



**CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013**

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.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in honor and memory of all the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- present	Anthony DeLucia, D4 - absent
Peter Marcinko, D1 - present	Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Charles Stowe, R2 - present	Joan Radin, R5 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present	Scott Nihill, D6- present
Kevin Mott, D3- present	John Marini, R7 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3 - present	David Knapp, D7 - present
Jerome Fainer, D4 - present	Gene Sharkey, D6 - present

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

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

**Special Meeting of July 30, 2013
Regular Meeting of August 13, 2013
Special Meeting of August 14th**

SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Public Session

Pat Henri, 16 Harris Road

I'd like to make mention of the Bonding referendum. Until recently it's been my impression from what's been said in this Chamber that it was supposed to be a wash with a retiring of debt so we want to put this new bond on board. To back that up, at the May 6 Special Board of Aldermen meeting, the minutes aren't online for that by the way, President Sharkey mentioned that it was coming at an opportune time, ongoing debt retirement to reduce debt payments so that new debt won't require any new additional taxes. June 11th Public Hearing, Mayor Della Volpe said this is long term planning, we are looking at saving money. By the way, tomorrow will be three months ago to the day that the Public Hearing was canceled and it hasn't been held or rescheduled to my knowledge, I'm kind of curious about that. At the August 13th Board of Aldermen meeting, President Sharkey mentioned that we had the money to put away to do this. Board of Aldermen and Board of A&T are unanimous on this, our notes are decreasing and now is the time to do this. Recently, the September 3rd Board of A&T had a special meeting to talk about bonding referendum and Ed Norman said that the bond, and if I get this out of context please correct me that's fine, the bond will represent a significant tax increase to the citizens of Ansonia. Another member, Mr. Kohut stated, this is going to represent a large tax increase. Ed Norman, I believe, said, there is a project to have an oil tank removed, this should fall under day-to-day business. We will be paying more interest in the long run. I'm not picking on the oil tank thing at all - what caught my eye was paying more on the interest in the long run, as well as the other remarks, a large tax increase and a significant tax increase. So, I don't get the impression still that the Board of A&T and the Board of Aldermen are unanimous on this. It seems it has gone from "it's a wash" to "it's a significant tax increase." I don't know what the facts are; I'd like to get the facts. I'd appreciate if this Board would discuss this and fill us in if you have any developing information on where we stand on this so the voters know how to vote in November. Thank you.

Daniel Ventre, 228 North State Street

I moved there in 1965, I purchased the property in 1973. I've been there 40 years now. What I want to bring up is, on my warranty deed it lists that my property borders North State Street and Quarry Road. The City maps list Quarry Road. I am asking you to recognize this as a City road - not that I'm going to gain any monetary value out of it, but it would be a convenience. We have been paying to have the street plowed ourselves for all these years. Any time I've talked to anyone with the City they've said it's too small. If it can't be a road then it should have been taken off of the City maps; it should have been corrected if it's not a road.

Also, Quarry Road has a historic value being that it was a route bringing stone from the quarry down to build the Assumption Church many years ago. I was

told that perhaps you are not the Committee where this will be discussed, but I would like to throw it out to you guys and make you aware of it. I haven't contacted my Aldermen or anything, but I just wanted to say we would like to see some movement one way or the other. Some official document saying either it's gone or we're going to reconsider and make it a road. The City sewers come up that road, City water, gas line, and they were all installed by the City approved gas company and water company, many years ago. Thank you for listening.

President Sharkey stated, we will discuss that at 6 p.m. next Tuesday night, here. So all of the people involved with Quarry Road should be there.

Debbie Hanley, 70 Woodlawn Avenue

We have been complaining to the Mayor, to HUD, to the United States of America practically, because we, or the complex, is now getting a lot of the people from the project, because obviously we've got to put them somewhere and we don't have the project any more. So we called regarding how do we handle this, because when you ask HUD about people up there, they say, well that's not our problem. We get a problem; they say call the Police. The Police don't come because one lady called for a bottle of Ragu. She thought it was stolen. So the Police are not going to come and look for her Ragu. So I think that is part of the problem. The thing is, nobody knows what the other people are doing. It's a mess. We need to fix it because it's a scary mess because we've got people that are doing drugs. And they say well, if they're doing it in their house there's nothing we can do about it. They shouldn't be doing drugs anywhere where I'm living, that's the way I see it. Maybe you don't feel that way and maybe you wouldn't mind having drug dealer's apartment near yours, but I do. And I think there is work that Mr. Henderson is trying to get done but he can't get it done because it's like an act of God to get anything done up there. It is my understanding, and if I'm wrong please forgive me, that you deal directly with HUD as to the problems that exist, and in order to fix some of the material problems they have to have funding and they don't have enough funding from what my understanding has been. The other problem, we have people in there who break the rules over and over and over again, and they say, well, you can't get them out because he tells the court he's homeless. So instead of getting him out he moves in a woman and a child. This is craziness. I would appreciate your assistance if you can give us any, in helping. We are senior citizens. I don't want to try to go out from my house at night and go into my house and be afraid. I never was afraid to go into my house. I've been living at Monsignor Hyndes for 11 years. This last two years are the first two years I've ever felt this way. So if you can help me out I'd appreciate it. And if you can't I'll have to understand because they're always telling us up there, "this is public housing - if you want more than public housing you need to get a house of your own." If I could afford a house of my own I would have been out of there. I appreciate the help you can give if any. It's not fair for people to be scared in the place they live.

President Sharkey stated if you would make a list of your concerns and get them to us, please. You can leave it here in City Hall to my attention. We have seven Aldermen that are on the Ansonia Housing Authority Subcommittee. We do attend their meetings and they are in charge of the housing, not us. We would be glad to bring your concerns there. Things I've called and asked them to correct they have corrected them immediately. Let's see if we can work that way.

Ms. Hanley stated, Mr. Henderson has made great improvements. The yards look nice, he's got the housing down, but that doesn't change the fear factor.

President Sharkey stated, if you give us your list of concerns, we will take your concerns to the next meeting and see if we can make any changes.

Ms. Hanley stated, thank you.

Ed Musante, 21 Castle Lane

Suggestion - instead of putting a band-aid on top of a band-aid at the Police Station, use Farrell's as the new police station. You know, parking garage, first floor, second floor. It's a new building that building there. I went up there the other day, the railing is all loose there. You're going to put a lot of money in that building. You've got a brand new building up there.

Another thing. When these antique fire trucks go out, who picks up the tab on the fuel?

President Sharkey stated, they are individually owned by the fire companies.

Alderman Fainer stated, two of the trucks owned by the Charter Hose, we pay the fuel bills, we pay the insurance bills. The Websters own a truck that's in there. The Eagles have their parade wagon in there.

Mr. Musante continued, how come this year we had a private contractor come up and do some of our curbs? Last year the City did it.

President Sharkey stated, you'll have to ask Public Works that question. I don't think Public Works puts in asphalt curbing. You would have to address that to Public Works.

Mr. Musante stated, they did last year and they put them in last year on Castle Lane. I was right there watching them. Is Mr. Schryver here?

Mr. Schryver stated, we subbed out a lot of the curbing this year - with the storm we had last year we actually used 180 tons of asphalt this year. We have five people on the street department that actually do road work. For our guys to be out there it would have taken three, maybe four months to complete the

curbing, so we subbed some of it out this year. We got a great price and subbed it out.

David Casseti, 3 High Acres Road

By now everyone knows about Ansonia's tax trouble. This year we saw our mill rate increase from 27.64 to 39.34 mills leaving taxpayers staring at their home and vehicle tax bills in disbelief. Ansonia now shoulders one of the highest tax burdens in the Valley. Many residents have asked me why the tax rate increased by such a staggering amount. I have also been asked if the increase could have been prevented. My research and these questions indicate that the increased tax burden is tied directly to this administration's failure to prioritize Economic Development over the last 14 years. I must therefore conclude that Ansonia's tax trouble could have been avoided with different leadership in City Hall. Simply put, the tax rate increase is because Ansonia's business base is extraordinarily weak. When the recent revaluation exposed a \$3 million loss of value in commercial and residential properties, residential property owners were forced to pick up the slack and pay more for their fair share of taxes. Why is Ansonia's business base so weak? An independent report by consulting firm Bertram and Cochran sheds light on this question. The report dated January 15, 2013 and billed as a strategic economic development plan followed by the current status of Economic Development under this administration. There may have been more of a focus on Fair Housing issues rather than Economic Development. These are quotes from that report. A resounding theme that described the past few years is that Economic Development with the extent that it has occurred has happened by accident. The City's relationship with businesses is a difficult one. Ansonia's Boards and Commissions should work together more effectively to attract new business. Zoning has been identified as a stumbling block. Some areas needing fix up may be impeded by Zoning. Key sites like the Ansonia Copper and Brass still have an environmental cloud hanging over them. When a respected and objective source like Bertram and Cochran identifies City Hall as a stumbling block to Economic Development a wake up call is in order. This report was out in January and we have not yet had a public forum to address it. How can we solve the problems if we can't acknowledge them? I'm hoping by the end of this meeting a public forum could be scheduled. Thank you very much.

Alderman Fainer stated, Dave, that sounds exactly like the article you put in the Valley Gazette today. You sound like you're using this as a campaign platform.

Mr. Casseti stated, no.

Alderman Fainer stated, yes. You're reading the whole thing. It's the same letter you had in the Valley Gazette.

Mr. Casseti stated, when you get the minutes of the meeting, read it, and then read the statement in the Valley Gazette.

Alderman Nihill stated, I don't know if he had a question or he was just spouting off what he perceives to be facts and figures, but if the public is in wonderment - and you can sit down, Mr. Cassetti...

[multiple speakers - inaudible]

President Sharkey called for order, and thanked Mr. Cassetti for his comments. There is a way to handle this. You address it to me, and if it's out of order I put it out of order.

Alderman Nihill stated, I apologize, Mr. Cassetti, I didn't mean to insult you at all, but I don't want to get into a debate, I want to bring one point to the table to answer a question - I think it's a question - that you brought up, you quote that citizens are in wonderment of why the mill rate went up. I believe it's 8.92 mills of the increase are based just because of our revaluation that the City has to do every five years by State Statute. That is a good majority.

Alderman Tripp stated, in response to my good friend Mr. Nihill's question - there was a question that Mr. Cassetti had, and he intelligently prefaced his question with a little bit of background information for the edification of everybody here. His question basically was, why have we not had a public forum on the Economic Development report. That was his question. But he chose to intelligently preface the question before he asked it. I don't see anything wrong with that.

Alderman Stowe stated, I appreciate what the Mayor, our acting Mayor, has done to get this report out. Why haven't we had the presentation? I've been requesting that we have the presentation for months now and there's always been a reason why it hasn't been. I don't feel that hiding this from the public the way it was supposed to be presented is good for us. I do agree with recommendations in this report which said that we need to show unity here. I've been stating that since the Mayor was kind enough to put me on the Steering Committee, I've mentioned in this room about how we need to work together and we're not on this. It was recommended that there be a presentation as soon as it was done, with all the realtors, businesses, departments in the City. It was supposed to be cooperation between all those branches to say, because in the report there are subjects done correctly and things that haven't. It lists them. We were supposed to say, we've made mistakes in the past, we've made some good forward movement, and we're going to carry on with this report and clean up these mistakes. I'm starting to feel, me personally, that there are people that are embarrassed over this report and they don't want it to be put out to the presentation that was recommended. This report mentions the same problem with the City Center Plan. The City Center Plan was a good plan and it never got finished. I mean, what year was that? It's time to move forward. I have asked you, Mr. President, many times if we could revisit it because we almost didn't have quorum when Bertram and Cochran came here. We promised we were going to finish the bond and finish

the Charter Revision and we were going to revisit this so we could all have enough knowledge so that when the presentation happened, when our constituents from our Wards started asking, we would have the information. This has been delayed nine months. I think Mr. Cassetti has a right to ask why.

Alderman Radin stated, I have a point of order. I thought this was Public Session. It's not for us to discuss. I think as President you should have it stopped and you should ask if there is anyone else that would like to speak.

President Sharkey stated, it got out of order because one person decided to answer it. I think a lot of this has turned to the dark side as far as political statements. But now that we've opened this can of worms, and you have addressed why hasn't this meeting been had, and out of your mouth just now you said we were going to finish the bond area, we were going to finish the Charter Revision. We finished the Charter Revision last week and we finished the Bond last week. Now we can move forward with this. There is no one that held anything up; no one stopped anything. One of the statements he made there was, he said Economic Development is a mess. Well, Economic Development, I think, has been working hard. But it is your committee and your Commission. So if you didn't get to where you wanted to go, it's Economic Development, not the Board of Aldermen that held up Economic Development. And there will be no more.

Alderman Stowe loudly argued his right to continue the debate with President Sharkey. President Sharkey called for a point of order. The argument continued. Alderman Adamowski called for a point of order. President Sharkey continued the public session.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I grew up in Ansonia, I graduated from the Ansonia School System. Except for about 10 or 15 years, I lived in Ansonia, the last 40 years on Benz Street. I love Ansonia. The last several years we seem to be in a decline. Recently a few individuals appear to be trying to change the direction. I thank them. Much help is needed as there is much left to be done. We seem to have a government in Ansonia not operating efficiently or openly. Attempts by a few to correct this situation I hope come to fruition. Why is it only one department provides the public with a written report at the Board of Aldermen meetings of monthly activities? That report includes fees that are collected. I think all areas should be doing this. Why isn't adequate seating space available for the public provided at meetings? Public notice for public hearing on August 20th stated, "At said hearing all parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. If the public is restricted, the notice should so indicate." Mr. Sturges was permitted to speak for an extended period of time. I don't believe it was always on the main subject. Mr. Sturges and Mr. Norman evidently wanted to justify the Board of A&T's actions to increase our taxes, and to continue that procedure that was in place. In doing this, they seemed to be throwing the Mayor under the bus, putting all the blame on him. I don't know, maybe they're justified in doing

that. I think they have responsibility. Who is responsible for minutes and agendas and notices to be put onto the City website? As of 4 o'clock today, this date, the August 20th minutes still are not there. I think that the City that operates efficiently should be able to get minutes, agendas, and notices a little bit more timely.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview.

I was in favor of the bond until I read online in minutes that our taxes are going to go up significantly. Is that true? Can anyone answer that? Any response to it? Anyone?

President Sharkey stated, I could respond to that. The statement that I made that Mr. Henri alluded to was that, and I said it publicly, that the Board of A&T put away money to cover the cost of the bond this year. I told, at all our meetings, that we would have to find a way to cover the cost of what we're going to do for one year. Then all of our bonds that we have out there start to decline. They start to decline, I don't have the figures in front of me here, I had them that night. Within a couple of years we have more money declining than we have going forward. Meaning, I've been told if we do the full \$5 million bond the cost of it would be approximately I think \$300,000 a year. That is what I was told. I have to have the figure to be able to speak. I don't have them tonight. I was told the cost of approximately \$60-some-odd thousand a year per million to take a bond anticipation note at one percent. We have more than that money put away for this going forward next year. In probably 2015, we start reducing our bonds, I think it's by \$300,000. Within a couple years our bond is reduced in the range of about \$600,000. So the money going forward in the reduction is enough to pay for this that there would be no tax increase. That is what I was told. Now, I can find and get the information for you. That is what we were told. And based upon that, we voted unanimously to approve that bond. We would not approve the bond going forward, I don't think there's a member here that would have approved the bond if there was a significant cost going forward. Am I correct? We were told the money was available through those two methods for us to pay this going forward. Everybody is nodding their head here.

We were told it was not a tax increase. We were given those figures by the Finance Department. Those are the figures, and based upon that we went forward. I don't know where the comments about a significant tax increase from the Board of A&T came from. I am not responsible for any statement that's made in their meeting. Our figures and what we did, and we have support and we have everybody here telling all of their neighbors, their friends, their customers, every person is telling them to vote for the bond. That is what we're doing.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, did you see the minutes of the meeting where a board member said the taxes will be going up significantly.

President Sharkey stated, I have nothing to do with what is said in Board of A&T. Our figures were given to us by the Finance Department on the money that was put away, and also the reduction in the bonds going forward. That is what we based everything on.

Alderman Marini stated, can we talk to the representatives of the Board of A&T, and find out where this is coming from. I am troubled by it too. Obviously we wouldn't have voted for this if it was a significant tax increase. Now we have a member of Board of A&T saying it is. Let's get them in here and get them to explain their statement.

President Sharkey stated, we can get a report from them. Yes we will. I will get it out to every Alderman and there is nothing that we're hiding - it's all public - what we were given for figures. Tonight is the first I've heard that statement.

Mr. Plavnicky continued, also from what I understood from attending meetings that the question on the tax referendum had got switched after you guys voted on it unanimously, from question one to question who knows what number question it's going to be.

President Sharkey stated, no. At the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission they voted to have four questions. They moved one of the questions from number four to number one. They put it in their order of their questions. At that meeting they discussed that there would be the possibility of 10 questions on the ballot. They agreed that the bond questions would come first, #1 through #6, then the Charter Revision Commission questions #7 through #10.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, is Charter Revision Commission going to keep going on? I believe that commission should keep going.

President Sharkey stated, that was one of the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission. That was one of the things we accepted, and the Mayor appoints the Charter Revision Commission.

Lorie Vaccaro, 515 Beaver Street

I am on the Charter Revision Commission. I do not recall the Commission voting to put the four recommendations after the bond. That was my recollection.

President Sharkey stated, my recollection at the meeting and that's the way it was numbered. You people voted; we could find the minutes of your meeting but that's the impression we took.

Alderman Marini stated, the Charter Revision Commission, we didn't take any vote nor would we have any jurisdiction or power over the total ballot. But

what we voted on was the order of our own questions for the referendum issue as number one. But we have no power to vote on what the overall list is.

President Sharkey stated, the question was asked by Mr. Knapp at your meeting and said, we're going to have so many, what do we do, and it was at least in agreement I thought that it would follow the others. We voted as a Board of Aldermen to put the bond questions first.

Alderman Marini stated, I believe we had a discussion that we would like to have our questions come first but we were a little upset we didn't have any power over it. The least we could do was move our most important question first.

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

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

Thank God there are only 55 days left to the election.

First I would like to congratulate Chief Hale on becoming the President of the New England Chief's of Police Association. He is up there tonight being sworn in and inducted and we're very proud of the fact that he's the head of the New England Chiefs, and it's an honor that he's representing Ansonia.

I'd also like to thank Tom Card of Ford Motor Company. We sent them a letter several weeks ago regarding the condition of their property and they immediately took care of it and cleaned it up. Since then they've gotten an offer on the property - they have a proposal - they're in the process of negotiating and hopefully they'll have a closing by late November and there will be a business occupying out of Healey Ford by the beginning of December.

The strip mall on the West Side has been cleaned up due to our getting in touch with their owners who are out of New York. The other strip mall which is next to Sardo's will also be cleaned up. They're going to take the siding off, take the boards off the windows, put new windows in, and will be aggressively marketing with help of our new Economic Development Director. We expected Peter Kelly to be here tonight; I don't know what happened to him. He has been a great addition to the City. He's been going around meeting everybody, going to businesses. He's already been out to Copper and Brass talking to Ray McGhee. He's talked to James Burns at Farrell's. Tomorrow he'll be attending a meeting with me at the Council of Governments, and next week he'll be going with me to Hartford to visit Department of Economic and Community Development and the Commissioner and talk about the Scinto property. He has a proposal of what he's looking for. I've already sent him the tax incentives from Ansonia plus the Enterprise Corridor Zone incentives and we're trying to

see if the State would have any other monies to help Bob Scinto out with his proposal.

In regard to the Consultant's Report, I talked to Peter when he first came on board and Peter felt very uncomfortable coming right out with a presentation in regard to the report. He felt he needed more time. We felt it would be best doing it in October or November. There is nothing political behind it. He'll be working with whoever is Mayor after November 5th. Peter is very knowledgeable and very aggressive. He is very good at what he does. I think he'll have more of a grasp of what's going on within our City, who the players are, what the boards are, the make up of all the boards. I think it's not fair to him just to throw him out and say "here's the consultant's report, what do you think of it, what can you do with it"... That is what Peter and I have discussed. The Board may have other ideas or recommendations but that is where we are.

As far as the comment about Economic Development, I've worked with both parties in regards to Economic Development. Every time the opposing party has come up and asked to put somebody on, I've done that. I've worked extremely well. I've treated everybody with respect. I don't think I've ever jumped on anybody. I only care about the City of Ansonia. I said it before - I don't care who gets the credit as long as this City moves forward. I'll always stick by that. I don't care if I'm sitting in this seat, or Dave is in this seat. That's what's most important. We have to get it together, all of us. We've got to start working together and keep moving this City forward. I am breaking my hump every single day and I'm out there representing the City not only here, but throughout the State, telling everybody how good it is. I don't say anything negative about Ansonia. Everything is positive that comes out of my mouth. I wish you guys would do the same thing, because this is a great place to live, and you all chose to live here, and hopefully you'll stay here. Because I know I am staying here, even when I'm done here. If you want to discuss issues, Dave, we'll discuss issues. If you want to set a date and time, we'll have a nice debate, we'll do that. I have no problem with that. I respect you; I respect you for putting your name out there because it's not easy as you can see. You've got to take a lot of stuff. You hear a lot of stuff, but you take a lot also. We're here for this City and if we don't do we are going to be a failure. That's all I have to say.

Alderman Marini stated, your sentiments are correct. We need to work in the best interest of Ansonia. The consultant report I think is completely fair. I don't expect our Economic Development Director to be up to speed on things that other people have researched. But from my vantage point in working with the Economic Development Commission, is that report is intended not just to be direction for our new Director, but it was really intended as a way to pull the entire City together, recognizing what our shortcomings are as a City, not just our strengths. It outlines our strengths and we have very strong strengths in the City, we all know that. It also is a fair assessment of what our weaknesses are, and obviously if we're going to move forward we have to not only understand the strengths, we have to understand where we can do better. The

purpose of the report is to pull the public together, let them know what an independent source found about our City, and really tap into the real strength of the City which is not City Hall, it's the residents. That report needs to be put out to the residents, it needs to be held in a public forum to draw on their power, to draw on their strength. I understand completely where Peter can't speak fluently on a report that he didn't write, but I do think we need to have a date for this entire City, not only town hall, but our residents and our business owners to come together and learn from the consultant that drafted it the full picture, and we can move forward together.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, John, you're a representative of Economic Development. Why don't you set up a date and have a forum?

Alderman Marini stated, we tried to do just that Mr. Mayor. We have proposed dates several times. I'd be happy to pick another date.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, then you should, and everybody should move forward with it.

Alderman Marini stated, it's a little déjà vu but I'd like to pick a date in late September.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, that's fine.

Alderman Stowe stated, I want to make clear, because I am a very emotional person sometimes. I'm very emotional about this issue because I know what this issue involves. I want everybody that's on this Board and everybody over here to know that I respect all of you. But that being said, this report has nothing to do with the Director presenting it. This was supposed to be presented by the person who engineered it. We would have already had, all our departments would have already known what was going on with this. We would have already been working on our frailties and we're not. That is upsetting to me. It's not directed at any individual. I thought this should have been handled months ago. There are a lot of things that we could have been working on. It mentions in here about getting good press. It mentions in here about having our realtors out looking for people to buy our properties here. It mentions land use descriptions by our Zoning Department. This isn't something we needed our Director in place for. This is not political for me. The only thing that makes it political is when it doesn't get done. Then I start getting upset in this meeting, which many of you guys have seen me, many times, do this. It's not directed at the individuals; I want to see this go forward. I care about the City of Ansonia. I think that we do so much to help our citizens. I am afraid for a lot of the people that live in this town and you guys know it too. There are people here that can't afford to pay any more. We have issues with our school system. This all dovetails together. We failed, in my opinion, we have let at least six months go by that we should have been in depth with this. Peter Kelly, I was on that steering committee and thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I would not have voted on him being hired if I didn't think he was able to do the job. He is

able to do the job. He is ready to start running and this report should have been done long before he got here because he knows what to do. He is doing it. This report was more for us, the Aldermen; for Public Works. Bond, you saw how livid I was about the bonding in here. There is issue after issue in here about things that could have been bonded and we didn't even touch them. The sidewalks. Just on and on and we didn't even touch them. Is it because nobody knew about it or was there another reason for ignoring it? I have questions about that. It feels like it's partisan. I don't want to believe it's partisan so I want to try to apply some pressure to try to get this thing moving to help our taxpayers to be able to do good things again in this City. For maybe young people to be able to walk down a hill like I saw when I was a young man and go have a job where they could actually pay their bills. You know there was an ad on the radio, and I'm going to leave it at this, 600 people came to put a resume in for a pizza chef. Six hundred. I want to see us do something here.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I have one other issue to address. I went to Hartford today to meet with HUD representatives from Boston and Hartford, along with the Housing Commissioner from the State of Connecticut, and also Senator Murphy's and Rosa Delauro's staff. We had a very healthy discussion regarding us acquiring the open space at Olson Drive. We're continuing to have some talks; we made some progress. We left it that Rosa DeLauro's staff along with Senator Murphy's staff were going to meet with the State and HUD and then get back to the City in regard to what we're looking for. I emphatically said we are still looking for open space on the south side of High Street due to the fact that there's so much density on the West Side of town. I just wanted to make sure that everybody knew that. We're going to have another meeting, probably in October.

President Sharkey thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

You have two matters in Executive Session.

Today we placarded a house on Columbia Street utilizing the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance that the Board adopted recently.

We had a couple of companies on the RFP on the Ground Lease Tower up on Wakelee Avenue. We have a meeting September 17th to address the two proposals.

We checked on the Bond and the Charter questions with the great assistance of our Town and City Clerk - those are up at the Secretary of State's Office and they will be on the ballot in November.

Alderman Fainer stated, last year or the year before we had the issue with the lanes up at Eagle Hose and we ended up paying for an accident again. The lines are reappearing. Can you get something done with that?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, yes, I worked with the Police Department and Traffic Commission on it.

Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

You have my monthly report. I'm here if you have any questions. There is one resolution on the agenda this evening for some verbiage in fourth dispatcher position at the Ansonia Police Department; that was requested by Chief Hale. It's the simple addition of adding days to the job description.

Lieutenant Wayne Williams, Ansonia Police Department

First off, I will take another look at that North Main by Eagle Hose. I can tell you that we paint our lines in the City once a year, we go out and do crosswalks, they were just recently done. I would really like to know what they used to put down those arrows up there because for six years we've been trying to get them up and we can't get those up, but everything else seems to wear out.

As you're aware the Chief can't be here tonight because he is being sworn in as President of the New England Chiefs of Police.

He wanted me to make sure you are aware that the schools are back in session for all those happy parents. We have increased our security presence at the schools as we worked out with the Board of Education and we are maintaining that. We are also waiting for news on the grant that was submitted for School Resource Officers. Instead of having our Patrol Officers we're trying to get School Resource Officers to try and manage those jobs.

Regarding Personnel - we have come before you with hiring. Our process takes about a year from the time that we go out until the time the person is hired, attends the Academy, and is on their own. We have one officer coming off of Field Training in two weeks, and we have three in the Academy that will graduate toward the end of the year. That will bring us up to our full staffing barring any retirements.

We've been working with Public Works and Marlin Controls on traffic signal issues. Some were out or malfunctioning, a couple due to storms. Marlin Controls is about finished doing a no-cost survey of all of our traffic boxes in town so they can tell us what their concerns are and what upgrades are needed.

Alderman Radin stated, I had a discussion with a resident on Wakelee Avenue and they said the cars are parking on both sides of the street down by Molto Bene's on Friday and Saturdays. It's kind of a mess because they're parking on both sides past where you pull into their driveway. They don't see any Police cars come up that way and they said it's a dangerous situation when they have

their parties on Fridays and Saturdays. Where would we go to find out about getting some no parking signs especially where the entrance is onto Route 8.

Lt. Williams stated, I can tell you that in my years being here I've never seen it as crowded as it gets now. Good for them; it's good business and they're doing a great job up there. I will tell you we have addressed some of the parking issues up there. They are using their whole lot, they are using the Little League lot and I've actually seen people now walking from the main lot at Nolan Field, which is a long way to walk to get a burger or steak. We have noticed the parking issues, our Officers have taken some action there. I can address the No Parking signs with the Board of Police Commissioners, and we can contact the business and let them know. They're also using the off-ramp, which was taken care of quite quickly.

Alderman Nihill stated, while we're on the parking, I know you guys try to address it but the store at the bottom of Hill Street, there is a clearly posted No Parking sign that is constantly being violated. I respect the gentleman there is trying to run a business but the fact is, it is a dangerous intersection. When cars are parked in front of the store there is not a lot of room there. The line of sight issue trying to pull out from Hill Street to make a left onto Root Avenue, now you're out over the double yellow line into the other lane so if somebody comes around the corner wide it's an accident, especially in the morning with the school buses.

Lt. Williams stated, okay, I know they've been addressing it on the other shifts. I'll tell the day shift supervisors.

Alderman Nihill continued, secondly, we had a person here that shared some concerns over at the elderly housing on Woodlawn Avenue. I know we have a fine officer who has a good program in the City with Neighborhood Watch - maybe he could contact the residents there and schedule a meeting. Maybe they could address some of their concerns. Maybe they could start their own Neighborhood Watch up there and alleviate some of their concerns.

Lt. Williams stated, there is already one there. I know he has spoken to the residents there. Officer Esposito and Chief Hale addressed it.

Mrs. Hanley stated, you know, it's mostly seniors and they don't come to the meetings, so it doesn't really help us.

Alderman Knapp stated, I wanted to personally thank the Chief and congratulate him on his recent appointment. I also get calls constantly about that intersection that Scott talked about. It's an accident waiting to happen - a disaster down at the bottom of Hill Street. Something's got to be done. I don't think a No Parking sign is going to do the trick.

Alderman Tripp stated, I would like to thank the two ladies for coming in tonight and giving voice to something that I have a concern with. We do have

senior citizen housing. It is for some very special people in my opinion. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for seniors. They're very special to me, and how senior housing is set up for them. I'm not an expert on HUD housing and urban development. The federal government's got enough books and laws to fill up the Library of Congress. But somewhere in all those laws, once you receive federal money for federal housing it's open to everyone. You also have the Americans With Disabilities Act, you get some people coming in there that have disabilities. Once in a while these individuals turn out to be problematic and it's very troubling to me that when you have some very nice civil senior citizens that get along very well with each other, and all of a sudden a problematic individual moves in with them. I think every time I've spoken with the Police they've been very responsive and I have a great deal of respect and admiration for our Police Department, but yes, if you could just put fresh eyes on this situation so that a few problematic individuals cannot ruin the living experience for our very special senior citizens.

President Sharkey stated, I agree with you and I think the way to handle this is through the Housing Authority. If all of us do put our pressure on them at their meeting I think we might be able to get some changes made. If they don't want to listen to the residents themselves maybe they'll listen to seven Aldermen when we come there. I agree. That's why I asked your concerns Ms. Hanley, if you list them out, we will take them.

Alderman Fainer stated, at the end of Rufus and Cedar, cars come down Rufus Street and there's a Stop sign, then they turn right to go toward Pine Lot. Well you might as well take the sign down because nobody stops there. So if you could put an officer over there between 4 and 5. If you put an officer actually around the corner, almost to Pine Lot. You come down Rufus, and Mathis Street Extension and Rufus Street Extension, if you put an officer down there where they can't see him when they come down. Nobody stops there and they just come flying down, especially around 4 and 5 o'clock at night. They don't even slow down. If you give out a couple tickets they start thinking. Once before I asked for this and they put an officer there at 10 a.m. Well nobody comes around at 10 a.m.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

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

ARMS Committee - Alderman Scott Nihill

Alderman Nihill reported, the ARMS Committee report, unfortunately, I left at home and I don't have the exact figures. They were busy this past month. We've only passed two second calls and four third calls and that was due

mainly to only having one ambulance in service at the time of the calls that came in simultaneously.

Our new ambulance equipment is in and should be on the road shortly. It's just a couple little glitches when we went through inspection. The manufacturer is correcting them.

Alderman Fainer stated, we hired a new collection agency over there. Has the percentage of collections gone up?

Alderman Nihill replied, our collections are significantly up. I don't want to be quoted on the exact number but I believe it was close to \$56,000 this past month we collected. The percentages of the rates we're collecting are better.

At our commission meeting we sent a request to Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to go into negotiations with the same firm as the Tax Office is using as far as trying to collect people, after our regular billing company sends them the bills and they don't respond, we want to turn it over to the same firm. They met and it seems the tax office is really happy with that company. We're going to try to utilize the same company.

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

Ansonia Housing Authority Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

Alderman Radin and I have been going to the Housing Authority meetings. WE have a new board there and they're in the process of hiring a new director over there. I think HUD is the biggest issue they have over there. They don't want to give the board information; they're not working with us, they're working against our Housing Authority board in my opinion.

Alderman Radin stated, I was speaking with the acting director and I asked her if we could please have a packet, because we couldn't understand any of the billing, whatever they were talking about. We had nothing to look at, to see what they were talking about. She said they'd try and get something to us before the meeting so we could be on the same page.

President Sharkey stated, Mr. Norman asked for an updated list of the members that I added there. Town and City Clerk is going to provide him, I sent a copy, but they also have all of our e-mail addresses so we can be e-mailed all of the information that they get before the meeting. They will now send us that information.

Alderman Tripp stated, I concur with Alderman Fainer and I just hope when we find a new Ansonia Housing Authority director they think with the best interests of the City of Ansonia first and not necessarily the perpetuation of public housing as an institution. I think a lot of them are more concerned with

the institution of public housing. Maybe we can get that changed a little bit. Holistically for the entire city I think it will be better.

President Sharkey stated, I agree with you.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I have a question for our grant writer. Did you get the information back from FEMA yet for the snowstorm?

Ms. Krugel stated, I compiled the information and provided it to FEMA. Within the report I have totals in there prior to them making any cuts or changes or additions. But I do have all the information FEMA has requested from us.

Alderman Adamowski asked Ms. Krugel to provide him with the figures.

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

I think we heard a lot about Economic Development already. However, I know the Mayor said he does support scheduling a date and we spent \$25,000 not only to get a consultant report but also to get Dick Stoltz to sort of explain it to the whole City in the hopes of unifying all of us behind the task ahead. I'm looking at my calendar, maybe the last week of September, second to last week of September, the Board's pleasure but I think it's important to pick a date. We have to make sure Dick Stoltz is available to do it, and we need enough time to get notice out to the stakeholders of the City - from members of City Hall, residents, and business owners to be there.

President Sharkey stated, let's get together and find one. I would stay away from Tuesday, September 17th and I'll explain later in the meeting.

Alderman Marini stated, even the beginning of October would be good. It's something the Economic Development wants to see this project through to the conclusion. It would be good to wrap it up.

Alderman Fainer stated, and could you maybe choose a different venue for it than here so we don't have people standing out in the hallway?

Alderman Marini stated, we could even use the High School.

President Sharkey stated, it would be better to have it as a meeting of the Economic Development Commission but invite all of us and all departments to be there.

Alderman Marini stated, the main thing is that we all find a consensus, that we're all on the same page. We could have Economic Development schedule it.

President Sharkey stated, yes, rather than us running a meeting on a report that you people are more familiar with. Right now I would say I'll send out an e-mail to everybody involved and see if Thursday the 26th at 7 p.m. is available,

we need to see if the high school is available, need to do a bit of work beforehand.

Alderman Marini stated, and use the first Thursday of October as a backup.

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

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Tax Collector's Report and Request for Refunds

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the Tax Collector's report; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to pay the refunds in the amount of \$2,257.76 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Claims

9-13-815 Alisha Becker

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to refer the claim to Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Communications

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Communication #1

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Transfer Station Demo Bid

Alderman Fainer MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works, to award the bid for the demolition of the Ansonia Transfer Station to Bestech, Inc. of Ellington, Connecticut; SECONDED by Alderman Mott.

Discussion:

The bids requested pricing for partial and full demolition. They are talking full

demolition in this bid award. They picked Bestech. Bestech was not the lowest bidder for full demolition; however the lowest bidder was not chosen to be the most responsible bidder. There were many red flags that came up. They were red-flagged by the Better Business Bureau. It was recommended that we don't go there.

In response to questions by the Aldermen, Mr. Schryver explained, the job will start immediately with permitting, and it's a 90-day job. The public will be accommodated. We will take the trash from your curbside directly to the burn plant, reducing about 68 percent of our trash load down there. Our local contractors and residents coming down on Saturdays will be able to get rid of their recyclables and trash.

President Sharkey explained that the building, as far as the demolition and scheduling is to be handled by the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works legally went out to bid for the work. They publicly posted it, and it's done, start date and all.

Alderman Knapp expressed his discouragement and frustration as Chairman of the Aldermanic Public Works Committee to have been left out of this process after spending countless hours going through everything.

President Sharkey stated, there is a Board of Police Commissioners. We have members of this Board that sit on a Police Committee. But the Police Commission hires people and promotes them and does the things that they do. While we can have input and attend their meetings, they do have their Commission. There is a Board of Public Works and they felt that this fell under their jurisdiction.

Alderman Stowe stated that he would like Mr. Finnucan to send us a letter to let him know how this decision was reached. Why didn't this end up going to the Aldermanic Public Works Committee for review of how it was going to be done, when it was going to be done, how long it was going to take for completion and the design of how that place was going to operate while under construction. Why weren't we involved with all of this.

President Sharkey stated, the rebuilding of it comes under an insurance check and somehow I think we were in charge of that. We hired the engineer to do it, we've had our meetings, approved it, overlooked it, but we can ask them to tell us how and why and so forth. We still need to approve the demolition.

Mr. Schryver stated, I wish to assure this board that the Board of Public Works is not trying to overstep its bounds by any means. I consulted with Corporation Counsel Blake as to who should approve the bid and he felt that Public Works should. We approved it first. You have the final say. We did our homework and now we're passing it along to you for final approval.

Alderman Marini stated, I don't think we should step on the toes of Public

Works but we should have updates. If we knew of this development we could just be apprised of the situation so we wouldn't reach a point where we're surprised.

Mr. Schryver stated, we thought this Board understood the big picture - where we were going with the demolition, on to a recyclable facility, and things like that. We were trying to handle the day-to-day operations with the consultant. Going through with the consultant and you would have the final say on it.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake stated, under the Charter, the Board of Public Works has control over the buildings. With respect to this project, it went out to bid. With the advice of the consultant, UIC, they recommended that it was in the best interest of the City not to go to the lowest bidder, but to go to the next bidder. There should have been a letter explaining the reasoning.

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

Communication #2

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Worker's Compensation matter of Leslie Jamison

To be discussed in Executive Session,

Communication #3

From: Chief Kevin Hale

Re: Revision to Job Description - Dispatcher

Alderman Madigosky MOVED, per the recommendation of Police Chief Kevin Hale and the Personnel and Salaries Committee to revise the job description of the 4th Dispatcher, Police Department; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko.

Alderman Adamowski the Salary Committee met tonight. The revision added weekends, nights and days where only days was included prior. We voted to pass this on to the full Board to be accepted. It was noted that there is already a 4th Dispatcher in place, and no funding is required to effectuate this job description change.

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

Resignation

Alderman Marcinko MOVED to accept the resignation of Laura Gagnon from the Zoning Board of Appeals and send her a letter of thanks for her many years of service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Appointment

Alderman Tripp MOVED to appoint George Curtis to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Gagnon replacement, term to expire 12-31-2013; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Resolutions

[The full text of the following Resolutions is on file in the Office of the City/Town Clerk, Ansonia City Hall, 253 Main Street, Ansonia CT 06401]

Unfinished Business**COMMENTS FROM 9/3/13 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BOND**

President Sharkey stated, at the Public Hearing on the Bond on September 3, 2013, of which I have a rough copy of the minutes, we had people speak out on several issues, one of which was a young lady named Valeria Wells of 70 Platt Street. One of the statements made was, "The Chief of Police has personally come to our house and told neighbors that the City is going to buy the homes ..." and that she had to move out within a certain period of time. The discussion went back and forth as to how many pieces of property were there. It went on to say that the Chief of Police told them that they had to move out. She was requesting, would the City help to relocate the tenants.

Chief Hale wasn't able to be here tonight, but he did send me an E-mail. He wrote, "It is my understanding that at a public hearing in front of the Board of Aldermen last week, a woman accused me of speaking to her and other residents of Platt Street concerning the City's potential purchase of property on that street. She indicated that I told the residents they had to move out within a certain amount of time as the City was buying their homes. I have not spoken with any of the residents of Platt Street concerning this issue. This accusation is a complete fabrication. Chief Hale."

The reason he is not here, we know where he is, in Rhode Island right now, tonight. I wanted to bring it forth to your attention that it was untrue.

Alderman Tripp stated, I would like to state publicly that I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Chief Hale, I support him in 99 percent of what he does, and if that's what he says, I believe him. I have no doubt of the veracity of his statement. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Sharkey stated, it even got to the next person, it was someone who visited her all the time, a Mr. Brian Moles of 47 Fifth Street says, "I was there when the Chief of Police told them this, I am a witness to what he said."

Chief Hale states he wasn't there; he never did this. This is very surprising to me and very upsetting. I say that no because of who it is, but the person is a candidate for Board of Aldermen. That is not a political statement. But to come to this meeting and say the Chief of Police said something and he said he was never there. The Chief said he will address that at the October meeting when he's back.

Alderman Fainer stated, I concur with Alderman Tripp. Kevin Hale is tonight being appointed as President of the New England Police Chiefs Association. They don't just give that to anybody. Kevin is a man of his word. I've know him for years. If he said he didn't say it, I have to agree with him, 1,000 percent.

Alderman Stowe stated, I talked to this person about this. I suggested to them that if they did hear, because I too believe there was a mistake made here. I stated to this person that if anybody did say something like that to them again that they need to ask their name, who they were, if it's a policeman what rank and whatever, so they wouldn't do this again. You can't just say it's the Chief just because they have a shiny badge. It's slander when you do something like that.

President Sharkey stated, absolutely. He was quite upset over that. For someone to say the Chief of Police did something, I find that unbelievable.

Alderman Marcinko stated, I'm glad the Chief was able to respond to the accusation. I found it odd whether it was him or any other Police Officer. If they did go down there and start addressing the people, it's out of their character.

Alderman Adamowski stated, you said this person is a candidate for Alderman?

President Sharkey replied, yes. I didn't know that at the time. The person came, gave their name and made that statement. The person right after them said they were with them, that they visit that person. The questions went back and forth were we, as the Board of Aldermen, going to find them housing. All I'm saying is, yes, upset over it.

STATUS OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTER FACILITY

Alderman Marini stated, as intriguing as I find this conversation, another item of unfinished business, in order to prevent future surprises, we want to nip them in the bud. What is the progress with the anaerobic digester facility? I know we made a big deal about it about two years ago. My understanding is a lobbyist has been hired by the City; we're paying the lobbyist on a monthly basis. Where do we stand with that?

President Sharkey replied, I have no idea.

Mayor Della Volpe explained, it's at DEEP awaiting State approval. Everything was sent up there and they are investigating and looking at it, researching. Unfortunately sometimes, you know how the State works. That's where it is.

Alderman Marini stated, we haven't heard an update from our lobbyist; I don't think he's ever come before this Board. How much are we paying our lobbyist?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, that I couldn't answer. He was hired by the WPCA. It's a separate entity.

Alderman Marini stated, he is technically under the awning of the City so we need details about that.

SPECIAL ALDERMANIC MEETING TO AWARD BID FOR BOILER AT P.D.

President Sharkey stated, I'd like to set a Special Meeting date of Tuesday, September 17th at 7 p.m. The Police Department boiler went out to bid. There was a mandatory walkthrough that everybody will have to go through. I sent an E-mail update on that. It was very well attended. That bodes very well for the City. The Bids will be opened 1 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Very soon afterward we need to pick a contractor from the ones that submit. However, as soon as I get the figure of what the lowest responsible bidder is on Thursday, I will submit a request to the Board of A&T for Monday night for them to allocate the money as we were told from the reserve fund and then Tuesday I would like to have a discussion with the members of the Board of Aldermen and we need to award a Bid. Every contractor said they could start immediately but it moved the completion date from November 1st to November 15th. It's due diligence in getting this done.

CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST RESULTS

Alderman Radin stated, I would like to pass these out to the Board of Aldermen. I don't know how many of them saw it in the paper on August 14th, but it's a listing of the Connecticut Mastery Test results from Grades 3-8. If you look across at Ansonia, it's kind of discouraging. In Grade 7, the Ansonia students on Math were 50.8. By the time they got to Grade 8, they were 35.3. We are third from the bottom. Derby and Bridgeport are below us. I think it's disgusting. I don't understand it. I do believe we should have the Superintendent of Schools here, whoever might be able to discuss this with us. It upset me a lot to think that our children are in Grade 8 and they're only 35.3 percent in Math. That is terrible; we've got to do something about it. Every year we're giving them more money. I don't see an improvement from Grade 3 to Grade 8. These children by 8th Grade should be a lot higher than 35 percent on their Math. All your life you use math. I am 80 years old and I'm a pharmacist and I use math every day. Everybody else does too, when they go to the grocery store, when they go anywhere. Why are these children so far behind in all of the things? Look at each of the categories, the Math, Reading, and Writing. I get the paper every day. I see items like this and it really makes me very upset.

I know we're talking about Economic Development but our children are twice as important as Economic Development right now when you see results of tests like that. They are absolutely disgusting. I think we need the Superintendent or whoever we can talk to and have them explain why. They start teaching to the test in September, the kids can pass the test but they can't do anything after it. They come in to my store and they can't even count their change. How much do I have, how many can I buy with this? They don't like to come to me because I make them do it themselves. I am requesting that she or whoever can come here and explain it to us. We are the Board of Aldermen and we're handing out money to the Board of Education. We don't know what they do with it because we don't get a report. We don't see our children improving. I feel sorry for these children that they can't read and they can't write and they can't do simple math.

Alderman Stowe stated, there has been talk with Mayor and at Ward meetings. Mr. Knapp and I talked about having a temporary Committee with Aldermen and Board of Education members because I believe if this situation isn't discussed and remedied, it will affect us in the future with Economic Development. We need to work together to find a solution. Form like a task force to try to take care of this. It's more than money. In their defense I believe their hands are tied in many areas. They have to follow State guidelines and it handcuffs them from being able to provide for our children. I know the Board of Education feels abandoned a lot of times by us. We need to put out an olive leaf out to be able to work together. As departments of the City if we fight with each other we're not going to have successful Economic Development.

Alderman Marini stated, there was a task force formed for a district improvement plan. We should have a copy of that plan in front of us. We were all invited to participate in the improvement plan. I remember going to the sessions. They are aware of the deficiencies and there is a plan in place that they hope will improve the deficiencies. Going forward we need to make sure that plan is in front of us. Maybe we should start off by asking them to share that plan with us so we can get an idea of what their answers to the problems are. I know they have addressed the situation.

New Business

SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Alderman Knapp stated, signs. When an individual wants to put a sign up on public property, who does that individual go to? The building department, the Mayor, Public Works... I went down to the Riverwalk and there is a big huge sign sitting there. I thought, who gave that individual permission to put that sign there?

President Sharkey stated, those aren't supposed to be on public property at all.

Even political signs are not supposed to be on public property. I know Public Works has had a directive for years that if they end up on public property they take them and give them back. The State does the same thing. Those for the public good they have not removed, like our Farmer's Market.

Mr. Schryver stated, that should have been taken down today. Typically we allow our churches, school enrollment, farmer's market. They take them down very quickly. Donna Lindgren with enrollment at her school. If we see the karate class or Seymour Day, we bring them to Seymour Public Works.

Alderman Knapp stated, I think we need some kind of procedure - where does an individual or group go.

President Sharkey stated, the Land Use Committee could look into that and try and draft something.

Mr. Schryver stated, the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Alderman Marini stated, I think we need a sheet that says what's allowed, what's not allowed, and any grey area could come back to us. That way you go to the Town Clerk, ask for permission, look at the list, if it's a church or City initiative it's okay, but if not they have to ask permission.

FILING OF MINUTES AND REPORTS; CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENTS OF A&T MEMBERS

Alderman Tripp stated, unfortunately he left. I would like to thank Michael Egan for coming in tonight and giving his independent point of view. There were a few things he brought up which I found very interesting. The minutes being posted online. I don't mean to upset the congenial working atmosphere in Ansonia City Hall but maybe if the minutes could be posted online within two weeks I think that would be fair. The reports, the Treasurer's report. And through the President of the Board of Aldermen I would request that we ask Mr. Sturges, the Chairman of the Board of A&T, to clarify some of the statements that Mr. Ed Norman made about our taxes going up. I'm sure the Aldermen here would like some kind of clarification on that. I look at Mr. Sturges as being the subject matter expert on that, especially with all things Board of A&T. Maybe he could respond?

President Sharkey stated, we will request something of him to explain it again, and also Mr. Bshara, where it stands on the declining bonds. As soon as I get something I will E-mail it out to everybody.

Alderman Knapp asked, whose job is it to post the minutes on the website?

President Sharkey stated, our Grant Writer has been doing it out of the goodness of her heart but I don't think that's anywhere near her job description.

Alderman Tripp stated, I understand that it takes effort but I am befuddled that whenever we come up with something the first response is, "we have to hire somebody." I work in the private sector and I talk to people in the private sector all day long and the trend now is, if somebody quits, retires or is fired, guess what Phil, not only are you doing your job but because we just fired Charlie you're doing his job too. That is my world in the private sector. Every time this Board of Aldermen talks about doing a little extra work the first thing out of people's mouths is, we have to hire somebody. I am not comfortable with that. I don't think the taxpayers would be comfortable with that either.

Ms. Krugel stated, when I get the minutes I post them within 24 hours. I don't always get the minutes. It's not that there's a delay because there's nobody officially appointed to do the website. I do my best. It's a responsibility I take seriously and it's something we should be proud of. I don't get all the minutes. That's not something I keep track of and demand that of them. That's not my position. I do what people give me.

Alderman Marini stated, I think we need to shift the burden at the recording secretaries. Recording secretaries are making the minutes. We should have a tighter restriction on when the minutes need to be in by.

President Sharkey stated, we have had an enormous amount of meetings, I just want to say. We've asked the Secretary to come. We haven't even paid her for the meetings. Let's just hold on a little bit.

Ms. Kolakowski stated, we have actually started a project where we asked every Board secretary to give their duties and responsibilities, what they do for every Board. There is basically a three-tier system. You have Board of Aldermen who, Trish is here for three, four, sometimes five hours, and then has to go and transcribe everything out. Then you have another Board that has a meeting for a half-hour. It takes them an hour to type up and get their minutes done. We're in the process of having every Board secretary and all their job responsibilities reviewed so that we can come up with a process that serves your purpose, the purpose here for the Board of Aldermen that they get them in, they e-mail them in and where this Board wants them to go. Do they want them to go the Town and City Clerk's Office via E-mail so it makes it easier for Eileen to put them on the website? That would make it a lot easier if they came in directly to the Town and City Clerk's Office. It's already E-filed so they can just pop it on. It's easier than having the Secretary walk it in and say, "here's five pages, hard copy." Well now it has to be scanned and you need that equipment. Now there's the technology, you type it on a computer, you e-mail it to the Town and City Clerk. They print it off and stamp it. It's E-mailed to Eileen to put it on the website and it's online fast. We are in the process of making that happen, John.

Alderman Marini stated, if there is a worry about over-burdening the recording secretaries, maybe it makes sense to make a rule that you could only be a

recording secretary for one or two boards and commissions. That will leave a lot of spots for people that need a little extra money in the City.

Ms. Kolakowski stated, you'd be surprised at how hard it is to find volunteer members to serve on boards, it's difficult to find someone, to your example, who wants to pick up some extra money once a month or twice a month. It's a nice salary to be a board secretary, depending on the board. That's where we're trying to be fair and equitable compared to the duties and responsibilities, actually how much time they put in. We are working on it; it's a project.

Alderman Nihill stated, I'd like to take this time out, we never really thank her. I really appreciate the job our recording secretary does. She is very efficient and she's here. She never shirks her duties and she usually has the minutes done in a timely manner. I personally as a member of this board for almost 12 years want to thank her because I think she does an excellent job.

President Sharkey stated, I'll tell you; the last month or two have been extremely difficult. We all agree. It's not over yet. We're requesting another meeting next week, and committee meetings and so forth. There have been 14 meetings since June.

POLICE CHIEF KEVIN HALE

Alderman Nihill stated, talking about the Chief Hale issue, I want to concur with your thoughts. I think highly and being involved in law enforcement for over 20 years our Chief is very highly regarded throughout the State. I take him as a man of honor and a man of his word. I'm glad that he cleared the air. Being involved in law enforcement you get people, for whatever reason, that make these allegations or mistakes or however you want to look at what this person said.

President Sharkey stated, if anybody wants a copy of his statement to me I will forward it. I know he has spoken with you directly, Alderman Tripp.

Alderman Tripp stated, that is correct. Like I said, there is nobody in the City that I trust or respect more than Chief Hale. For my own personal information if I could have that I would appreciate it.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I would also like it.

Executive Session

At approximately 8:55 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Worker's Compensation Matter of Leslie Jamison
2. 24 North Prospect Street

And invited the following to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers: Mayor Della Volpe, Tax Collector Tammy Blackwell, Acting Human Resource Director Tara Kolakowski, and Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake.

SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 9:08 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

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

24 North Prospect Street

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Worker's Compensation Matter of Leslie Jamison

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel Blake and authorize him to enter into negotiations for settlement; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen