



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, CT 06401

## **BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2013**

**6:15 P.M**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 6:18 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:

Gene Sharkey, D6-present	John Marini, R7-present
Anthony Delucia, D4-absent	Peter Marcinko, D1, present
Joan Radin, R5-absent	Joseph Jeanette, D3-absent <b>*(present at 6:25 p.m.)</b>
Edward Adamowski, D1-present	David Knapp, D7-absent
Phillip Tripp, R2-present	Kevin Mott, D3-absent
Jerome Fainer, D4-absent	Scott Nihill, D6-absent
Charles Stowe, R2-present	Howard Madigosky, D5-present

President Sharkey declared no quorum, 7 present, 7 absent.

President Sharkey stated please show that we have 7 present, we do not have quorum. No official action can be taken, and was going to ask that the call of the meeting be taken but that cannot be done. Ms. Tara Kolakowski stated that Alderman Jeanette was on his way and that he was five minutes out. President Sharkey stated that when Alderman Jeanette arrives that will be accepted.

President Sharkey explained that the Board was there for a presentation from the consultant Richard Stoltz regarding the Economic Development Plan. The Board has it before them tonight

and he is also seeing it for the first time along with other members who are seeing it for the first time and agrees and wished everybody had it in their hands highlighting and asking questions, do everything that needs to be done with it because this is a very important document going forward. Mr. Stoltz is unable to make it anytime in July and we are here now. President Sharkey asked Mr. Stoltz to give a summary of the presentation and then it can be read and gone through by the Board.

At this time Mr. Stoltz came forward and gave a brief presentation on the Economic Development Plan. Mr. Stoltz explained that the purpose was to create an economic development plan to identify the businesses that would attract attention and identify how we could attract those businesses. There was very detailed analysis, we took the economic development and background as well as other towns similar to Ansonia and put all of that together to create this plan. Mr. Stoltz explained briefly about the executive summary. This Steering Committee who helped in putting this information together were Bart Flaherty, Tara Kolakowski, Charlie Stowe, John Marini, Vinnie Scarlatta and Kevin Blake. Inventory of businesses were taken and we categorized that into major categories to see how businesses were split in Ansonia. We determined what the market area was as well as real estate trends. We walked around the entire downtown and all of the industrial parks to see things first hand to identify problem areas and identify opportunities. We analyzed the demographic and economic factors for Ansonia. We looked at the market and the kind of things people spend money on or could spend money on in Ansonia to come up with conclusions and put all of that together to come up with a recommendation. This was with the input of the Steering Committee as well as the city administration. The things that were considered to be sustainable and practical for the town were furnishing stores, electronic an appliances store, toys and games, building materials and supply dealers, specialty food stores, clothing and shoe stores, restaurants, entertainment, and jewelry, luggage and leather goods stores, warehouse plus superstores, office and stationary gift stores, and pet supplies. **\*Alderman Jeanette entered the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Please note, 8-present and 6-absent at this time.** Mr. Stoltz also went through briefly the breakdown of the most likely, conservative, and aggressive scenarios. Mr. Stoltz also explained branding (City of Ansonia, Charging forward-The Future of Economic Development) and that it can appeal to businesses and can be used as parting of the marketing campaign for Ansonia. Mr. Stoltz continues with his presentation in informing the Board which ways would help in attracting business into town. He explained that this plan is a blue print of how change can be brought to Ansonia and the input of the Board is very important. Mr. Stoltz mentioned that he would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the plan.

President Sharkey stated that the plan sounded very attractive and it sounds like something that we need to do and wants to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to review the information and he understand that you (Mr. Stoltz) are not available in July, but early August

maybe we can schedule a special meeting in August and by that time we will have the Economic Development Director on Board, familiar with this plan, and all should direct several hours attention to this plan so that everybody's questions are answered and everyone can ask what they need to ask and go forward. I personally have no questions because I have not had a chance to review any of this. Mr. Stoltz understood. President Sharkey also mentioned that he wanted to be sure that all of the documents get to everyone.

Ms. Kolakowski stated that she would place copies in everyone box.

President Sharkey asked if anyone else had any comments.

Alderman Marini thanked Dick (Stoltz) for coming out and asked Mr. Stoltz where would he direct out attention first. Mr. Stoltz there are several different areas one, the executive summary and the other part would be the next steps, which the reports supports why they are there. Alderman Marini asked what would determine the speed that we take. Mr. Stoltz replied that there is a mostly likely and conservative which is a slower and less aggressive approach versus the aggressive scenario. The mostly likely scenario is the one that this most friendly and easily achievable.

Mayor James Della Volpe thanked Mr. Stoltz for coming down as well as the Steering Committee for all of the time they put into this and this is a document that we will be able to use as a tool in the future. I would also like to thank Johanna Figueroa who did the brand logo and I think it is great and it came out really well and it grabs your attention and shows Ansonia and what we are known for and what we can be in the future, I think it's great and it really stands out and I think a lot of people are going to grab a hold of that. So once again thanks to everybody.

President Sharkey stated that at this point because we do have a quorum, I'd like to go back and do some legal business. I'd like a motion to accept the call of the meeting.

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept the call of the meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.**

President Sharkey asked for a motion to accept this report.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to accept this report (Economic Development Plan); SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. Alderman Stowe asked that before the Board goes any further, he would like to thank Mr. Stoltz himself for coming. I apologize for the short notice. This plan is very intricate and complimented by the candidates for director for the City of Ansonia and I think it is very important for the Aldermen to go through this and again I apologize for this being hurried and that was not anyone's intention. There is a lot of information here I think this is going to be really good for the City and it is going to be helpful to our financial problems. It is going to be helpful in renewing our outlook of Main Street.

**Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.**

President Sharkey asked to make sure that all of the Aldermen who are not here get the documents so that we all have them and when Mr. Stoltz is available we will have him back and have questions for him.

Ms. Tara Kolakowski stated that on behalf of herself and the Steering Committee also, we worked with Mr. Stoltz and he was very accommodating to us. This process starting back in October/November, this was the Mayor's initiative, he put the group and the Steering Committee together. We spent a lot of our time together so everyone was committed to this project. We will be hiring a Director for Economic Development, about 45-48 resumes came in through and I think we have finally found our candidate after Tuesday. Finally seeing this come through after this hard work is good for the City and that is thanks to our Mayor and putting this team together and the Alderman as always supporting the Mayor and his initiatives.

Adjournment

President Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Alderman Marcinko MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0**

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lester  
Recording Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen