



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Regular Meeting – October 9, 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 - present
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Kevin Mott, D3 - present
Anthony DeLucia, D4 - present

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

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 12 present, 2 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

1. Public Hearing of September 11, 2012
2. Regular Meeting of September 11, 2012

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

Public Session

David Casseti, 3 High Acres Road

I was reading in the Valley Independent Sentinel about our taxes - 86 percent collection rate, over \$2 million in motor vehicle taxes owed. What are we doing to collect this money? A few months ago I came in and I asked if you needed any help with anything, and you said you'd get back to me, but I never heard from anybody. I mean, you have the boot, the newspaper to put the people's names in that are delinquent in their taxes, to collect this money. This is our money. The Board of Education was screaming that they needed their money but we didn't have it for them. What are you doing to collect this?

President Sharkey stated, I can't answer on the collection rate because I'm not sure exactly what it is, but we were told by Ms. Bostic before she left that our real estate collection rates were in the 90s. When you listen or read about automobile taxes being owed over \$2 million - that is going back 15 years. Most of that is not collectable. For instance, if you had a vehicle and you moved to California but you never turned in the plates, that marker plate is still amassing taxes. Most of these were written off, we were told, after five years. They go to a suspense list. We haven't had a suspense list prepared in the last couple of years so Mr. Gorzelany went back 15 years and found every single tax one that was owed. We would have to find out from him what he thinks the actual amount to be collected on that is. It is certainly not \$2 million.

Mr. Cassetti stated, it's just unbelievable to see that because I remember when I served on the Board of Aldermen years back, we had a 98 percent tax collection rate. To see 86 percent, what's going on that you're not collecting this money?

President Sharkey stated, our former tax collector told us that with the downturn in economics if you look at the amount owed on real estate taxes, it really jumped in about 2008 and then again in 2009, and I think this year it has doubled. If you have questions, we can get the answers to them. I know that article was misleading. That's all I can say.

Alderman Marini stated, Mr. President, I think you hit the nail on the head. Our tax collector did not submit what they call put-on lists since 2010, so essentially the DMV had no way to know who was delinquent on their motor vehicles since 2010. Of course, there does not seem to be any acceptable explanation as to why that wasn't done. It just wasn't done.

President Sharkey stated, we can tell you that the list was generated, but not transmitted to DMV. If that list was generated and sent in 2010, people that owed taxes would not be registering their cars in 2012. At least we know it's been transmitted now. This is one of the changes that's been done.

John Nolan, Woodlawn Avenue

The reason why I'm here today is because, as we're all aware of, we have been having a lot of extreme weather, not only here in the Northeast but around the world. You're probably all wondering what is causing all that. Well, the Myaor knows what's causing this - I gave him a pamphlet back about four years ago that he handed out to the Valley Council of Mayors at a meeting back then. It described about the Earth's magnetic field, and if it began to move, what could happen. The magnetic field had begun to move, according to NASA and also some Danish geologists as well, they've been following this. When that field begins to move it upsets the Earth's atmosphere and causes extreme weather. This was found out by a Danish study by the, if I can pronounce this, Aarhus University in Denmark. A Danish astrophysicist by the name of Henrik Svensmark had made the claim. This was published in several newspapers through Europe and also some here in the United States.

We've had three tornadoes in Connecticut in the last 12 months, maybe more than that. My question is, is there any alarm system in place to warn people of a tornado? Tornado warnings are only given if a tornado is seen within 50 miles of the warned area. Before then, there is a watch. If the atmosphere is ripe enough for one to develop, you get a watch. If a tornado is spotted aloft or on the ground within 50 miles of the watched area, you'll know. But you don't have much time to run for cover if it's coming at you. They are very unpredictable; you don't know where you're going, you could be told it's moving toward Derby or Seymour or whatever, but that doesn't mean it's going to make it there. Do you know of any alarm system in place here in the Valley, anywhere - different than the regular alarm system that goes off for fires - something unique so people would know about it and they could take cover if necessary?

President Sharkey stated, Ansonia does not have an alarm system for fires any longer. We do have a system in place, and it has been deactivated. We have radio communication; we all have pagers. We also have a Reverse 911 system that we can put messages out to everybody's cell phones and telephones - I forget how many we can do per minute, it's 10,000 per minute or whatever it is. The Chief has more information on that. Everybody in Ansonia has been recommended to go on our website and register their phone numbers.

Mr. Nolan stated, that's all well and good but if the towers are knocked down from high winds whether they're straight-line winds or tornado winds, all of those signals aren't going to be worth a dime because they're not going to be out there. We have to have visible observations. I'm a qualified meteorologist, I was one in the Navy, okay? I know what to look for. I've been warning my wife up in Waterbury at the shelter, she works for Safe Haven up in Waterbury and she's a boss up there. Whenever we have a warning, when I check the NOAA sites, when I look at the cloud cover, I can tell what clouds are going to be forming bad weather and what aren't. I'll call her up and say, "All right Lois, take shelter, you know the drill," and she'll do that. We ought to have something like that in all the schools here in the Valley. People should be notified or be educated on what to look for, because cell phones aren't going to work if the towers are knocked down.

President Sharkey stated, John, I'm going to cut you off at this point only because we do have a time limit per person for the public session, and secondly, this is not the board to be addressing on that. We do have an Emergency Preparedness Committee and Emergency Preparedness Officer. Chief Hale is the chairperson of it. It meets once a month, I think. You can contact him and find out when the meetings are. That is where you should be addressing that. You can even e-mail them.

Mr. Nolan stated, you can pass it on for me. I have a bad leg and I don't get out that much. I'm feeling pretty good today so I came out to this meeting.

Michael Carpinello, 20 Fairview Street

I've been a vendor here 17 years. Just today, this month actually, we got the vendor sign up at the Nature Center. It's where the vendors can park and everything. I spoke with Donna Lindgren today and she said I can come up to the events that go on, as long as I shut my generator down. I'm polluting the air, I'm this and that. I can't shut it down. That's my business. We have two soft-serve machines on there. You know, I'm licensed by the State, by the City, by you guys, I have all my insurance, and that's just... I'm asking for some help between me and her. I went to the Recreation Board, the Police Commission, I can't get any help. Like I said, I just spoke to her today and she said there's something going on on the 20th, hayrides and all that stuff. I'm more than welcome to come if I shut my truck off. I can't shut the truck off. It's not the truck that's running, it's the generator. Then she told me there was a State law saying that you can't leave a generator running for more than an hour or something like that. I said, you know, what about the buses and the trucks and the dump trucks and all the other, you know. I don't know where else to turn to. You guys gave me the extra permit to go up there, the license agreement, and I'm asking for some help to see if I could alleviate the problem. She went to the Recreation Board and, oh, Mike's creating altercations, this and that. Yes. Because I have nowhere to park. I got a \$35 parking ticket up there in September. I was doing business, the cops came up, didn't even say anything, license and registration, boom. Gave me a \$35 ticket. I'm like, you know, I don't know where else to go. This is like a last resort or something. When I go up there and I'm running the generator, she calls the cops. I tell her, go ahead and call. I'm gonna call the cops, or one of the rangers, you know, one of those guys called me a mentally, he said, what are you, mentally retarded...something like that. I guess they got the new, Attorney Blake, are these new laws enforceable?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, there's a proposal on there with respect to the vendor that has spoke to the Recreation Commission. I don't know if it was approved or not.

Mr. Carpinello stated, the 24-hour thing? You've got to give 24 hours if you're going to have a party or something. Yes. That's fine. That's a good deal but it's not that - it's the, I don't know what else to do.

President Sharkey stated, I think we should take a look at this and not make a decision tonight. I know there were at least three ice cream at our Harvest Festival; I was leaning against one of them. It wasn't running and there was no generator running. I don't know what they do. Donna Lindgren is in charge of the Ansonia Nature Center.

Mr. Carpinello stated, there were two ice cream trucks there - Jim's and Spirit of '76, and they serve prepackaged ice cream. They don't get any license from the State, they just get the local health department. I am Mr. Softee - I get soft-

served ice cream, milkshakes, sundaes, banana boats. I run the generator to run the machines. I am licensed by the State of Connecticut and the Naugatuck Valley and the City, and that's what I have to do.

President Sharkey stated, I would like to take this up under New Business later.

Mr. Carpinello thanked President Sharkey.

Alderman Marini stated, as we discussed at previous board meetings, unlike a lot of other vendors that come into the city to do business, we know this particular vendor has jumped through all the hoops to be registered with us, to let us know that he's here, to be under our rules and regulations. He should get the full extent of the licenses that he has. Obviously it's not something that's black and white to us right now, but this deserves to be looked into to make sure he's getting the benefit of everything he's gone for in the city.

Eugene Driscoll, Valley Independent Sentinel, 158 Main Street

You had pointed out that one of our articles was misleading. I just went and checked it, and actually everything you said is accurately reflected in the article. So it must have been the public's interpretation of it that was misleading. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 121 Castle Lane

I want to thank Mike Schryver for the project that he did for me up on 3 Castle Lane, even though it's not finished, with the curbing, and the bank that washed out.

I have a suggestion on parking meters. I came in here to pay tax and I went out and I had a parking ticket saying that I was too close to the curb and I was only in here maybe 10 minutes, 20 minutes at the most. They used to have parking meters. All they have to do is get a letter to the State asking the State about getting parking meters, because that's a State road. That's all they have to do. They had parking meters.

Natalie Biasucci, 57 Rockwood Avenue

I was wondering if the steps near the Library - the park where the old Ansonia High School used to be - I've noticed that they are really becoming overgrown with trees and starting to fall apart. The wall, actually the steps in the wall, and this is kind of minor, but I'm wondering if it could be put on the list of things to do in the town - to spray the trees or the weeds so it doesn't ruin the wall and the steps. I think that's a very nice thing that we still have.

President Sharkey stated, we will bring your suggestion to Mr. Schryver.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview Road

I'd like to put out a special thanks to Judy Nicolari and Mary Gibson for running an excellent day on Saturday. They did a great job doing the Harvest Festival. Hopefully they'll be back again next year.

President Sharkey stated, I will add to that and say that Public Works did an amazing job of cleaning up that street in record time, and at the same time getting all the decorations and everything out. It went very well.

Bartholomew Flaherty, 28 Pinecrest Avenue

Good evening. I am here to talk on the Ansonia Tax Incentive Program. I'd just like to point out that we have a plan of Economic Development that is being generated as we speak. The first public hearing is at 7 p.m. Thursday and I hope everyone attends because it is very important to have public input. That's the only way you're going to have a viable plan - is to get public input. Everybody in the audience, boards, everybody should have input into that plan. Then we'll have a real, viable plan.

To get back to the reason I'm here, I think this is premature and I would suggest - and I'm not against it by the way - I just think it's premature to pass this resolution prior to having a complete Plan of Economic Development because it very possibly may be tweaked, changed. You might want to look at a specific business to try to incentivise that type of business to come into the community, or they might just say "this is great" and go with it 100 percent. But we are spending \$25,000 to have experts come in and I would just suggest that perhaps Alderman Marini, and I talked to him before the meeting, would withdraw this or maybe table it until after that plan is complete so that you have a much better idea of how you want to tax incentivise. There are a few things in this, words like "case by case basis." I see us heading to court - you have to have a little more specificity. When you start going "case by case" they say okay, this but not this... You usually end up in court. By and large it's a good program. I'm not sure if residential - I see residents mentioned so I don't know if I put new siding on, a new roof, and a two-car garage, are you going to give me a break? I don't know if that's included. It certainly has merit but I thin the timing is a little premature. I would suggest that you should wait until after the plan is completed to see what they suggest, what ways they suggest to incentivise business coming into Ansonia. It may be this format, this venue, or it could be something - they might enumerate a number of different ways to do it. So you might have a choice. It has merit, so I'm not here to decry the passage of it, I'm would suggest that the timing is a little premature. I thank you for letting me put my .02 in.

Also, the Harvest Festival was excellent and I reiterate what you said, Mr. President, Public Works did a tremendous job in the cleanup. That is the tough part.

Lastly, while I'm standing here, the sidewalk above the Norwoods Club, on the opposite side of the street, almost up to that first House that ut in that nice stone wall - the trees are really hanging low. It has to be corrected. Thursday night after the Ansonia-Derby football game a number of young people were coming down the sidewalk going out into the street where the guard rail begins - going out into the street and walking down until they're past all that hanging branches and things, and the, got back on the sidewalk It was dark and hard to see. That is kind of a dangerous thing. I was up there on Sunday morning and two gentlemen were walking down the sidewalk out into the street. Same thing. So I would just suggest that maybe Public Works could get out there and trim those trees. Thank you very much.

Randolph Carroll, 40 Fourth Street

I'm chairman of the fiduciary that's doing the fountain at the Library. Three months ago, I bought all of the equipment for the fountain - the pump, the retention pond, everything. It cost over \$800. I went up to the Library and the equipment that I bought was not installed. I called Public Works, and they called me back and said they bought all new equipment. My fiduciary is now out that money because it's non-returnable. I have worked very hard on this project. Now I am receiving bills from the company that's installing it. \$16.80 for an ice maker kit. The fountain doesn't have an ice maker. \$800 for electricity to hook up the fountain but \$300 of it is to repair a light that was already in the Library. I just want to go on record that the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission are not going to pay those bills. I will pay the \$28.24 for a coupler, but I'm not paying \$16.80 for an ice machine and over \$800 to repair a light.

President Sharkey asked, have you brought this information to Mr. Schryver?

Mr. Carroll replied, yes, I have. I went in my box this evening when I came here, and here's a bill for \$16.80 for an ice maker kit. I'll even show it to you; it says "ice maker kit."

President Sharkey asked Mr. Schryver to respond to that. Mr. Schryver is here, sitting in the audience, shaking his head no, that he doesn't know anything about this.

Mr. Carroll stated, I can show him the bill.

President Sharkey asked, have you met with him and tried to work it out?

Mr. Carroll stated, I called Mr. Schryver about not being able to return the retention pond and all the equipment that I bought for the fountain, and we came up with a solution that the next project that the Friends will do is with the equipment that I spent, which is non-returnable, to restore the fountain that's right in this park - get that going with all the equipment that I bought. If I'm going to keep on getting bills, after the meeting or if Mr. Schryver wants to

see these now I'll show them to him. One of the problems is that when I first started getting bids on this project, I had Emmett O'Brien was going to do it all pro bono. I had all the kids up there, they were all gung ho and the Mayor said because of liability he wanted to hire a contractor to do it and that Public Works would be footing these bills.

President Sharkey stated, before you go any further let me go on record - Emmett O'Brien does nothing pro bono. Emmett O'Brien is not allowed to do any work pro bono. In fact we had contacted them about the possibility of installing our pavilion at the Ansonia Nature Center and they have to charge us for labor. That is State Statute passed by the Legislature. In fact, we have the kit here, if we have them install it we have to pay for it. If we have Public Works install it, we don't pay for it. I just want to go on record saying that.

Mr. Carroll stated, but when they came to the Library, I met them at the Library with their school bus and it was packed with kids. The gentleman that's in charge of plumbing said it would be a perfect opportunity for these kids to learn how to plumb and they would do it pro bono. I will show these bills to Mr. Schryver. Thank you.

President Sharkey stated, please, take it up with him and if you have no satisfaction you can come back here. I would like you to work it out with him rather than this Board trying to direct him to do something.

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

President Sharkey stated, Mayor Della Volpe is home sick tonight.

Alderman Knapp stated, I was hoping to ask the Mayor about the status of the paving of Main Street. Is that in the plans for this year?

President Sharkey stated, I'm pretty sure that anything the Water Company dug up, the Water Company is going to repave.

Alderman Knapp stated, probably not this year, right?

Mr. Schryver stated, they're going to mill and pave in the spring - the entire street.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

I have nothing except unfinished business - regarding Mr. Michael Eheman. Mr. Sousa could not make it today so he requested it be tabled.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

We are currently still in the hiring process, we still have one position to fill. We have three officers in the Police Academy; one is graduating this month and two and the end of December, just before Christmas.

We have two requests regarding Police Department vehicles tonight.

The Harvest Festival from our perspective was a success; we had no issues. It was a large crowd and it was good to see that.

Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

You have my report in front of you. There are transitions going on in the City - we've put out employment opportunities, we're going through the process. We're hoping we'll have a fully-staffed City Hall as soon as possible.

Alderman Marini asked, in particular, which positions are open?

Ms. Kolakowski replied, the Tax Collector's Office has been posted; there's a part-time position in the Tax Collector's Office. We're in the process of starting interviews for that. There's a Ranger position at the Ansonia Nature Center; Ms. Lindgren has to do interviews for that one.

Committee Reports

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

2. Finance Committee meeting

First, some recommendations came out of that meeting from the Acting Tax Collector Mr. Gorzelany. Some of the recommendations were:

- No one receives motor vehicle clearance unless all tax bills and penalty vehicles in their name and owned jointly are paid in full; no exceptions on that.
- Motor vehicle releases should be kept under lock and key; and after hours when no one is in the office.
- Reporting put-ons to the Department of Motor Vehicles should be done after every election is complete. Our put-on last time was 2010 as

President Sharkey had stated earlier. It was set to go out, but was never sent to the DMV.

- Motor vehicle delinquent notices should be sent out quarterly. Currently no delinquent notices are sent out for motor vehicles. The tax office has been relying solely on DMV to flag and hold registrations for delinquent accounts.
- The City of Ansonia should commence using the online Department of Vehicle Information System. The cost is approximately \$400 per year, which I believe we do have at this point.
- We also spoke about delivering the checks that the Tax Office collects on a daily basis. That is also being done at this point. I know there were some issues with people's checks being held up down there for quite some time.
- We spoke about considering wage garnishments for delinquent taxpayers, where a place of work can be determined.
- Personal property taxes we spoke about; in general the tax office must be a little more aggressive on collecting personal property taxes.
- Copies of all checks received from personal property accounts should be kept on file.
- Consideration should be given to accelerating the installment schedule for collection of personal property taxes. Either once per year in July or once per year for all accounts less than.
- Currently we have two delinquent notices that are sent out each year. He also spoke about in general that the Tax Office is, in his opinion, short-staffed. They currently have one full-timer, a part-timer and the Tax Collector. So budget time is coming up; we're going to have to address that at the Finance Committee. When we do select somebody to become the Tax Collector, we'll have to go through that with them.

From other side notes we had, President Sharkey had stated that it would benefit us to have some standard operating guidelines within the Tax Office, which is something that we as the Finance Committee can sit down and talk to whoever we select as Tax Collector. They will obviously have their own ideas too.

That is my report. I think the meeting went well, there were a lot of good things that came out of it. The current Acting Tax Collector that we have is doing an outstanding job. He is giving us a lot of information.

President Sharkey stated, there was one other thing that Mr. Gorzelany mentioned he had done. When the money is transmitted to the bank and the bank rectifies on their end, that slip now comes back to our Finance Department, it does not go back to the Tax Office as it had in the past. In other words, the Tax Office sent payments to the bank with a deposit slip, and when it was rectified, the slip went back to them. That was not good accounting procedure, and he has corrected that also. It's another safeguard for the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Tripp stated, Mr. David Cassetti asked a question about our collection rate. I think this adds information to the answer that he was looking for in that as Alderman Adamowski pointed out, the policies and procedures that our new Acting Tax Collector wants to implement would help us to bring up our tax collection rate, and all those things that Alderman Adamowski just read off will help us to achieve that end.

President Sharkey stated, along that line, when we met with our Tax Collector in the Finance meetings we had, we talked to her about the suspense list. She told me that normally tax collectors have, on real estate, a five-year limit or some limit, and then they put it on a suspense list. It must have been more than five years, maybe it was 10 years, she kept things off of the suspense list, which meant that her collection rate was down, but she still had a chance some time in the future to maybe get that. Other tax collectors put people on a suspense list so it makes their numbers look better. It makes their batting average look better but it collects them less money. Mr. Gorzelany naturally would imply the modern techniques that he has used. I really hope that will increase our tax collection rate, and also get the money - that's what we're here for, to get the money in. Hopefully that will work.

Alderman Adamowski stated, when we had that meeting back in January or February, the Finance Committee sat in on that same meeting. We were misled - we actually took that up in Finance Committee ourselves to try to bring that number down. That was the whole reason for that meeting. At that point I think we were really misled on what the actual problem was. We left that meeting and it was, she needed the \$400 program from the DMV and the collection rate would go up. As we go into this, that's not necessarily the case.

President Sharkey stated, we asked if any more tools were needed to help collect the money, and we were told they had enough tools, programs, this, and they were all being utilized fully. Obviously we found out they were not being utilized, so that's water over the dam. We will utilize them all now.

Alderman Marini stated, at the end of that meeting, the investigations went forward for the five individuals who were employees of the City that were involved, and in the whole tax clearance problem that we had. My recommendation was to follow up in terms of getting the transcripts from those disciplinary hearings so that this Board could take a look at those transcripts within the confines of an executive session, as obviously

disciplinary proceedings relative to employees is not completely public information. I'm not sure if there's been any follow up, but I do think it's important for us to look at those transcripts to see what the stories of our employees were in terms of how they came to possess them, whether or not they knew it was proper, and maybe Corporation Counsel Blake can give us some guidance on that.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, we can address it tonight in executive session when Mr. Teodosio is here - we can address what transpired and the outcome of those fact-finding interviews.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'd like to add that Stan was very forthcoming with a lot of information that none of us here knew. He did say recovery, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, motor vehicle we should see quite a bit of recovery within two years and he thought the property taxes would be three to five years. He said 98 percent, I think. This is a big deal and it's going to help the City a lot.

President Sharkey stated, it's more or less a line in the sand was drawn, as soon as this put-on list was sent to Motor Vehicles, but that means some people that might have registered their cars last year would have another year to go before they register them again. Their delinquent notices are already down there. Also, one of the things he mentioned is that we did not send out any delinquent notices ourselves; we relied totally on Motor Vehicles. In the future they're talking about quarterly reminding people and sending it back out. He did mention the other day to me that someone came in and paid quite a large bill and said he was unaware; he does not live in Ansonia and was unaware that the taxes were still owed here. Maybe we will recoup some of these.

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

Alderman John Marini - Economic Development Committee

First, in terms of the Tax Incentive Program that's on the table as a Resolution tonight, I will wait until then to get into the substance of it. I will say in response to Chairman Flaherty's remarks, I do agree, action is not needed on that plan tonight. I disagree to some extent in terms that it needs to wait until an entire plan is put together, but certainly it does not need to be acted on tonight and I would actually advise the Board that after we talk about it a little bit that it be forwarded to the Finance Committee for further, more specific review by this Board.

Beyond that, the Economic Development Commission is most excited about the ongoing consultant process. The consultant visited the Economic Development Commission earlier last month and he got a first opportunity to start to talk to our City officials about the kind of Economic Development we want to see in the City, the state of Economic Development presently, what they thought

works, what they thought doesn't work, and the whole idea is for him to continue that dialogue with all the other boards and commissions and to take that dialogue directly to the public. The first public forum is going to be Thursday at 7 o'clock at City Hall. I think it's very important for us to attend as many of those public sessions as possible and for us to contribute when our commissions come up for that dialogue with the consultant. The more input he gets the more accurate his assessment of Economic Development in Ansonia will be, and the more productive he can be when he does put together the plan. To remind everyone what this is, it's not another study that he's putting together for the City; we've certainly had enough of those. It's essentially a) an action plan, basically saying, these are good ideas, these are where we want to be, but how do we get there? How do we actually get from point a to point b. How will we be organized, what do we need to do? The second element of all this, phase b) a marketing strategy. It's how do we brand ourselves - what should we be branding ourselves at in order to entice the opportunities that we want. How do we go forward in terms of imaging a PR. Far from this being a study, it really is an action plan and a marketing plan. He does need that vital information from all of us, our residents, our businesses, to make it work. This isn't any one person's plan, any one commission's plan, this is the City's plan - for that to be valid we all have to be involved.

Finally, an ongoing project is the loan program that the commission is putting together. We have drafted it and started to circulate. We tried to tighten it up and make it as good as can be before we present it to the Board. In a nutshell we're looking at a micro loan program, with loan amounts up to \$2,000 with a low interest rate. Those loans will be given out to businesses for the specific purpose of fixing their façade, of rehabilitating their storefront. We are looking for improvements that would be permanent in nature; not for someone to buy a sign that they can take with them a couple months from now. We're looking for things that will stay with the business whether it be on Main Street, on Wakelee Avenue, or elsewhere. It's all part of trying to do what we can to help business owners put together a more presentable display to attract customers.

That's it right now. Obviously the incentive plan is a big topic but I'll wait until that Resolution comes up.

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

Public Works

Alderman Marini asked, Mr. Schryver, there is one particular project on Goldenrod Avenue, and several residents at the end of Goldenrod Avenue that were very excited about getting their curbing done, and they see the markings, and they get all excited, and then a couple of months later they call me and say, "it's not done yet." I just want to see if I can get something to tell them. They are especially worried that it's going to pass the season and they're not going to get it done.

Mr. Schryver stated, it will be done.

Alderman Radin stated, what Bart said about Franklin Street, that's been five or six months now I had somebody tell me about that. She said it hasn't been done yet. She also said the fencing on the other side is rotted so it's kind of dangerous there. I just saw her a couple days ago. She doesn't have a car so she has to use that and as Bart said, they have to walk in the street and when it snows it's even worse.

Mr. Schryver stated, we're looking into whose property that is now. It used to be American Brass property. They since sold some of it off to the U.I. and I guess some other people have a piece of it. Yes, there is some rotting going on with that.

Alderman Radin stated, I also have a question for you on your report, which I think is great. I hope you do it every month. We've been talking, you and I, about the garbage pickup. You said they were going to send out a recycling thing, but it never got out I guess. Where it says "transfer station," it says recycled so many tons of scrap metal and so many tons of corrugated cardboard. Is that what goes to recycling or did you people do that? Because if it's supposed to go to recycling, we're supposed to be getting a percentage for the City.

Mr. Schryver stated, the scrap metal is brought to a scrap metal dealer which we go out to bid for every year. They send a check which goes to Finance and goes to the general fund.

Alderman Radin asked, the cardboard too? Because when I do cardboard I usually leave the small boxes out there for them, and they've been throwing it in the garbage truck so I don't leave it out real early, I bring it out later so it will go with the recycling, because that goes to Danbury, I think you told me Danbury and we get a percentage.

Mr. Schryver stated, it used to be Danbury; now they have a facility in Shelton that they bring it to.

Alderman Radin stated, but we still get a percentage and the bins are available at Public Works for free. I'd like to see more people get the recycle bins. They're not doing that much on Jackson and I really would like to see if you go around town - we could use the money.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

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

Tax Refunds

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the refund report and pay the refunds in the amount of \$3,244.18 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

9-12-806 Virginia Perry

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to place the claim on file and forward to Corporation Counsel Blake for review; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus.

President Sharkey explained, we are named as an additional defendant, there is actually a claim against Anthem Life Insurance and we're named because we own the policy.

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

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

Communication #1

From: Chairman Gene Sharkey, Fire Commission
Re: Appointment to Ansonia Fire Police - Joseph Casini

Alderman Knapp MOVED to approve the appointment of Joseph Casini to the Ansonia Fire Police; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #2

From: Chairman Gene Sharkey, Fire Commission
Re: Appointment to Ansonia Fire Police - Jack Mondry

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to approve the appointment of Jack Mondry to the Ansonia Fire Police; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #3

From: Police Chief Kevin Hale
Re: Approval to Purchase Police Vehicles and Trade In Four Vehicles

Alderman Tripp MOVED to authorize the purchase of two 2013 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles with upgraded warranty package, prisoner containment system, decaling and the purchase and installation of all electronics including new laptops with stand and modem at a cost of \$41,736.48 per vehicle and further;

MOVED to authorize the trade-ins of the following four vehicles outlined in Communication #3:

**2008 Ford Crown Victoria
2008 Ford Crown Victoria
1999 Buick Century
2005 Ford Explorer**

with the trade-in value being deducted from the final price of the patrol vehicles and/or the replacement detective vehicle; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #4

From: Police Chief Kevin Hale

Re: Approval to Purchase Vehicle for Detective Bureau

Alderman Tripp MOVED to authorize the purchase through State auction of a vehicle for the Detective Bureau at a cost of \$13,830; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resignations

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Ralphine Siggars Ford from the Economic Development Commission and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Appointments

Charter Revision Commission

Alderman Tripp MOVED to accept all of the appointments to the Charter Revision Commission by one voice vote, members as follows:

**Keicia Duffus of 55 Fourth Street
Christopher Lisi of 27 North Westwood Road
John Erlingheuser of 6 Belleview Terrace
David Knapp of 3 Glen Drive
Janet Vitarius Waugh of 83 Prospect Street
Lorie Vaccaro of 515 Beaver Street
Patrick Henri of 16 Harris Road
John P. Marini of 11 Hawley Drive**

William Luneski of 93 Jackson Street

SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Ansonia Housing Authority

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the appointment of Nancy Marini of 11 Hawley Drive to fill a vacancy, term to expire 10-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Marini).

Economic Development Commission

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the appointment of Bartholomew R. Flaherty III of 28 Pinecrest Avenue, Ford replacement, term to expire 2-28-2016; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Ward Boundary Commission

Alderman Duffus MOVED to accept all of the appointments to the Ward Boundary Commission by one voice vote, members as follows with all terms to expire on 05-31-2013:

**Jo-Lynn Flaherty of 28 Pinecrest Avenue
James Tanner of 15 Columbia Street
Elizabeth Lynch of 15 Macintosh Lane
Jack Androski of 43 High Acres Road
Joan Radin of 198 Wakelee Avenue
Charles Stowe of 23 Granite Terrace
Irving Reed of 14 Highland Avenue**

SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resolutions

President Sharkey distributed and reviewed certain pages of Robert's Rules of Order to the members of the Board of Aldermen so that on all Resolutions coming up the proper procedure will be followed.

He stated, before any subject is open to debate, three steps are necessary. The first is that a motion is made. The second is that it be seconded. This always says a member rises. We're not going to do that. The person says "I second the motion." Some action means the seconder endorses the motion, but only that he wishes to have the motion considered. The third step is that the motion be stated. That is announced by the presiding officer. I always try to do that so

you people understand what you're voting on. We took a vote about two months ago and while we were discussing it, we had a motion on the floor, the Mayor asked if he could speak, he spoke, I got calls from people afterward, they thought what the Mayor stated was part of our motion. It was not. He stated that this is what he would do or so. The motion is actually state. I try and read off, remember, and say to you, this is what you are voting on. So, in the future, when we make a motion and second it, I am going to try and remember what you moved to do so everybody understands what they're voting on. These are the three important steps. The last paragraph on that first page says these steps do not prevent suggestions or alterations or anything else and you noticed what we did tonight, when people added other things to it, we asked the person who made the motion if he accepts the change to it or the amending and the secondary person has to also do that. There is nothing clear about Robert's Rules of Order. It is the most confusing book you will ever read. I have my copy of it here tonight. I just ran off three pages of it to give to you.

The second one is debate. It doesn't mean that two people are on two different sides. A debate means a discussion of something. Tonight, the way this actually should happen is when Mr. Marini has the resolution that he has there, a motion should be made to adopt that resolution or not, or a motion can be made to table that resolution or not. It should be seconded, and then the discussion starts from there. We sometimes do it backward. We have our discussion no matter how long it goes, and then the motion is made. This says, when a motion is made and if necessary seconded, it must be stated by the Chair, including that of the movers permitted, when any member wishes to speak in debate he must wait until no other member is speaking and address the Chair. Almost every person tries to remember to do it here; we do a good job of it. The Chair assigns the floor to the person that is granted recognition or recognizes him by name. The member who moved the adoption of the motion is first entitled to the floor. That is something that we will try and follow. Even though another member has addressed the chair. No member may speak to the same motion more than twice in one day, no longer than 10 minutes at a time, without permission of the assembly. You can always ask again, can I add to it. But what it is, someplace in here it says, on the last page, no member can speak the second time to a motion until every member choosing to speak has spoken. That is Robert's Rules. That is sometimes, people got a little upset with the fact, saying I didn't call on them. I'm trying to give everyone a chance to speak to the same thing, and then we can have people speak again if necessary. This sort of thing, when you have something to add, try to make a note and remember what it is. That is under Decorum, gentlemen, and lady, we do a good job of it but sometimes I've had to remind people, we just can't let it get away from each other.

Some military backgrounds show up - they address "Mr. President", we all try and do it the same, we're just trying to make sure that everybody gets their own equal opportunity and their own right to speak. I will not take anything to a vote as long as people still want to speak, meaning, you haven't had a chance

to speak on the subject. Let's just take them home, look at them, and we'll try to follow up, okay?

Resolution #1

Re: Ansonia Tax Incentive Program

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

RESOLUTION
ANSONIA TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM
CITY OF ANSONIA

WHEREAS, The Board of Aldermen recognizes the urgent need for the City of Ansonia to proactively attract new businesses and opportunities for job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes the need for the City of Ansonia to be competitive with other Connecticut municipalities in terms of offering the most enticing and economically productive tax incentive program possible; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is authorized by Connecticut General Statutes 12-65b and 12-65h to adopt a tax incentive program by which it may enter into written agreements with the owners and/or lessees of certain real property located within the City of Ansonia in order to fix tax assessments of real and/or personal property;

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, authorize the adoption of the Ansonia Tax Incentive Program, the terms and conditions of said program being adopted by reference into this resolution.

Alderman Marini MOVED to refer this resolution to the Finance Committee for further review; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

Alderman Marini stated, what we have before us is a proposed tax incentive program for Ansonia. I think it's important to clarify a little bit about what this is, where it comes from, what it would do and what flexibility we have to alter it. State Statute allows all municipalities to adopt tax incentive programs, essentially the ability to offer tax abatements in return from a promise of commitment from an investor. The commitment coming essentially in two forms - 1) money. You'll see here the baseline is \$25,000 up to several million dollars. The other form of commitment is time - pledging that they're going to be in the City, investing that money, for a period of a minimum of two-three years up to seven years. Essentially it's something that State Statute establishes the parameters for. As a municipality, we have the choice of whether to flick the switch on or not flick the switch on. Essentially it empowers this board to offer tax abatements and sets forth a floor that you can't go below. But it allows a lot of discretion to cities in determining how much of an abatement they

would like to offer. Without going into all of the particulars which can be a little confusing, I will say that what we've put together here is by no means reinventing the wheel. A lot of municipalities have adopted these provisions as far away as places like Hartford and Bridgeport, and as close by as places like Seymour. In terms of how this would conflict, if it would, with our Economic Development plan, I don't believe there's any stepping on toes; I don't believe there's any real conflict here at all with the master plan that we're putting together. The consultant has seen this proposed plan and he's offered a small recommendation and essentially he said that it looked good. That is simply because there isn't that much flexibility with a plan like this. How it would work, if we were to adopt it, the Board of Aldermen would essentially be the deciding authority to determine whether or not to offer an investor a tax abatement of a certain amount. This program does not require our board to do anything. It essentially gives us the parameters and gives us the discretion to do so. For example, if we pass this resolution, if we pass this program, people would submit ideas, requests, for tax abatements, but we wouldn't have to give anything at all. Essentially we could, for years, propose absolutely nothing in terms of a tax abatement deal for any businesses, or, if we wanted to, we could offer them on any business that we thought fit into Ansonia and the economic base that we want to develop. How it would work in this plan is similar to how it works in other cities. There would be a board forum, and it's really up to us who it consists of, but in most places it's the Mayor, it's an element of Planning and Zoning, and Economic Development, and an Assessor. These individuals will essentially be the people in the field that get the applications, or that reach out to investors that we'd like to entice into the City, and they're the ones that actually start to put the deal together. For approval, any deal would have to go to the Board of Aldermen to ultimately offer the exact deal. As you see there's a chart in the Resolution itself, and it basically breaks it down by cost of improvements, the term of years that the business is committing to and under abatement it shows the floor, or the maximum amount, up to 50 percent of an increased assessment and the very top \$10 million goes up to 100 percent of an increased assessment. This does not require us to offer those maximums at all, but essentially its saying you're allowed to use up to that amount of abatement, if we so chose to do so. Essentially these are the maximum levels - they're cranked up to the maximum. Some towns don't. Some towns put them a little lower. In the end it's all discretionary. It does not tell us what to do; it's essentially allowing the Board of Aldermen to extend tax incentives.

The purpose for this obviously we know that economic growth is important for our residents, for our businesses. We know the job creation is important for our residents, and we know if we're going to compete with surrounding towns we need to be very aggressive; we need to be proactive in our Economic Development. It's not enough just to hope that the right investor comes to town. We want to solicit those investments. We'd like to go out to people who we think may be the right fit for our city and be able to offer them a package to be able to interest them in investing. If anyone is looking at our City, at any of our properties whether it be downtown, at Fountain Lake, at the Copper and Brass buildings, we want to be able to extend something to them to tell them

that Ansonia is right for them and to also be able to offer them something that would entice them to bring their business to town. Within this proposal it not only has what could be considered the boilerplate abatement incentives, there are also incentives for a business to come in and use Ansonia residents for employees and to use local Ansonia services for their support. In those situations they're entitled to additional incentives if we so choose to extend them, such as waiving fees, putting in sewer hookups, but essentially it all comes back to the fact that it's discretionary. The program doesn't mandate us to do anything in any situation. It's essentially a tool that empowers us to cut deals - to extend incentives for businesses that we think, for investments that we think are right for our city. I know Chairman Flaherty was worried about a couple things - one of which was, what if we want to be more specific with what the plan is tailored to. If you take a look at this plan, it really does fit a lot of different types of possible investments and possible businesses. Everything from manufacturing use to office use; it talks about information technology, family entertainment and restaurants, and I would say that it needs to be broad. The plan needs to be broad as possible because essentially we don't know what the economy is going to bring us. We know what the situation is right now. We know what we want to target today. We don't know how things are going to be in three, four, five years. Having that broad template built into this program does us no disservice. It essentially allows us more flexibility.

In terms of the discretionary aspect about it, you offer the tax incentive to one investor and not another investor, that is completely true - that is the whole nature of the program. The board needs to use its discretionary power to decide who we're going to extend the program to and who we are not. I think in any situation where discretion is involved, of course people are upset that they're not the one the deal was offered to. I think those choices are important for us to make because Economic Development is going to mean choosing a direction for the city. We want to be able to choose the right direction and not to be forced into taking anything that comes our way.

In terms of when this plan should be adopted, I would say the sooner the better, to be honest. This is really something that is complimentary to the ongoing plan of development. When we have our master plan together and we know exactly what businesses we want to go after, we need to have a plan like this in place as a tool to assist us in going after those businesses. There is no real fear of them stepping on each other's toes or working at cross purposes, essentially a strong incentive program like this will help us out. No matter what plan we're running, it's broad enough so that it's going to empower us to get businesses no matter what our focus might be. I would like to take any questions right now that anyone has thought of, if you've had a chance to read it over. I do stress, this isn't something I'm looking for action on tonight in terms of approval. I'd like to forward this to the Finance Committee and that way we can take a look at this, side by side, to compare to what other towns have done. We can even call representatives from other towns and get their take on how it works, how it doesn't work. This isn't reinventing the wheel; this is a tried and true formula that other cities have adopted but that Ansonia has

not. We have that tax incentive corridor, those are incentives that are offered by the State that overlaps a good portion of our Main Street into where Farrell's and Copper and Brass are. This can work in tandem with that State sponsored incentive program and of course it works in areas where that economic enterprise zone does not work. Essentially it puts more tools in our tool kit; it empowers us to do more for the city. I'll open the floor to anybody else.

Alderman Radin stated, I was reading it through and the only part that kind of confused me and I believe Mr. Flaherty said something about it, where it talks about permanent residential use and transient residential use. What does that mean?

Alderman Marini replied, essentially it means the construction of residences. If an investor were to come in with a plan for residential use - building or improvements or developments - say there was a project with upscale condominiums on Main Street that was suggested. If the Board were to take a look at the project and deem that is something we wanted, it would give us the flexibility to entice an investor. At the same time however, it allows us to choose manufacturers to come into the city; allows us to reach out to a manufacturer and say hey, instead of bringing your business to a surrounding area, here's what Ansonia can offer you. Here is our own program for bringing your money in for a certain amount of years. You'll get x amount of your taxes abated. In addition to that we'll be able to tell them, there's the Enterprise Corridor Zone on top of that. It would allow us to do as much as possible to attract the right kind of businesses to town. But it's broad. And I think it's important to be broad simply because we don't want to seem like we're discriminating against anyone right off the bat. Let it be open to everybody, because you don't know what the economy will bring us.

Alderman Tripp stated, I think what everybody wants for Ansonia is a thriving Main Street and downtown. The only question is how we can get there. I think this is an excellent start in the right direction but as I said to an esteemed colleague and friend of mine here as we were discussing one night, I said, we need to do something. We're on the 20 yard line, we're in the mud and we're backed up against our end zone. We need to do something to get down the field. I think this is excellent - is it a 20 yard run around the right side or is this a 40 yard pass in the middle? One or the other I think it's an excellent start in the right direction. Thank you.

Alderman Mott stated, I have a two part question - one, is it modeled in particular from a town or city that is using this, and two, is it successful in them using it?

Alderman Marini replied, elements of this are really taken from State Statute. I can say right off the bat that any town that adopts a tax incentive plan under the Statutes that I reference which are 12-65b and 12-65h essentially have this plan. There is some discretion when you adopt a plan - essentially how high you want your ceiling of tax abatements to go. I cranked them all the way up to

the max where I could offer 100 percent, I put 100 percent; where I could only go to 75 percent I made sure I went all the way up to 75 percent. What that actually means without becoming very confusing is essentially it gives us the discretion to go to that maximum level. It doesn't require us to do anything. But more to your question, many, many other towns have adopted this. Essentially the only difference I really saw taking a look at the plan was presentation - how they broke it down. The other thing I saw was not all of them offered the local incentive, what I call the Ansonia first incentives. Those are additional incentives I only found in a few of them, but I thought seemed to be really valuable and something we'd really like here. This is certainly not sort of an in outer space type of proposal, this is really tried and true; this is what the State allows us to do. To follow up on what Alderman Tripp said, there's a real lot of potential in Ansonia, it's simply not realized. Especially when it comes to the heart of our downtown. A lot of times we take a look at things like Copper & Brass and the empty Farrell buildings as obstacles to the City, but you never know what the future would bring with the right effort. You'd see places like Bridgeport with their Harbor Yard project that they worked for years on. You take a look at West Hartford - Blue Back Square project - it really turned a lot of vacant space into an entire new downtown for the area. You never know, if a proper approach was taken, if we're aggressive enough, the downtown could be a new center for manufacturing, for entertainment, for business. Essentially the land that's now hosting vacant factories could give us the amount of space we need for an entire new downtown, and an anchor into the heart of our city. But it's not going to happen without private investment figuring out that we are here and being interested and excited enough. All I am proposing is that we do what the State allows us to do - what the State gives us the power to do - that we flip that switch on and that we empower our board to be able to offer essentially a deal for the right investor.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I haven't gotten a chance to read the whole thing yet, but I have heard with a bunch of towns and cities and something that we will have to watch out for. I don't know if you addressed it in here or not, but a lot of the times you will get people to move into your town just because you're offering them a tax abatement and then five years you're going to end up with an empty storefront. What you're going to do is you may fill them for how ever many years you have slotted, but as soon as that tax abatement goes away they're out. And you will be back in the same boat. I don't know if you have addressed that in here. I didn't get a chance to read it. I understand it was put in on Thursday and Monday was a holiday.

Alderman Marini stated, that's a good point. The whole system is modeled on the term of years that you have. Essentially the whole idea is, it's got to work for the City. You're going to take a look at the amount of investment that's coming in and you're going to take a look at how many years they're pledging. If they come up short, if they break their commitment, they lose all their incentives. They forfeit on the deal. We want to make sure the investments make sense. If someone is coming in and part of their investment is rehabbing a building, doing environmental clean up, we know that money's going to come

in, we know it's going to come in for a certain amount of years, then it would maybe make sense. Maybe it would make sense to get a building that's uninhabitable, rehabbed. Even if they choose to leave at that point, three years or five years, the City has gained. That's essentially what we would need to do for any business that we offered an incentive to. We'd have to assume the worst - we'd have to say okay, they're coming in with \$3 million, they're going to stay for five years. What makes sense? What kind of investment are they going to make? What's going to be the long-term impact in the City? If it doesn't make sense you've got to assume the worst, you've got to assume that they may leave after three years. It doesn't make sense, you just don't do it. When things are discretionary obviously it opens up judgment calls on behalf of the board; on behalf of the City. I think the judgment calls that we're responsible enough to make. The whole thing does factor in the idea that commitments are going to be for x amount of time, for x amount of dollars.

Alderman Stowe stated, this is a crucial puzzle piece in our Economic Development plan. I can agree with Mr. Flaherty who spoke earlier, I don't see any harm in having this go another month. I think that the consultant should sign off on this so to speak so if he has any added ideas we should try to get them from him as soon as possible. I believe the Mayor should also do the same and if he has any businesspeople that he would like to advise him in between now and next month I think it would be a good idea. I have been in commercial development most all my life and one thing I have noticed in many a decade is wind of change comes, and you don't have a lot of time. You have like an 18 month window and pretty quick most of the development has been done and there's some spurs here and there. The big fish get caught in the first 18 months. I don't know what's going to happen, but this wouldn't hurt to have it in place before a report is done. We've talked about having zoning fits for different businesses for different parcels of property to make it easier for a business to pick that property. This is all going to take time but the tax incentive - I've watched Seymour do it, I've watched Southbury do it, I've watched a big piece of land in East Haven, about 20 years ago, I mean it was developed unbelievable, it was like overnight. Two years it was done. We don't have, as Bart says many times we have 6.6 square miles here and all we need is two or three big fish and we might be happy. I don't think we should let this drag on too long, but I think it might be a good idea to let it go for another month, Mr. Marini, if you'd be so generous.

Alderman Knapp stated, that's what the motion on the floor is, to table it and send it to the Finance Committee.

President Sharkey stated, it's either send it to the Finance Committee or it's to table it. You have to do either one you can't do them both.

Alderman Marini stated, obviously everybody should have a chance to contribute to the plan. What I'd like to do at the Finance Committee is show plans from other cities, hopefully we could get someone to speak on behalf of someone who's had experience implementing a plan and see the pros and cons.

I really tried to start us off at first base with something that really tried to call what I saw as being the best from different cities. I really is just a matter of, we don't want to wait too long because, I said the right sort of investment. Sometimes investment can come but it's not exactly right for Ansonia. One thing Alderman Radin brought up was residences, the residential units. My personal belief is the last thing Ansonia needs is residential units before more productive business comes into town, whether it's manufacturing, family entertainment, the productive hub that would fuel more residential units. That is what we really need. This plan would really allow us to go beyond, you've seen it many, many times, in many, many buildings, sometimes the most lucrative proposals are the ones to go for low income housing. They tend to gobble up old buildings, destroy classic and culturally-significant structures, all because that's the easy way to draw in money in a bad economy. I really do believe there's much more potential out there. There are a lot of uses for our buildings and for our downtown area that I think a lot of investors just don't know about. They don't know about it because we haven't made the effort to really reach out there and really market Ansonia as strong as we possibly can. This tax incentive plan will allow us a powerful weapon to be able to go out there and bring them in.

Alderman Duffus stated, I think the plan is actually pretty good. One of the things that concerns me is that are we providing an even playing field and a set of standards that they all could follow under. Your key word was discretion, you keep mentioning that, but that allows for a ton of ambiguity where there are no answers, uncertainty. I think that might cause the opposite effect. You might have people unsure if Ansonia is playing above board, that we're not just having some partisan politics where some investors are allowed and some are not. How would you address that in this plan?

Alderman Marini stated, exactly, it's discretion. There are going to be some types of investment that we want in Ansonia, and some that maybe we're less favorable about. The whole thing about Economic Development is to steer us in the right direction. That's where that master plan comes in place because when the consultant does complete his rounds, talks to all the boards, the residents, we're going to get a certain sense of what the community really wants downtown, what we want to pursue. We'll be able to use this plan as a vehicle for pursuing. In terms of, maybe hurt feelings if someone wants to put low income housing downtown, we're going to have to say no, that's not the right thing for Ansonia. We want to pursue what we believe to be a higher and better use. Of course that has nothing to do with discrimination in zoning. Our zoning laws are what our zoning laws are. This essentially allows us to go out to investors and try to encourage them to fill the space before someone else comes in. Discretion leaves a lot of loose ends in terms of what we can do, but we want that. We want all the flexibility we can.

Alderman Duffus stated, that's fair but there should be a set of standards that everyone knows what the rules are going into it.

Alderman Marini stated, zoning.

President Sharkey stated, this sort of a discussion should actually happen at the Committee level, honestly. This is just to basically get it out there.

Alderman Adamowski called the question.

President Sharkey stated, I would like you to hold off on that a minute, I haven't spoken. Here are my comments on it. I did hear comments out there that, what would happen if people came in, got a tax incentive rebate and then when their time was up they left. We do have to investigate that closely, that did happen in Seymour, when they built Silvermine Park. Many places come in and got their five years, and after five years just left. There still are one or two empty buildings up there. They did a good job of filling it, but we have to look forward to that. And reading this also, my question would be when I look on the page that says, let's just throw it out - \$10 million - up to 100 percent of the increased assessment for up to seven years. We have some buildings, American Brass and Farrell's that aren't worth anything. The property really right now as it sits, the property is worth something but the buildings really aren't worth anything. Someone coming in to make use of that property would have to be putting in \$10 million. They'd be putting it in on demolition, they'd be putting in to put something viable. So we're talking then, we would see no taxes for seven years based upon this. We really have to look at that very, very carefully. This one it says, \$10 million addition, that's nice, that's along the line that Target already has a building there. They are already paying taxes, and if they want to put another \$10 million into it, we're very happy if they build a larger building but we have to be very careful when the property isn't really worth anything. We're going to be missing all the increased taxes. I think that's something else that needs to be addressed in the Committee and we need to look at that carefully.

Alderman Radin stated, if you noticed, Shelton has done that quite a bit. I've owned a business for 38 years and I've seen business, Black & Decker left Shelton, they were there 10 years and they took off. It does happen. I think it's going to happen in bigger places like Shelton. I'm hoping that if we get enough good people here that are really interested in building it that we won't have that problem, that at least we'll get something back from empty buildings that we have now.

President Sharkey stated, we would probably have to take a look at someone like Shelton that took bare property, Mr. Scinto went in and ended up building four towers or whatever it was there. It was really an increase. He put millions into that. I don't think Shelton gave him seven years of tax free. We don't know. Maybe they gave him, I don't know, \$1 million a year or something, but they certainly didn't give him... We would have to find out places where it worked successfully that have a thumbprint like we do. Maybe our consultant can help us enormously in that.

Alderman Marini stated, and since it's all discretionary, there would never be an instance where anyone was forced into using that maximum amount. Essentially the Board of Aldermen, basically it's like you have that under the hood. You could go to that if need be. It may be that you never go to the maximum simply because of what you're saying. It may never make sense. Then again someone's coming in with substantial development to a property that's worth zero, and you know that development will stay with the land. I think everyone would recognize that a developed property in those Copper and Brass lots, something that was contaminated and useless, would be better no matter how long the tenant stays around. We don't have to use our maximum.

Alderman Knapp stated, I think the Finance Committee should also be taking a look at some of the cost benefit analysis as to this - short term, long term financial implications of something like this.

President Sharkey asked the secretary to repeat the motion that is on the floor.

Alderman Marini MOVED to refer this to the Finance Committee for further review; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

Alderman Stowe stated, I don't necessarily think the Finance Committee all by itself should have the ability to decide what goes on with this. I mean, there's a lot of other people like the Mayor, for example. When you start talking about someone not paying any taxes for seven years, you know, if you have a company that moves in here and they're going to hire 500 people that live around here, there's all kind of different reasons that you give people incentives. I'm not trying to talk down to the Finance Committee but I kind of think this is a little bit bigger than just them. I think Dick Schultz needs to have a say in this, I believe the Mayor should have a say. If there's differences or things added to it that are all good, like Bart said we should take it all in one pie and try to make something out of it.

Alderman Knapp stated, it would have to come out of Committee to the full Board anyway.

President Sharkey stated, my thought was if I was Chairman of Finance I would have our Economic Development Consultant come there, possibly other people from towns where this is working or not, and a lot of it needs to be discussed there rather than the full Board trying to put this document together, it needs to be done. The Mayor should be there. Our tax department, someone should be there. All of this sort of thing. Even if they have to have multiple meetings. Then that board as a committee will bring a recommendation of a document back here to this Board in open session.

Alderman Adamowski stated, as the Finance Committee Chairman I would make sure that those members are present when we have this meeting.

President Sharkey stated, the motion is to refer it to the Finance Committee for discussion, for investigation, for further work, and bring in whatever people we need to make an informed decision on this and bring it back.

Are you satisfied with that as your motion? Do you want a roll call vote or a voice vote? I need a motion to make it a voice vote.

Alderman Radin MOVED to take a voice vote; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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

Resolution #2

Re: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; America the Beautiful Legacy Trees

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL LEGACY TREES

WHEREAS, The City of Ansonia has been awarded a grant to enhance the City with the "Ansonia Tree Beautification Project" through DEEP funding from its America the Beautiful Legacy Tree program.

RESOLVED, that Mayor James T. Della Volpe is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the City of Ansonia a certain contract with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut for the fulfillment of the America-the-Beautiful grant, and is authorized to affix the Corporate Seal.

Alderman Madigosky MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resolution #3

Re: Ward Boundary Commission

Aldermen Joseph Jeanette of the 3rd Ward and Jerome Fainer of the 4th Ward introduced the following Resolution:

CREATION OF WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Section 3A of the Charter of the City of Ansonia requires the creation of a Ward Boundary Commission in October of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Ward Boundary Commission shall, pursuant to the Charter of the City of Ansonia, hold hearings and present its findings and recommendations to the Board of Aldermen no later than May 31, 2013;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of Aldermen of the City of Ansonia creates the Ward Boundary Commission, pursuant to Section 3A of the Charter of the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

New Business

Kathy Lane

Alderman Adamowski stated, I want to thank Public Works for fixing the end of Kathy Lane. That pothole from Regional Water Authority on Kathy Lane, it's getting deeper by the minute.

Mr. Schryver stated, there are quite a few throughout the town from Regional Water - they assured me they were going to be on it this week. We'll put another call into them. There's one on Ford Street that's pretty bad and also on Finney.

Alderman Adamowski stated, if they could do it like yesterday that would be good because we're going to start getting claims in here from people with flat tires.

Feral Cats

The second thing was an issue that came up a couple times in the past six months around town. It's something that we are going to have to address as a board. I got a couple of calls from some of the residents on Morningside Drive. There is a really big cat issue in this town. There are cats everywhere. They are claiming that there are about 10 to 15 of them running around the area of Morningside Drive. I know we've had this issue at least three or four other different parts of town where the cats are not owned by anybody. They are just running rampant all over the place. I think we need to at least address this. Our Animal Control Officer Jeannie said that we can't just displace these animals from their home, the only thing we're allowed to do is spay them or neuter them. I don't know if that's such a good answer for somebody that has 15 cats living in their back yard, because I'd be pretty upset. I think as a board we need to sit down and maybe get some legal advice on what we can do with these animals.

President Sharkey stated, I agree. What do you want to do with them?

Alderman Adamowski stated, I don't know. I think as a Board we need to sit down and get some legal advice on what we can do. I don't think an answer of saying well, we have to have 15 cats living in somebody's back yard is an acceptable answer to give to somebody. That is my only suggestion - that we find out what we can do and try to solve this problem before it gets worse.

A lengthy discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- The Animal Control Officer has no place available to shelter cats
- They can't be dumped off anyplace, the State does not allow this
- There are three or four neighborhoods affected by an abundance of feral cats
- Last time they trapped the cats, put them in cages, took them to a local veterinarian for spaying/neutering, and placed them back to where they found them
- Somebody in the neighborhood is feeding the cats
- Most of the rescue groups that deal with cats only want kittens

Chief Hale explained, cats have the same legal status as dogs. In the past we've gotten grants - it's a catch, spay, neuter and release. They have to be released back to the area where it came from. The idea is that it will not reproduce so less cats producing kittens. The problem is that somebody there is feeding those cats. Maybe not the house that they are at, but somebody there is feeding those cats; they stay where the food is. We see it all the time - "I leave food out but that's not my cat. I'm not responsible for those eight cats. I'll feed them but they're feral." Well, not really because you are taking care of them. It becomes a slippery slope. You can't just take them and drive them to Oxford and then come back. We can't do that. To catch them and then to have them spayed or neutered, there is a cost. Now, we've gotten a break from the vet in the past - a volume break. There's no guarantee you'll get that again. I don't even know if there's a grant out there for that now. We struggle with the cat problem. As much as you hear it, we hear it from all over town. Again, we can trap them, we don't have a budget to spay or neuter them. People don't want to hear that they go back to their neighborhood, but they have to go back from where they were. These are the rules. We didn't create them but this is what we've dealt with in the past. We continue to deal with this. Now if there is an injured cat in the road it has to be treated as if it were a dog. In the past that wasn't always the case. The legislature has created an even playing field. There is some irresponsibility on the people who feed them but will not take full control of the cats. I believe there are some loose-knit groups that will take them, and I will talk with Jeannie again tomorrow on this. If there isn't a group available to do that necessarily, then there are other options.

Purchase of City Vehicles

Alderman Tripp stated, just for the benefit of the full Board of Aldermen, as you and the Finance Chairman are aware, in the Finance Committee we

approved and the full Board approved the purchase of the Police vehicles, which Chief Hale has taken that and run with it, and hopefully very soon he will have his new vehicles. But also, we discussed a new ambulance and two new Public Works vehicles. I've been asking around, what's going on, and it just doesn't seem to be happening very quickly. I had some concern, we'll be into winter next year before we start to see the other three vehicles. Is there any kind of timeline, deadline, drop dead date for the ambulance?

President Sharkey replied, we had several discussions at the Harvest Festival. It was not a committee meeting or anything else. Alderman Tripp, Alderman Adamowski and I had very good discussions standing out on Main Street. We were discussing the fact that our Board had recommended that two dump trucks for Public Works be left in the budget, and that the money to purchase a new ambulance also be placed into the budget. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation did put money in the budget, an amount of money to cover a six-year note. They would purchase the two dump trucks and the ambulance on a note and they put in enough money that each year going forward that would pay the note so at the end of six years the dump trucks and the ambulance would be paid off. The dump trucks would be bought off of the State bid list, just like we purchased two police cars tonight, we will purchase two dump trucks the same way. We already know what the price is, they are standard dump trucks that we can buy. The ambulance bid specs had to be drawn up; it was delayed because the company they purchased the last ambulance from no longer is supplying ambulances, they had to find another supplier to meet the needs of the City of Ansonia. Both Public Works and ARMS will have representatives at the Apportionment and Taxation meeting next Monday night to present their case with the amount of how much they need to go forward. They have the money set aside, and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation would approve the actual going out and securing a note. Our Finance Department would then go out and secure that note. They've already looked into at least one lending institution and they're probably going to look at other ones to find it. The ambulance itself would have to be put together and then it would arrive. I imagine this is much like Chief Hale purchasing the two Police cars - those are sitting on a lot someplace. They are here in the State of Connecticut. I would imagine these dump trucks are already there, because we did get a price from someone in Wallingford. As soon as everything is approved and done and the papers signed, we can get the two dump trucks. That's where we are with it. It was just a case of a lot of hurdles had to be crossed before it was done. There is an enormous amount of paperwork when you do it this way. If we had the actual funding in our hand, let's say we took the money out of the reserve fund and actually had the \$500,000 in our hand, we would be going right to a car dealer and purchasing them and they would be ours. The fact that you have to buy them through a note with a lending institution, they have an enormous amount of paperwork. There are certain things that have to be in place before they will give you that money. In fact, we have to have approvals by Apportionment and Taxation, our bid specs and everything has to be filed and ready to go and they need copies of it, and then they give us the money. It's not the same thing as the Chief buying them tonight. I'm going to

attend the meeting to answer any questions that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation might have and to also support Public Works and ARMS in their endeavor to get the note. That's where we stand.

Michael Carpinello - Mr. Softee Ice Cream Vendor

Alderman Tripp stated, my curiosity is, what law or City policy or City regulation was the Director of the Ansonia Nature Center using to tell Mr. Carpinello to shut his generator off or where he couldn't be. I am curious as to what law she was quoting when these issues came up. The gentleman has been licensed by the City, licensed by the State, he has all of his permits, so now when he goes to use that permit that he's paid good money for, all of a sudden an employee of the City is saying no, you can't do what the City has licensed you to do. I am confused, personally. I would like to know exactly what law, rule, City ordinance regulation, she is using to say he can't do it, or is it just a decision that she, on her own, is making. That is my question.

President Sharkey asked, are you recommending that we have Mrs. Lindgren come to our next meeting and explain it to us? I certainly don't have an answer as to what she said or did, or why.

Alderman Tripp stated, I am very curious, yes. I would request that.

Alderman Knapp stated, I don't think that is fair to Mr. Carpinello that he wait another month for Mrs. Lindgren to come down here and explain. I think our Corporation Counsel should or could answer. If he has received all of the permits, paid, whatever, he should be able to park his truck up on the Nature Center regardless of what Mrs. Lindgren says.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I could talk to her. I am familiar with Michael. We know what to address.

Alderman Stowe stated, so in other words, because this is really how it lies to me, if he has all his licenses and permits in place and our attorney is going to see if there is any law about a generator, and if our attorney can't find any law about running a generator, then he should be able to use his licenses and permits immediately after that. Is that right?

President Sharkey stated, I would agree with that, however my comment would be, I think we have to designate a place where Mr. Carpinello would actually park his truck. We can't just have the truck parked anyplace there; we have to designate a place someplace in the parking lot. I don't know, we would have to take a look at where it would be. At the last football game in Ansonia, Mr. Carpinello was there with his Mr. Softee truck. He has a designated parking place where he parks right now. He parks next to the refreshment stand. We have someone that's in charge of the field up there, he had asked the Police that after the game was over, many of the parents and the children went down in front of the field house waiting for the players, and they meet there and

congratulate them, and he asked that no vehicles be down there and going through when the people were standing there. So one of the Police sergeants stationed himself there to make sure that no vehicles came through. Mr. Carpinello decided to drive his vehicle down there and sell ice cream to the people, and was told by the officer in charge that he couldn't go there. He was told who made that decision, and that's the way it was. From what I understand Mr. Carpinello had a verbal altercation with the person in charge up there and had to be separated by the Ansonia Police.

Mr. Carpinello, from the audience, stated, no.

President Sharkey stated, hold on please. I went personally to the sergeant that was there to ask what happened, because I was notified of that in a discussion with our Chief of Police. I asked our Chief of Police to tell me what exactly had happened and I did speak to the sergeant, not to find out anything, but only because it was recommended to me by the people that are running the football games that a designated space be set for Mr. Carpinello there. They have absolutely no problem with him selling the ice cream there, in his spot, which is next to the refreshment stand. Once the game is over, that's the way it's supposed to be. I was also told there was a problem during baseball games up there that they were telling him they wanted him to park in a certain place, and he refused and gave them a hard time and didn't want to park in the space where they told him, which was close to the foul line where cars have been hit in the past with foul balls, and they allow absolutely no parking there. I was told that again by the Police Department and by the sergeant that was there.

So I would say, quite possibly, if that is the designated space, that's where they should stay at Nolan Field, and that's the reason I bring up that there should be a designated place someplace in the parking lot at the Ansonia Nature Center where Mr. Carpinello is allowed to sell his things. We don't want to have it happen that two weeks from now it's right next to the big pavilion where people go in and out or so forth. If it's in the parking lot it's there. It's your decision what we do. I think it should be reaffirmed that over at the field he has a parking space, and that's where it is. I've been told more than once, it's a privilege to be there at Nolan Field. We give out a license and he meets all the requirements and everything else. It is a privilege to be allowed to go up onto Nolan Field and sell the ice cream and so forth. It's not just that you go to the Police Department and you get your license and here's where I'm parking - it is a privilege to be there. Now, Mr. Carpinello, do you want to...

Alderman Marini stated, I'd just like to comment. We have an individual that's here on an issue about a generator. I think that's being adequately addressed. Mr. Carpinello has, I haven't heard anything about objecting to a designated spot. I don't know if it's necessary to bring up what you brought up, Mr. President. I think that obviously there's a separate situation on Nolan Field. Mr. President, I don't believe this is the appropriate place to...

President Sharkey interjected, I was only bringing it up that there should be a designated spot at the Ansonia Nature Center.

Alderman Marini stated, you could have spared him the sermon, though, Mr. President.

President Sharkey stated, there should be a designated spot. I asked the Chief of Police to stay here in case there was a problem with the other one. I wasn't going to speak to it, and that's my whole question out there was, I asked the Chief of Police if he was comfortable in speaking to the other issue. That's all that was discussed out there.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, my recommendation is to submit your request to the Recreation Commission who control the fields to address this, and I will address it with them when Mr. Carpinello doesn't have another issue.

Mr. Schryver stated, I think I can shed a little light on this. Speaking for Mrs. Lindgren and having a lot of conversations with her regarding this over the years, we do have a designated area now. Her concern with Mr. Carpinello is that she didn't want the truck anywhere near the roadway/walkway going down to the bottom. She told him that the kids would have to go by, if the truck was smoking or anything like that, she wanted the truck away from the walkway. Mr. Carpinello, I guess, I don't know if they had words or they didn't get along adequate, we felt that the remedy was, and with the Board of Recreation, we decided to put a vendor parking location. Now, I don't know if Mrs. Lindgren is having a problem. Maybe Mr. Carpinello is not abiding by the vendor parking sign, but there is a sign there. That is the only place he should be parking. Is that sign still there, Mike?

Mr. Carpinello stated, yes. It took five years to get the sign there. And yeah, sometimes I do get a little loud but that's just my nature. I pay a lot of money to whatever organization - to the football, to the Pop Warner, to the baseball, to the soccer. You're saying it's a privilege. I pay for that privilege extra. Every game I pay \$75 to the concession stand to be up there. You know. I take offense at what you say. Everybody thinks, you know, I've been here 17 years. You know. Cut me some slack. I live in Ansonia my whole life. If it's not Mr. Softee, it's when I had Club 101. This whole town picks on me. You know, I'm not saying "poor me," because I'm not the angel of the City, but you know what? I've been dealing the ice cream 17 years, I do a damn good job, people like me. I had mothers come up to me after the game and said, "can you come down and go down by the club house so I can buy my kid," who's been buying off of me for 17 years, "milkshakes or sundaes." You know, the football players. That's why I go down there. I sell to the football players down there. I already talked to Tony D today and he said, "I have a designated spot for you, everything's all set." He goes, "I'm sorry I got in your face." I said, "I'm sorry I got in your face." He said it was his Italian temper. And that's what happened. I'm not going to say, you know, I didn't jump in his face, or we didn't have to be separated by the cops. Johnny Raf asked me to go back to the truck and I was trying to show

him this license agreement that he asked me for. And with the baseball, I called up Attorney Blake during a championship game and he talked to the guy, and Jeff Coppola, and we straightened it out.

I'm in the designated spot. I have no problem being in a designated spot. None whatsoever. But I waited five years for that designated spot. Rowley was supposed to get it for me. Mr. Schryver was going to get it. Everybody's going to get it. Five years. Finally, a month ago, it was up there. And like I said, when I'm parked on the side over there, the cop comes, and I'm doing business, and he gives me a \$35 ticket for parking next to the fire hydrant over there, which I, you know, he was walking out. "Oh, you're seven feet away," and blah blah blah. Like I said, I abide by the rules.

President Sharkey stated, anything, Chief, you would like to add?

Chief Hale stated, yeah, just from our perspective, I spoke to Mrs. Lindgren myself. I'm not going to speak for her, but in that situation, as you face the main building of the Ansonia Nature Center, there's a fire hydrant and there's a sidewalk and Mr. Carpinello was parked there too close to the fire hydrant. The Park Ranger asked him to move and he refused, so he called the cops, as he stated earlier. The officer went up there and issued the parking ticket. It's right next to a sidewalk where again, kids or people are walking out and have to walk in front of him. It's a safety issue. The issue at Nolan Field that you brought up is a safety issue. You shouldn't be bringing vehicles into areas where people are standing, especially if people or children may be running up to him. Yes, the designated parking spot, I really had nothing to do with that. My understanding was, park here and we'll get a sign up. So park there. As far as the engine running, that's up to Mrs. Lindgren. I have no concern on that. Her point was it was parked right in front of the building and the fire hydrant, fumes would go in the building. That is the reason why a parking ticket was issued. If he had complied with the request from the Ranger, there would not have been a parking ticket. The Ranger, who is a City employee by the way.

Alderman Adamowski stated, can we just make sure that this doesn't keep going around and around? Can we make sure that we get proper parking places for these people? Can we make sure that we're not arguing if we're supposed to be parking in places? I can't believe this is...

President Sharkey interjected, there is in both places. It boils down to, if you park in a spot there's not a problem, even with the generator running. If you park in the spot at the field there's no problem over there. One was asked to move by the police officer in one place, and the other one the police officer said you can't go there. There is no police officer that is going out of their way to pick on Mr. Carpinello. He was asked to move the vehicle and the second time was asked not to move the vehicle. That's all. I'm all in favor of going to the Ansonia Nature Center - park in the spot. That's it.

Mr. Carpinello asked, what is going to happen on the 20th when I go up there and she starts coming up and telling me “turn the generator off.” What can I do? The parking we’re all square.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I will research it and I will contact Mrs. Lindgren and Mr. Carpinello about this.

Unfinished Business

Workers Compensation - Michael Eheman

President Sharkey stated, Attorney Robert Sousa has asked that we table the item regarding Michael Eheman; we also had talked about going into Executive Session for the car tax waivers with Attorney Teodosio if he is here.

Alderman Radin MOVED to table the workers compensation matter of Michael Eheman; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Filming of Board of Aldermen Meetings

Alderman Adamowski stated, two or three months ago we brought up the issue of the filming. Has this gone anywhere? Are we turning these tapes over to Comcast?

Alderman Marini replied, we have them taped, but we need a meeting of the Video Committee to figure out how we are going to technologically handle it on one DVD. We are still having a problem. So, while everything is taped, we are having problems getting them on DVD to Comcast. It’s a technological issue. I think if we convene a meeting with someone who has the expertise, this is a transfer. Everything is recorded; the problem is getting the meeting onto one CD because Comcast does not have the capability to change CDs. It would seem like it would be no problem to switch CDs, one CD one week, one CD the next. Since the system is automated, we need it all on one CD.

Alderman Duffus asked, are you giving them anything?

Alderman Marini replied, right now, no. They have the old meetings, but they would only be able to show half meetings. I think it needs to be done right.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I would like to stop taping and figure something out because it’s costing us money in taping these things, nobody has aired them, nobody has seen since January, and when we do finally get to figure out what it is, I don’t think anybody is going to care about what happened nine months ago - to watch a meeting that happened nine months ago.

Alderman Marini stated, our residents requesting it, who can request ...

Alderman Adamowski interjected, I checked into it. Not one resident has requested a CD or copy of any of these tapes that are being taped.

Alderman Marini stated, they may not have requested a copy of the minutes either, that doesn't mean we can't make them available.

Alderman Adamowski stated, they review those online.

Alderman Marini stated, I would like to know what cost the City has expended in taping the meetings.

Alderman Adamowski asked, did we put money into that?

Alderman Marini stated, I have. My money. For the residents. I'd like them to be on Comcast, but we're documenting the meeting.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to stop taping until we find a solution to being able to convert this to a format that would be able to go to Comcast; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe		X	
Tripp		X	
Jeanette		X	
Mott	X		
<i>Fainer</i>			
DeLucia	X		
Radin		X	
Madigosky	X		
<i>Nihill</i>			
Marini		X	
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	7	5	

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7 Yes, 5 No, 0 Abstentions.

Alderman Marini stated, I will instruct a volunteer to tape the meetings, a non-city person, so we don't lose track. As of course, even without our proposal, all [inaudible].

Alderman Knapp MOVED to discuss the interrogatories given regarding the automobile tax waivers with Attorney Fran Teodosio in Executive Session;

SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

President Sharkey asked if any member of the public wished to comment on this item.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I have a suggestion. In New Haven, last year, New Haven Police were going with wands down at Sports Haven and hitting the plates.

President Sharkey stated, that has nothing to do with the tax waivers.

Mr. Musante stated, for the cars that owed tax, they had tow trucks there. They were towing them out of there.

President Sharkey stated, we're discussing the employees hearing and the tax waivers. Is there anyone else wishing to comment on that?

President Sharkey declared the public session closed.

Executive Session

At approximately 9:13 p.m., Alderman Knapp MOVED to go into Executive Session and invite Corporation Counsel Blake, Labor Attorney Fran Teodosio and Acting Personnel Director Tara Kolakowski to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 9:42 p.m. Alderman Radin MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen