to walk around that whole area than maybe up here on East Main.

Another thing the State did accredit us for was to accept WIC (Women, Infant, Children) and Senior Nutrition Program coupons. These are given out in coupon books to qualified people, \$40 at a time, and they can spend them exclusively at Farmer's Markets. Our seniors in Ansonia that have those coupons can come to our market and use the coupon. This gives us a ready-made customer base before we even have to start an advertising campaign for it.

Alderman Jeanette asked if Stop & Shop was contacted.

Mr. Scarlata replied no, they're so far out of pocket that if it wasn't going to affect Big Y I really didn't think we'd have that much impact on Stop & Shop. I tried to concentrate on our local consumers. I did try to get hold of Target. I've had some conversations with the store manager there in the past regarding the Bike Festival; very unresponsive. I made three phone calls and two text messages to her about the Farmer's Market and I cannot get this lady on the phone.

Alderman Marini asked, what exactly do you need tonight from this Board?

Mr. Scarlata replied, we have a green light from Planning and Zoning. I've met with their Commission before I put the proposal together. We have the green light to go ahead and start this thing any time, since we are only talking about a seasonal project right now and into the fall. That gives us plenty of time to look at what we have, tweak and restructure it. If there is any zoning that has to happen we can still do that at the end of the season.

The only piece of the puzzle that's missing is the Aldermen's approval to use that lot. Everything else is a green light. The Mayor has been on board with this right from the very beginning. He has watched every step of the way.

President Sharkey stated, we will address this under New Business.

John Garrier

I am here to discuss the tree that fell on Beaver Street. I am representing the Congregation on 35 Beaver Street and am here to express our concern with the situation. There were expenses of \$1,350 for the removal of the tree from the property. Off street parking is rather difficult on that street.

President Sharkey stated, when we determine who owns the property we will be glad to let people know. You may have to go after their insurance. It may not necessarily be One William Street, because from what I understand there is no insurance on that building. It lapsed when the woman who lived there died. We will try to determine and go forward from here. It's not to put you off by any means; we have the petition and we will look to try and rectify the situation.

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

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

The Police Department and Public Works contracts negotiations have both been sent to arbitration. The Union has requested mediation, so we're waiting for the

State to assign mediators for both agreements. Once we get those dates we'll sit down and try to resolve the issues that we have.

In the next 30 to 90 days, letters will be sent out to tenants at the Riverside Apartments in regard to the relocation plans for the four buildings that will be coming down. Hopefully everybody will be relocated by the end of the year and demolition should start in the spring.

The National Parks Service explored the Naugatuck Cycling Event to celebrate the Greenway from Torrington to Derby. It's going to happen on September 23rd. It's going to be professional riders that will ride from Torrington to Derby and stop at all the greenways, the walkways, along the Naugatuck River. We are one of them. They are seeking permission of the Board to allow them to stop, ride it quickly, and have a ceremony in Derby because that is where the event is going to end. I would like to take that up under New Business tonight.

Tonight there is a Resolution in regard to a quit claim deed for the property at 114 Main Street. It's owned by Walter Kendzierski. We have a strip of land that we don't use except for snow removal - that is where we put the snow when we plow out the Senior Center parking lot. Libby Meissner, who has been a great businesswoman for the City of Ansonia, she has plans to make that a deck for her restaurant, Crave. I've asked Public Works Superintendent Mike Schryver if there's a need for the City to have that land, and there is not. Hopefully you will support that tonight.

Hopefully you will support the Farmer's Market because a lot of work has gone into that.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

I have two attorneys that will be coming in to discuss with you in Executive Session. One is the Defense Counsel in Officer Joseph Jackson's CHRO complaint, and also Robert Sousa will be coming in to speak to you regarding Michael Eheman's worker's compensation case.

An update on O'Neil's Court - we were supposed to go to court this week to address the combination and the compensation for that, but the Attorney has requested a continuance, and it was permitted. I don't have a new date.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

We have had a recent rash of stolen cars - predominantly on the West Side of town over the past two months. We are not alone in this, we're recovering cars from out of town now. My suggestion to everyone strongly is remember, these are crimes of opportunity. Lock your cars. Don't leave valuables in your cars.

Don't leave your car running in front of the local convenience stores. Don't leave the keys in it. We are pursuing this aggressively.

We have run into it again recently on other cases where people have seen things or heard things and didn't call because their quote was, "We didn't want to bother you." This is the whole reason why we're there and it's certainly not a bother. We are information-driven. We need that information. If you're out and about talking to people in your wards, please encourage them to call in any kind of suspicious activity. Let us determine whether it makes sense, or it's value.

On July 30 and 31 Ansonia will be taking part in a statewide Hurricane Drill. If you're not aware of this, the State, over a four-day period, we are participating in the last two days, is conducting a drill to test the response from the local to State level. The situation here is going to be similar to that of the 1938 hurricane, which was deemed to be a Category 3. Just to give you some perspective, Irene was technically a tropical storm when it made landfall in Connecticut, so we're talking about a huge, much more powerful storm. So on those two days, Monday from 8-12 and Tuesday from 8-2 we'll be opening up the EOC and the Mayor will be issuing those orders and the Public Safety Committee has been working on this for quite some time, along with our partners at the State level from all departments. We'll be putting things in place. You won't actually see anything; it's more of a tabletop exercise - an important one from our perspective to see where we're strong, see where we can improve. We did learn a lot of lessons, a great deal, after Irene. We hit the ground running; we had a good response to that. Again, there were things that we could have done better and we have made improvements since then.

Later on you will hopefully approve two Police Officer applicants that we have sitting here tonight. They've gone through the process. I'll talk about them a little bit later. They've done very well and after a thorough background check. I

Alderman Radin stated, thank you for putting the lines in the street; I didn't have to paint them, that was wonderful. Also, I didn't try my e-mail; I looked early this morning. Did they send out the e-mails to the businesses?

Chief Hale replied, thank you for reminding me. In speaking with Alderman Radin yesterday, we had a business notification system a while back where we would send e-mails out to local businesses alerting them of bad check schemes, counterfeit money, or a pharmacy robbery or larcenies. We had a problem with the technology. Our officer that was working on that was out injured for a while so we had to do that. We got it up and running. A test went out this morning and we'll do another one later on in the week, because we had some bounce backs. We will send another one out on Friday, but this one will be asking for a response. What we're going to do, this is labor intensive getting this information. We set this up on our own, getting all the contact information, sending a survey out to all of the businesses and get all of their information and put it in by hand. We have it in there but there are changes we need to

make and new businesses that are in. Hopefully there is something we can connect to the website where people can go in and enter that contact information and we would have it and send out notifications. There will be one going out probably on Friday. We're going to look for a response.

Alderman Knapp stated, I saw in the Valley Independent Sentinel about a week ago, two Ansonia officers and two from Derby saved a young lady from jumping off the bridge. Is there some kind of citation or recognition we can do? Some kind of recognition for those individuals, both Derby and Ansonia, and maybe something for their personnel file - they did an outstanding job.

Chief Hale replied, yes, it was pretty close. We have the Awards Ceremony every May and that would be the time it would come up. It definitely meets the criteria.

Committee Reports

ARMS - Alderman Scott Nihill

Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

1. Authorization to Pay Bills

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Stowe stated, I have done some research and I would like to give everyone a copy. There was a press release made by Governor Malloy on the 29th which is the cover page. Second page is a copy of No Child Left Behind - the Connecticut State Department of Education website with a link to a full 185-page waiver request. The last page of the waiver with the budget amount increases. It has Ansonia on it. I am totally confused whether this has actually been allocated or was asked to be allocated, but they're asking for, and I don't know if they're eligible, but they're here on this request form. They're looking for an additional \$570,000 roughly. We, some of us, begrudgingly, gave the Board of Education an increase because we didn't believe that they were going to get this money. Now, it looks to me like this money is going to become available again and the criteria for it has changed from what it was a year ago. If they do get that money, are we going to be able to get the money back that we gave them to give back to the taxpayers? They're going to have, substantially, if they end up getting what they're asking for from the State here and federal government, and get the \$500,000 they were supposed to get from the State plus roughly around \$800,000 from us, I mean, they're looking at \$1.75 million increase. You know how I feel about this. I think there needs to be

some research here and I think there's going to be some very upset citizens when this comes out. It's going to come out.

President Sharkey stated, I don't think so. My understanding, and I am not a finance Board of Apportionment expert by any means. In fact if you go to one of their meetings you will find out that Mr. Sturges and Mr. Norman are experts when it comes to this. My thought is that any grant money that comes from the State goes into the City till. It then has to be allocated out to a department such as the Board of Education. If it's money that's unanticipated and it comes in, the City of Ansonia has that money. It's not automatically just given to the Board of Education. So any time they have ECS money or any of that, it goes to the City of Ansonia. Unless it is specifically allocated for something, and you would have to show me where you found it in here, where it is. It does not go directly to the Board of Education. It's not that the citizens should say, "Well, we gave them money and on top of it there was other money." Even the money we had originally thought was coming had specific earmarks and the City had to then request to be part of that program and they had to meet certain requirements. That was the original \$500,000 we were talking about. There was no guarantee our Board of Education was even applying for that funding. This is something we don't know about.

Alderman Stowe stated, it was while the Board of Apportionment and Taxation was undergoing their budget hearings, this was going on, on the 29th of May.

President Sharkey stated, our budget was already set on the 15th of May.

Alderman Stowe stated, right. What I'm really asking for here is for the Board of Finance to do some research and find out, because you can rest assured that I am going to do the research and as soon as I find out what's going on I'm going to report it. If it is impossible for the City of Ansonia to get that 3.54 percent increase in taxes for the Board of Education, if it's impossible for the citizens to get that money back, when I had to listen to people crying about "This is for the children," I expect to hear things like new computers. I expect to hear things like day care. I don't expect to hear about pay raises and hiring more teachers. This isn't directed at this Board. I know we've done the best that we could do and felt we could do at the time. This is definitely something that needs to be researched.

President Sharkey stated, we will wait for further information.

Alderman Adamowski asked, just for clarification - are you asking this of the Finance Committee or are you asking this of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation?

President Sharkey replied, everything goes to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. That is where the money goes.

Alderman Stowe asked, how can we be sure that by next meeting that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation has some type of an answer of what this actually is and where this money is going?

President Sharkey stated, I would also have you ask the Board of Education Finance Office - James Gaskins. He is adept at all of this. He would know if they're applying for it, if they're eligible for it, if they're getting it. If they do get it, then the money goes to the City of Ansonia. It doesn't automatically get transferred to the Board of Education.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, there are 30 towns on that list. We are one of the 30 towns in the alliance that can get this additional money. At the time the budget was set, the Board of Education told us that they didn't know, or they weren't sure whether they were going to apply for these funds. As far as I know they haven't applied for them as of this date. If they do, there are certain guidelines that do come with them. They would have to adhere to the guidelines that were to go with these funds. As of right now, it is my understanding that the Board of Education has not applied for this funding.

President Sharkey added, or for that additional money that we talked about back in February. We don't know if they put in for any of that money.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, you bring up a good point; we should look into it.

Alderman Jeanette asked, why wouldn't the Board of Education apply for it?

President Sharkey replied, they have to do certain things.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, yes, we are on the list, we are one of 30 towns.

Alderman Fainer stated, sometimes there is something attached to it, and maybe we don't want to get involved. I don't know.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I personally would like to know why they wouldn't apply for it; if there was a reason, and what was the reason.

President Sharkey stated, because it's only available for certain programs and they don't know if they want to apply. For instance, for years we put a school resource officer out there but it was only funded by the government for about two years, and then everything after that had to be picked up by the City of Ansonia. This is another thing they don't know if they want to get involved in this and then have to do it another time after that.

Alderman Stowe stated, this is the last page that I gave you. This is the actual application page. They are listed on it, so they have applied for it. It's just a question of whether they got it or not or they're going to be eligible like the Mayor says. They may not be eligible for it. But if they do get it, I think it's fair for us to know about it as soon as possible and try to explain to our citizens

why we raised their taxes. If there is nothing we can do about it, we need to stress to the Board of Education to give some of the things back to the community that they were asked for with the Board of Finance.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, four years ago they put us on as a priority school district. They gave us an additional \$1.4 million with the caveat that if we improve, that money was going to disappear. That is what happened. We improved. We improved our programs, our scores, we hired more teachers, we implemented more programs, and then they took the money away from us. Who is going to fund it? The local government is going to fund it. That is why they said they weren't jumping into this \$500,000 immediately. That was the last hearing I was at in regard to the budget. What has happened since then, once again, put it to the Board of Finance, we'll make some calls and find out whether or not they've applied for it.

President Sharkey stated, we will try and get an answer by next month's meeting. The answer would have to come from the Board of Education, Mr. Gaskins is here nodding his head. They would be the ones that would be notified if funding is coming.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, James is here - did you apply for it, James?

Mr. Gaskins replied, not that I'm aware of. It is a grant though, much like you would apply for a grant for a communications system for the Police Department, you can't go and spend it on something else. But there are constraints as the Mayor said and the Board was reluctant to jump in until they fully understood what the constraints were going to be. My understanding is that they do intend to apply for it but they have not applied for it yet. I'm not the grant writer; it's more of a curriculum issue. So what they're going to be applying for, one thing I know is, grade-level textbooks. So if they could get maybe three grade-level textbooks, that is a one-time expenditure that we won't have recurring year after year after year. But it could certainly be used to improve the curriculum and the instruction to the students.

Alderman Stowe stated, I don't understand how they could possibly have a number listed here.

President Sharkey explained, that means that is available to us as an alliance district. There are only 30 districts that are available to apply for this, being an alliance district. It means the money is there - if you want to apply for it and then use it in certain things. It means, Derby isn't on the list; Derby can't apply for it. That is what it means. The Ansonia Board of Education hasn't determined that this is a road that they want to go down and they want to apply for it.

President Sharkey asked Mr. Gaskins, when they do apply for it, would you please let us know? That would be the start. We would at least know then we're in consideration for it and what they're looking for.

ARMS Committee

For June, 2012, ARMS was dispatched to 275 responses that resulted in 198 patients being transported and 81 with a medic.

We responded to 31 mutual aid calls to Derby and one to Shelton, with no first or second passed calls.

We billed out \$96,164.44 and collected \$49,229.63.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

[Alderman Nihill left the meeting at this point, 7:40 p.m. - 12 present, 2 absent]

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

Alderman Marini stated, on the Farmer's Market I have no other comments other than it seems to be a very well thought out plan and I encourage the Board to support it when we get to New Business.

A brief follow up to last meeting, we were talking about the Small Cities Grant and the Housing Rehabilitation. I've asked Lisa Low and Associates to give us a bit of an update. She gave us a brief memo and I'll touch on that briefly, e-mail it out to everyone. She is also going to follow up with a more thorough report that will allow us to see pictures and the actual improvements. Right off the bat she recognizes that they have received overall 70 applicants total since the time the whole process started. In the 2010 round they served eight families, four were African-American, four Caucasian, six female heads-of-household, all low income. That information is in there because the demographics happens to be a big part of this Small Cities Program. It goes to low-income, low-income minority considerations are put into it. Our 2011 round is underway with four further projects with the expectation of four to six more projects to be completed by next Spring. In the 2012 cycle that would start in the fall, if awarded they would do approximately 10 further projects for a total of 25-30 projects if three rounds of funding go forward. We have two now; we would have to apply for the third if we want to continue this program. Right now there are three projects running. One at 193 North State Street, one at 9 Ridge Road, and one at 23 Day Street. That is essentially a summary of the memo that she's put out for us at this meeting. I have requested that she follow up with something that allows us to see a little bit more about what is being done. She says that the project activities include code compliance, blight avoidance, roofing, siding, energy efficiency, furnace repairs, electrical and plumbing

upgrades. I'd like us to dig a little deeper and see exactly what has been done on all the properties we've hit so far.

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

Public Works Transfer Station - Alderman David Knapp

We met last night with the engineers and reviewed some preliminary plans for the new Transfer Station Complex. Nothing definite; nothing decided. All preliminary. They will report back to us in about two to three weeks with some updated numbers and options.

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

Land Use Committee - Alderman David Knapp

Land Use also met last night. Later on in the agenda under Communication #7, we will discuss it.

Salary Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

The Committee met prior to this meeting tonight. I would like to bring that up under Unfinished Business.

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

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Hose testing is completed; ladder testing is completed. SCBA testing will begin and everything is OSHA mandated.

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

School Building Commission - Alderman Gene Sharkey

We have awarded the bids for repairing about \$3.7 million worth of roofs in the City of Ansonia. Through the good work of Bob Emmons, the Facilities Manager, and James Gaskins who is sitting in our audience, they were able to get the State of Connecticut to agree to designate our roofing project as a repair. Back when they were done it was 1998. They classified that as a repair and not new roofs. What is happening now is a repair of a repair. That really makes those roofs more than 20 years old. Because of the fact that they are more than 20 years old, our rebate rose from 61 to 76 percent. This was the good work of these two gentlemen going to the State and arguing. On the City's

side, money coming out of our fund balance is reduced by \$433,000. That is the good news.

The bad news is, when they took Prendergast roof apart - we knew this was a possibility, they said it to us every time we met - they didn't know until they scraped it off what they were going to find underneath. When the building was built in the 50s, they put a certain composite between the roof and the actual building itself, and it's almost like concrete. They had hoped when they got to it that it was still intact. When they started peeling it up, it's deteriorated from all the water that's been going in there for all these years. There will be an additional charge to fix that roof and it's almost to the amount of our savings. The fact is, if we didn't have the savings, we'd be taking another \$400,000 hit. The luck is that they went and got our savings so we did have the money. Thank them for doing it and our project will proceed.

Riverwalk - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Riverwalk cameras have been ordered. The PO has been cut. We hope to have those installed as soon as we can get that done.

Energy Savings and CCM Group - Alderman Gene Sharkey

We had a very good response from this Board and we had a good response from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation when we met as a combined group. I think we've changed our focus and we are now looking not to do the Police Department boiler and Public Works. We've changed and we want to do the Police Department and the Library. Library is more important than Public Works right now. The latest communication from CCM and Seaman's Group was, we are this late in the project right now that they would only concentrate on the Police Department boiler this summer. They need to really look at the Library. It's rare we wish to go for large energy savings. We need to go there but it's too late to do it to get a boiler by the start of the heating season. We will be revamping where we're going, but we will definitely do the Police Department and proceed. We have a letter of intent that we will go forward with.

I would like this Board, when we get to unfinished business, to set a meeting date with Board of Education as a group. Any savings that we are going to reap from this program are probably going to come from Board of Education buildings. We really need to get the Board of Aldermen on board with us. We don't find the savings in our City Buildings to fund what we want to do. They are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education but they are City buildings. We pay for the repairs; we pay for the \$3.8 million of roofs when they need it. My feeling is, when there is money to be saved then we need to do it to fund City things - our buildings - we need to have them and I think from what you people saw of this CCM Seaman's presentation it is worth looking at, it is worth going forward. We need to get them on board. We shouldn't go and do it without them, we should have this as a partnership, not as an antagonistic thing. We really need to all be on the same page, save some money, and do it

for the betterment of the thing. I will be looking to bring this up also under Unfinished Business. That is the last of the Committee Reports.

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

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

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

Tax Refunds

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept the refund report and pay the refunds in the amount of \$2,459.19 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

06-12-799 Jill Wirtemberg
06-12-800 Angela Diaz
06-12-801 Scott Diaz
06-12-802 Nicole Vaccaro/Dorothy Vaccaro

Alderman Fainer MOVED to refer this claim to the Claims Committee and Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Mott.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, these have all been sent to H.D. Segur.

Alderman Radin asked if the Claims Committee meets each month.

President Sharkey replied no, they only meet if there is a dispute. Then they meet to mediate any dispute on them. If it's a claim that comes to the City, the Corporation Counsel gets all the paperwork, files it with the insurance carrier or with the appropriate department. If it's a sewer backup it goes to WPCA for example.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Communications

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take each one up in its order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #1**From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake****Re: Officer Joseph Jackson (CHRO)**

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #2**From: Police Chief Kevin Hale****Re: Contract Approval - Emergency Communications Network**

Chief Hale stated, this is one of the things we had learned last August with Irene, a way to communicate with everybody in the City. We had done some research. ECN has a product called "Code Red," which is a reverse notification system. We can choose the entire community, sides of the street, wards, areas, or what have you, to send out a message to people. Under this contract we are allowed unlimited emergency notifications and up to five or six non-emergency notifications. The thing we want to be cognizant of, we don't want to over-use this because then it loses its effect when you really need it. We would also link this to the City's website. We would like to fire it up the day of the drill at the end of this month, send it out to the people that are already in the system and they already have thousands of contact numbers, names and numbers, to get them to add cell phone numbers and texts and so forth, and have a link on the website where people can easily go in and see this from the City's website and put their information in. It's absolutely free to citizens and is something we need to use to communicate to the people and it can make thousands of calls in just a couple of minutes. It's one of the big issues we discovered last August.

President Sharkey stated, it's a 3-year \$30,000 fee and the money has been budgeted for this already.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to enter into a three-year contract with Emergency Communications Network in the amount of \$30,000; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #3**From: Chairman Nicholas Amico, Board of Police Commissioners****Re: Bid Award - Ansonia Police Department Fleet Maintenance**

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept the recommendation of the Board of Police Commissioners and award the bid to Auto Repairs Unlimited; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

Alderman Radin stated, we have a process in this City for bids. My understanding, and maybe I'm wrong, but if people are qualified to do a job and they show the qualifications and they have everything they're supposed to have, we are supposed to as I understand it, accept the lowest bid. The lowest bid here is \$1.35 less per hour than the bid that they're talking about accepting. I find it very distasteful that they're using that whatever excuse they're using to have this other person or whatever. I've looked through and gone through some of the information on it. I'm not happy with the thing. It was one of the things before I even got on the Board that there was a lot of waiving of bids and I can't understand that because if you have a bid system in place, you should be using it. If you're not going to use it, then get rid of it. It should not be on who likes who or who doesn't like who or who is related to who or whatever that is. I do not find it agreeable to do this. If you think of it in terms of \$1.35 an hour and you go 100 hours, 200 hours, we're talking about that money that we haven't got that we're talking a considerable amount of money. The man who they have as the lowest one, he did do the cars before, I know that for a fact. I know he's qualified to do the job and I'm sure Auto Unlimited is also qualified to do the job. I hope it isn't a personal thing here that they're doing. I know there has been a lot of talk and everything like that. I'm sorry, we do have a system, why don't we live by it? Why don't we use it? What's wrong with the fact that if a person bids and they're qualified and they have all the qualifications, I feel they should be chosen.

President Sharkey stated, we thank you for your comment, but in every bid it's also called the "most responsible bidder." I think if you look very closely at this they did explain and say they voted unanimously in their best interests. I don't think the dollar amount was what they were looking at.

Alderman Radin stated, well, I think they should be. I don't think what you're saying is this person is not responsible.

President Sharkey stated, I did not say he was not responsible. I said they felt, they will, in this piece of paper, "in their best interests." I am not putting words in their mouth. I am only reading what they have written.

Alderman Radin asked, in whose best interest? Where did they come up with whose best interest it is? I could say I'm doing this in your best interest. These people don't know what my feelings in your best interests are, and I don't think it's fair to do it that way.

President Sharkey stated, I didn't say anything to get into an argument with you over it; all I did was read what was in this letter.

Alderman Radin stated, all I'm asking is that we don't use that as a reason for not choosing somebody. The bid system is there; why don't we use it?

President Sharkey stated, we accept your comments.

Alderman Radin stated, thank you.

Alderman Stowe asked, how long is it before the next bid goes out?

Chief Hale replied, it's a two-year contract.

Alderman Stowe stated, I've had a lot of complaints in this matter from people involved with this, so I did a lot of research on this. I think at the time they awarded the correct person for this bid. In two years if the same bidders bid again and there's some change in the way that the other bidder maybe handles themselves or presents their bid, I did a lot of research here, and I'm going to have to vote with the Chief on this and award it to Auto Repairs Unlimited.

President Sharkey stated, thank you for your comment.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 1 No (Radin).

Communication #4

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Bid Award - Main Street Streetscapes Project

President Sharkey stated, the City went out to bid for the Streetscape Project. The sole bidder came in and it was higher than the grant. So they re-bid the project and went out looking for someone to totally supply labor and if I'm right, our Ansonia Board of Public Works is going to be the general contractor on this project. They will supply material, wire, conduit and so forth. We went out looking for a contractor to supply labor. They are awarding the contract to the lowest bidder.

Alderman Fainer MOVED to award the bid for the labor on the Streetscape Project contract to Birm One; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #5

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Marcela Oliveira Workers Compensation

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #6

Re: Rehabilitation of Solid Waste Transfer Station, take action

President Sharkey stated, we took this up during Alderman Knapp's report. We have nothing to act on tonight - that is tabled until we get further information.

Communication #7

Re: Property Transfer (portion of 114 Main Street to Walter Kendzierski, et al)

President Sharkey asked, do we feel we need Executive Session on this item? If not we can handle it openly here right now.

Alderman Fainer MOVED to award the transfer of property via quit-claim deed. SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resolution #1

Introduced by Aldermen Knapp and Jeanette

President Sharkey read the following Resolution aloud:

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia is the owner of property with a street address of 114 Main Street, Ansonia CT; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia has determined that at this time it is not in need of a portion of the aforementioned property; specifically a 534 square foot strip of grass to the north side of the municipal parking lot described in Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia Board of Aldermen hereby agree to quit-claim said property for \$1.00 (one dollar and zero cents) to Walter Kendzierski, et al, of 52 Myrtle Avenue, Ansonia, CT 06401 the aforementioned property as delineated in the land description and attached hereto as Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, this agreement is contingent on a favorable review of the land transaction by the City of Ansonia Planning and Zoning Commission under the auspices of Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ansonia hereby approves to quit-claim 114 Main Street as delineated in the attached documents to Walter Kendzierski, et al, upon a favorable approval of the City of Ansonia Planning and Zoning Commission under the auspices of Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24, and that Mayor James Della Volpe is hereby authorized to execute any and all agreements in order to complete the land transaction under presentation of the proper documents by the Corporation Counsel of the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Late Communication

Alderman Radin MOVED to take up Late Communication #1; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

President Sharkey opened the Public Session on Late Communication #1. Being no speakers, he closed the Public Session.

Late Communication #1

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works
Re: Request for Reduction in Tip Fees

President Sharkey stated, basically they are notifying us of their decision that they received Alderman Tripp's communication from the Anti-Blight Appeals Board, and that they rejected it.

Alderman Tripp stated, I wish to clarify. Obviously my name was mentioned. I understand and concur totally with the findings of the Board of Public Works but I take umbrage with the way this letter is worded. The letter came from the Anti-Blight Appeals Board, which I as Chairman signed. I had lengthy phone conversations with Corporation Counsel Blake, and when I read the letter that we sent to them, we put it before them as to the feasibility of this, and for them to review it in their Board. If you read this Late Communication #1 as presented, it's as if Alderman Phil Tripp arbitrarily said, "hey, Spector Furniture needs a reduction in their tipping fees." So once again, not to be overly dramatic, I do take umbrage with the way this letter is worded. Just that the communication did come from the Anti-Blight Appeals Board which I as Chairman signed the letter that we wanted to ask the Board of Public Works for the feasibility of that and how they felt about it. It wasn't that I, Alderman Tripp, was demanding a reduced fee for Spector Furniture. Thank you.

President Sharkey stated, thank you.

Resignations

None presented.

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James Della Volpe's appointments as outlined in his letter of July 5, 2012 as follows:

Ansonia Police Department

Alderman Fainer MOVED to approve the appointment of Mark Clifford of Ansonia, Connecticut as an entry-level Police Officer; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

Chief Hale stated, Mark is 26 years old, home-grown Ansonia. The young man did very well on the background phase of testing. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven, and we expect big things from him. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

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

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

Alderman Knapp MOVED to approve the appointment of Joshua Roussel of Hamden, Connecticut as an entry-level Police Officer; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

Chief Hale stated, Joshua is not a resident of Ansonia, but we will not hold that against him. Again, he did very well in our process - this is a long, arduous process by the way, many, many steps to get to this point. This is not an easy accomplishment by any stretch. Joshua is a recent graduate from Quinnipiac University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Again, we expect big things from Joshua.

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

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

Board of Building Appeals (5-Year Term)

Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Christopher Sansone of 27 High Acres Road to fill a vacancy; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to appoint Don Eheman of 4 Jason Wright Drive to fill a vacancy; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: 114 Main Street - Transfer to Walter Kendzierski, et al

Previously acted upon - See Communications

Unfinished Business

1. Michael Eheman Workers Compensation (Tabled at the meeting of June 12, 2012)

To be discussed in Executive Session.

2. Alderman Edward Adamowski - Salary Committee

The Salary Committee met tonight at 6 p.m. to discuss the ARMS Director's salary. We came up a salary for the Chief/Director of \$65,000 per year. I do know we're in the midst of negotiations for union contracts, so the background, for the public record, his salary was not set prior to this. It had been listed as "to be determined." The original salary of the woman that was there, that apparently didn't do half of the things that are now listed on the job description, made \$45,000. The Committee took into account the surrounding area chiefs and what their pay was, and we are actually under that. This is not something that we're just giving a raise; this was actually setting the salary for that position.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to set the salary of the ARMS Director at \$65,000 per year; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.

Alderman Stowe stated, I consider myself a budget hawk, but there was no job description for this position. I think he's going to have what we consider a minimum base salary right now and if there were raises to be talked about, I think he's at a minimum - what we're offering. I think he's really worth more. If anybody is upset about what we did, I think it would be totally unfair not to have paid him what his value is worth.

Alderman Tripp stated, I would like to concur with Mr. Stowe's comments. I also see this as a wrong being righted because Jared has been doing an incredible job down there. I think it's time that he was properly financially rewarded for the work that he's been doing down there.

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

Alderman Radin stated, I was down at ARMS last night at a meeting and Jared was showing me the parking lot out there. There is a good portion of lights out down there. Who is responsible for that? I believe we've talked about it and I believe they talked about calling UI. I think it's disgusting.

President Sharkey stated, I agree. UI has a program called "Light the Night." There is somebody specifically designated to take calls on any streetlight that's out, anyplace. The Police Department takes information and they call, as does Public Works, or people can actually call it in themselves. Just call the number on your bill and ask for the Light the Night department. When they get enough lights out reported in the City, they will send a crew out.

New Business

Use of Greenway for Bicycling Event 9/23/2012

Alderman Knapp MOVED to approve the use of the Greenway on September 23, 2012 for a bicycling event; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Approval for use of City lot for Farmer's Market

Alderman Marini MOVED to permit Economic Development to proceed with use of the City lot on West Main Street for a Farmer's Market; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Street Excavation

Alderman Tripp stated, the Water Company is digging up the streets, you see all of those completed there, you see all those pipes. Does anybody know if they're going to do Moulthrop Street as well? I had a couple of residents ask me. The guy wants to put in a new sidewalk, and he wants to know if they're going to do that first.

Mayor Della Volpe replied, they are going to do Moulthrop, yes.

CCM / Seaman's Corporation

President Sharkey stated, I don't have a date in mind but I'm going to proceed forward with setting up a meeting with us, anybody who wants to attend, CCM and Seaman's with the Board of Education to get moving on this project.

Alderman Tripp asked, didn't we ask them to get more on that back in April? When did we start with that?

President Sharkey replied, the whole Board has been meeting with them.

Alderman Tripp stated, yes, we said to them that we want to get this going, get this ready for next winter.

President Sharkey stated, we said we wanted to do it; we didn't really know then what CCM did or Seaman's, so we met with them, listened to it, and a lot of us went there. And then we had to get the Board of Apportionment and Taxation on board with it. We met with them and now I've asked Apportionment and Taxation and those members are really becoming supportive of it. We will have to show our support to have the Board of Education become part of this.

Alderman Stowe asked, weren't they proceeding with the Police Department and Public Works?

President Sharkey stated, they are willing to start at the Police Department now and they recommend moving soon on it. Our thing is, we still need to find the savings in the City to pay for putting that boiler in. A good portion of them will

be in the Library. The Library is a glut for energy. They are still right now on oil; they are getting a gas line put in. But in order to reap the savings, we have to eventually put a boiler in there. We're talking about looking at a 50 percent reduction in lights in the Library by using more efficient lighting. That would save 50 percent of their possible electric bill right off the bat.

Alderman Tripp stated, my concern is that we have really low interest rates right now; we can borrow money cheaply. I don't see that staying into next year. We want to borrow now, not next year. That is my urgency.

President Sharkey stated, it's only in the last two or three days did we get a letter of intent from Seaman's. What they originally did was, the letter they sent to us was not agreeable to us, it was more of a contract than a letter of intent. We had to have their legal department rewrite it. We now have something that's agreeable to us. We could sign that at any time. We have to authorize the Mayor to sign it to move forward. I don't want to wait until the August meeting to be doing this. I would like to do it now.

Alderman Tripp MOVED to have the Mayor sign the letter of intent with Seaman's Corporation for the boiler project on City properties; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.

President Sharkey stated, I will take your recommendations that if we do not even go forward at this time with the Board of Education, that we look into proceeding with the Library boiler, even if we have to borrow the money at these rates.

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

Executive Session

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Alderman Adamowski MOVED to enter executive session to discuss the following items:

1. Officer Joseph Jackson (CHRO) - (with Mayor Della Volpe, Corporation Counsel Blake, Chief Hale and Attorney McQuade invited)
2. Michael Eheman Workers Compensation Claim (with Mayor Della Volpe and Attorney Sousa invited)
3. Marcela Oliveira Workers Compensation Claim (with Mayor Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Blake invited)

SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky.

Corporation Counsel Blake noted that he has a conflict and will excuse himself during discussion on Item 2.

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

Motions from Executive Session

At approximately 9 p.m., Alderman Tripp MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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

1. Officer Joseph Jackson (CHRO)

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

2. Michael Eheman Workers Compensation

Alderman Knapp MOVED to have Attorney Sousa draft an agreement concerning Mr. Eheman's moving forward with the class action suit, and come back to this Board of Aldermen for approval. SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

3. Marcela Oliveira Workers Compensation

Alderman Fainer MOVED to have Corporation Counsel Blake proceed with working out a settlement as discussed; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10 Yes, 2 No (Knapp, Adamowski).

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 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen