



# CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN Regular Meeting – August 13, 2013

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## *Call to Order*

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7:10 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  
Peter Marcinko, D1 - present  
Charles Stowe, R2 - present  
Philip Tripp, R2 - present  
Kevin Mott, D3- present  
Joseph Jeanette, D3 - present  
Jerome Fainer, D4 - absent

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

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

## *Moment of Silence*

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the victims of the plane crash in East Haven, Connecticut.

## *Consideration of Previous Minutes*

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:**

**Special Meeting of July 9, 2013  
Special Meeting of July 16, 2013  
Regular Meeting of July 9, 2013**

**and place them on file, with the following correction:**

Regular meeting of July 9, 2013, let the record show that Alderman Stowe was present.

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

### **Public Session**

#### Robert Turschmann, 40 Hotchkiss Terrace

I have lived here for 40 years. I have come before this Board to seek relief for a problem we have on Hotchkiss Terrace with a curb cut, which is 10 feet wide and 65 feet in the City of Ansonia. It goes to three houses that are located in Seymour. [Mr. Turschmann passed out a packet to each Board member depicting the driveway].

Look at the shaded area, the sign says Hotchkiss Terrace Drive, Seymour. Up at that 3-acre area there are three houses in the Town of Seymour. The driveway is 65 feet long and 10 feet wide, and that is in the City of Ansonia.

Go to the next page. This is what the driveway looks like at this point in time. It is deteriorating to the point that it is useless. The second picture shows Mr. Marcinko, the side of his lawn, where the plow has plowed half the road down onto his side of the street. The next picture shows another view of the debris on the road. The next picture shows you the silt that runs down when it rains. That silt goes down to Coe Pond.

Two years ago I started on this quest to get this taken care of and I went to the Inland Wetlands, because that's where I thought it belonged due to the pollution to Coe Pond. After a year they said there was nothing they could do and they turned it over to Planning & Zoning. They did try. They tried contacting the Seymour Public Works Director and the Seymour City Engineer to no avail. They sent a letter to the DEEP, but I don't put a lot of faith in that.

I'm looking for relief. The plow comes by in the wintertime and all that crap ends up on my lawn. I've had stones as far as on my porch. I can't grow grass there.

If you look at this page, it tells you right in the City Charter Section 96, that the City can send a letter to the people that own the property telling them that hey, you are now responsible for any injuries or anything that happens, because you put this material on the road and hindered people from walking. The people that do walk, and we have a ton of them, it's a quiet neighborhood, they come down and when they come down from Castle Lane and take the right onto Hotchkiss Terrace there they immediately to Marcinko's side of the street. I'm 65 years old; I'm not cleaning the mess up any more. I'm done.

What I'm really looking for is the City to send them a letter and tell them that they are now responsible for any injuries. Also, in that letter, citing part of the City Code Section 3 Obstructing Streets, Sidewalks, Etc., give them a certain period of time to clear it up and take care of the problem, or let the City do it,

and if the City does it, place a lien on the property so the City doesn't get stuck with the tab again.

The last page is the field card which shows the owner of the property, which I believe the field card is wrong. The two owners of the property are the individual who it says is the current owner, and a previous owner of record is Cindy Ritter. She is also an owner of that property because when - I can't pronounce his name - bought the property and Mr. Blake transferred the property there was a problem there, her name never got transferred onto the new deed. They are both known as 4 Hotchkiss Terrace Drive in Seymour.

President Sharkey asked, the curb cut is in Ansonia where I'm looking at this, where it's 57 feet - that is not the lot in question, the one you're talking about is Lot #4, correct?

Mr. Turschmann replied, yes. There are three houses on that lot. There are actually three separate houses up there. They don't show the back part of that lot, because that's the Ansonia map. The property they're showing there is actually bigger.

President Sharkey asked, on this map, where it says Hotchkiss Terrace, is that in Ansonia?

Mr. Turschmann replied yes. If you look at the map it shows a house to the left of that road. That is my house where I pay property taxes to Seymour and Ansonia. The property line actually runs through my house and I pay taxes for the whole house and a small part of the property in Ansonia and the rest of the property I pay to Seymour.

President Sharkey asked, that is an access driveway or an access road to those properties?

Mr. Turschmann replied, it's not a road; it's a private driveway.

President Sharkey asked, how much of it is in Ansonia?

Mr. Turschmann replied, 65 feet long by 10 feet wide is the Ansonia section; it is all falling apart. When you look at the picture it shows a crest at the top, it's basically intact at that point.

Alderman Stowe stated, you were at a Zoning meeting a month ago. It seemed to me that the City Engineer was supposed to meet with the City Engineer of Seymour.

Mr. Turschmann stated, I don't really want to go there; I don't think it ever happened.

Alderman Stowe stated, I can understand that. I did hear something about damages coming from the water beyond Hotchkiss Road, is that correct?

Mr. Turschmann stated, the water comes down the driveway, it's all contaminated, you see the brown silt. It runs past the four houses beyond me and goes down through a curb cut that sends it down into Coe Pond. It all accumulates on Hotchkiss Terrace. It originates on Hotchkiss Terrace Drive, Seymour. They get mail delivery and garbage pickup and they are not entitled to it. The Town of Seymour has given that to them - and mail - which I don't believe they realize that is a private driveway. I went through that when my wife had cancer and came home from the hospital and the garbage truck was coming at 5 a.m. It's almost seven years now when this first started.

Alderman Stowe stated, seven years is a long time. Something needs to be looked into.

Mr. Turschmann stated, I can leave the package I have here for the Corporation Counsel.

Alderman Adamowski stated, if we can we have Mr. Turschmann leave us this information and we can turn this over to Corporation Counsel Blake and see how we can assist Mr. Turschmann in getting this rectified, legally, through Corporation Counsel Blake, and he can give us a report back next month.

President Sharkey stated, we will establish Ansonia's responsibility to it and we will help you in any way we can. It's the first we have heard of it.

Mr. Turschmann stated, I thought it should go to Inland Wetlands because of the contamination to Coe Pond - that didn't work out. They turned it over to Planning & Zoning. They worked very diligently. It never happened with the Town of Seymour, I don't know why. They sent a letter to the DEEP. Bart was very helpful to me, but he said I think you need to see the Board of Aldermen. That is why I'm here.

Rich Wade, 22 Arbor Terrace  
President, Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center

Good evening everyone. I'm here tonight to discuss a redesign of the parking lot at the Ansonia Nature Center & Recreation Center. The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center exist to support the Center. On behalf of the Friends we encourage the Board of Aldermen to consider a positive vote on the proposed redesign for an environmentally friendly parking lot with some pervious surface area with rain garden swales, trees and other drainage as presented to the Board this past week. Not only will this redesign give a more attractive look coming to the park, it will show the City of Ansonia is moving forward to set an example of low impact development, especially at a Nature and Recreation Center.

This redesign will be a big improvement with better organized parking. It will be a much safer parking lot, and this redesign can be used as an educational tool to show how Ansonia is moving forward with LID design. We appreciate your consideration in this matter. Thank you very much.

Janet Waugh, 83 Prospect Street

I am on the Charter Revision Commission and it's come to my attention a few months back that we asked a question, and I'm asking the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor tonight. The Town Clerk's salary. I have asked her several times and I'm asking you, what is the actual annual salary for the Town Clerk? Anybody can tell me that - nobody was able to answer that question in the last couple meetings of the Charter Revision.

President Sharkey stated, I certainly don't have the answer; I would imagine it's in Personnel. I don't know.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, there is a base salary, and the fees that come in, she gets a percentage of them. What the fees are per month, the Town and City Clerk handles.

Ms. Waugh stated, I have a list of fees collected, I believe that Madeline supplied that to us. January was \$27,439; February was a little over \$18,000; March \$24,000; April \$19,000; May \$27,000; and June \$35,000. Of those figures, and this is just for the year 2013, how much does she collect as an annual salary of those figures?

Mayor Della Volpe replied, that I cannot answer but I will look into it. The percentage, I know they have to take a percentage and pay fees to the State, and she also pays her staff out of that money.

Ms. Waugh asked, can I get that, and can we get that information supplied?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, it's public information.

Ms. Waugh stated, but I have asked that question several meetings and haven't been able to get that addressed.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, from the last Charter Revision that I was at the information was submitted to all of the members.

Alderman Marini stated, we received information of a yearly breakdown of what the fees are and base salary, but not the total figure.

Ms. Waugh asked, could we get a total per year?

Alderman Stowe stated, it would seem to me that whoever is getting paid from this, we should be provided with tax returns. That is how you know how much everyone got paid.

Ms. Waugh stated, we see in the paper the teachers salaries, and principals. In education we see those public figures but we don't see the public figure for the Town Clerk's Office.

Mrs. Bottone stated, the City payroll is there too. They list the 10 highest paid on Board of Education and other City jobs.

President Sharkey stated, it's got to be a matter of public record. It has to be there someplace.

Ms. Waugh stated, if I go into City Hall tomorrow and the days following, where would I look for that figure?

Mrs. Bottone stated, I am sure that the Finance Office has whatever I'm being paid for the year, because they are the ones that produce the W2 form for me when I have to do my income tax.

Ms. Waugh stated, do you recollect I asked that question several times to you in past Charter Revision ...

Mrs. Bottone interjected, no, you haven't asked me several times. I was only at one meeting that you had asked or someone had made a motion to know the fees that were collected for the last five years, which I did submit what was asked of me.

Ms. Waugh stated, the reason I am asking for this is because I am running for the Town Clerk's position and I would like to bring new blood into the Town of Ansonia and I am showing an effort, instead of complaining about all the problems that we have in town, I would be doing new blood and work on these fees. I understand that you did donate a \$100,000 for a new computer system, thank you very much for that, I think we all appreciate that, but I think we need to find out where the money is going. Not only your salary but other members in the town.

Mrs. Bottone explained, there are things that require that I have to send to the State for licenses and to the City also for conveyance taxes, for dog licenses...

Ms. Waugh interjected, oh, I understand that, I just want to have...

Mrs. Bottone interjected, the salary of myself because I am partially salaried with the City and the rest of it is fees and I pay my Assistant also, she is on the same basis.

Ms. Waugh stated, I just read six figures from the month of January to June and that's a lot, that is almost \$150,000. Where is that money going, and disbursed. That is what I'm looking into.

Mrs. Bottone stated, well, it's the things that I have to pay to the State, the salaries, like I just explained.

Alderman Adamowski called for a point of order. This is not a political debate; this is public session for the citizens to voice their opinion. If she wants information pertaining to somebody's salary and what goes on, they can take it to the Town and City Clerk's Office tomorrow. I think this is very inappropriate for this meeting, talking about somebody's salary and making them ...

President Sharkey stated, I did state, if she got a W2 form, that is available. You should be able to find that.

Camille Copertino, 7 Church Street

I have two issues here to bring to your attention to see if they could be rectified or know what the answers are going to be. I did not make packets, but I do have two photos. On Church Street and on Jackson, and I don't know where else, the water company was digging up the streets to put in new water lines. That's all dug. They also hired somebody to pave where they dug the holes on our sidewalks. There are two pictures here of the patchwork that was done. As you can see at the edges, it's gravelly, it slopes, and the curb is no longer there. I was wondering who is going to make good on my property and other properties where the patches are not as the sidewalk was before.

President Sharkey stated, from what I understand, any time somebody opens the road, when they put it back it's called a "temporary patch." They let it sit for a while to settle. Then they have to come back and they have to re-dig that top layer of patch and they have to patch it again. When it is done, all of that is inspected by our Public Works Department and they have to sign off on it all. I'm doing the same thing; I'm driving down Hill Street every day and I'm driving over one of the patches that they put in there. I expect them to come back and patch them permanently. They are not relieved just when they do it. They gas company, the water company, anybody that opens the street - that is only a temporary patch. The ground always does settle afterward. They should come back and put it back exactly the way it was.

Mrs. Copertino continued, the other thing I want to bring to your attention, this has been a problem for the past two years. The house next door to me at 5 Church Street has been abandoned. I've talked to the Blight Officer. Nobody lives there. I get an answer that they have to wait a certain length of time before they can do anything. You'll see the pictures that go around - the shrubbery and grass is overgrown in the front. In the driveway it's over 7 feet tall because I have a 6-foot fence. We don't know if there are animals in the back. There are vines growing over my fence that are pushing my fence down.

When it was lower, or in the winter when it's lower, I have kids or young adults coming through running through the yard for whatever reason, knocking down my fence. They pushed it out. I have filed two separate police reports. The police came up and one of them was nice enough to show us how to put a piece of wood up so we could hold it back. With the overgrowth coming over, that is leaning over into my yard. Can the City take down all that grass - it's seven feet tall - until the house gets sold or whatever they're going to do with it.

President Sharkey stated, we approved a change in ordinance that allows our Blight Officer to retain funds, to go in and clean up these exact problems. Can I make sure that someone here makes Mr. Tanner aware of that 3 and 5 Church Street - it's a duplex. We have funds put away that he can clean it up and they can attach it right onto the property itself.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I have two issues. I took pictures of the curbing that was supposed to be fixed a while back. The curbing didn't get fixed or raised. He has all sink holes on his yard, on house 3. They were supposed to get fixed way back in April. They fixed them, 2012 they brought in a load of loam, and there's a boulder that's there that they didn't take out of there and somebody told him the City's not liable to come in there and fix that. It's all because of the City's curbing that was not done right. O&G came in there and they did it correctly, and the City came in there and did a coal patch curbing.

I have another issue. You cut me off on it the last time. I notified the Mayor Monday, and the Police Department - two Sundays in a row Alderman here walking his dog behind my house. I don't like picking up dog mess and throwing it away. Charlie Stowe again. The last time I came here you was like... If I did it, they told me up there, yeah, I would get an issue. I called the Police Department, they told me, you want to make a complaint, come down here. That was last Sunday. This past Sunday he gave it, 'cause he's an Alderman so he can get away with it.

Alderman Stowe stated, Mr. President, I am not going to tolerate this man lying about me and trying to humiliate me in this public forum any longer. I talked to the Chief about this. Mr. Musante unfortunately is obsessed about some decision that I didn't go along with that he wanted and he's trying to enact vengeance upon me. My dogs are on leads, I pick up after them. Last weekend he was outside there, he seen me coming and he goes, "I'm gonna go get a camera" and then he came down telling me that my dog went to the bathroom in the grass, and the dog is with me on a leash. I mean, I like Ed, I think he's a good guy, he's always here representing people for the City but in this particular case he's wrong and this is twice. I can't sit here and allow this to go on any more. I would appreciate it if the Chief the next time he slanders me like this would say something to him, because it's not right.

Mr. Musante stated, Mr. President, next time it happens I'll have a camera. Because I notified the Police, and the Mayor, because I had to clean it up. [Multiple people speaking - inaudible]

President Sharkey stated, same as I did last time, let's put a stop to it. Ed, please stop.

Mr. Musante stated, back to the curbing. He's got bad sinkholes there and he can't make it to come here. Somebody told him the City's not liable. The City came in April 2012 and brought in a load and a half of fill, and a rock they didn't take out of there.

President Sharkey stated, okay.

Alderman Adamowski asked, Mr. President, can we have Public Works get out there and take a look at that street, ASAP, and get back to us? By the pictures that I saw it definitely looks to be a problem.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I think many of you are here for the previous public session that was held for the Charter Revision Commission. I won't repeat everything I had to say at that time. I would request your support in passing the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission so it can go to referendum in November. The proposal to have something done about our taxes where the taxpayer is able to have a say is extremely important at this time. The taxes that we're burdened with now, this past time, are extremely unreasonable. I don't know how they were passed, whether it's because a board that is not elected that handles it, I don't know. Somebody has to appoint that Board. If they are unable to do the job representing the people of Ansonia, then they should be removed or replaced somehow or other. The taxes we pay just don't equal what we get in return.

The bond proposal that there was a public hearing on and was canceled, and evidently it's going to be coming up again. I hope at this time that due diligence was done and that the items there - I know a lot of them are very important and should be considered - I hope things have been researched and we don't have a situation like we did with the Olson Drive property. Thank you.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountain View

I got two things to say. Charter Revision Commission - thanks for passing that resolution so far for the \$1.5 bond when it goes to referendum, hopefully it will. And I got a question for the Mayor, hopefully he can help me out. I read somewhere where it's up to the Mayor to keep the Charter Revision Commission going. I think it's a good idea to keep it going until a couple more things get corrected.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I have all intentions of making sure that the Charter Revision continues. It goes through the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Stowe stated, Mr. President, I got a letter in the mail. Somebody couldn't make it here and had a question they wanted answered. I'm hoping the Mayor may be able to help with this. There is no name on the letter. It says,

*Dear Alderman Stowe, I am writing to you to voice my displeasure on a particular subject and hoping you can address this for me as I know you have been the voice of the people in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward before. It is absolutely absurd that I find out the Board of Education has given the upper echelon from the Superintendent on down a 3 percent raise as of their July Board of Education meeting. This needs to be addressed, Alderman Stowe, you have been an advocate of saying people need to do more with less, which I have seen in your Alderman minutes. I struggle to pay my bills week to week and someone making over \$100,000 a year in this City is given a 3 percent raise, especially after all the talk on the Valley Independent Sentinel about how under-funded they are. This does not sit well with me, Alderman Stowe, I would really appreciate it if you could bring this up at your next Alderman meeting and demand answers from the Board of Education and the Superintendent. Thank you in advance for all your help and look forward to reading about how you answer this question.*

So, I'm not even sure, I don't know if this is true or not personally, I'm just reading the letter for this person, and hopefully we can give her an answer in the minutes so they can read whatever happened here. I have no knowledge of whether they took a raise or not. I read it because she asked me to, that's all I can tell you.

President Sharkey stated, I don't know if the Mayor can answer that; the Mayor is not the Board of Education. I think...

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I would talk to the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education and have them come to the Board of Aldermen meeting to explain as to the reason why they gave a raise.

President Sharkey stated, I agree.

Alderman Stowe stated, we discussed about after the bond was taken care of that we want to try to work together with the City departments and hopefully not have this animosity between departments. We want to be performing for the City as whatever department we're in - not against each other and fighting and arguing. It's not good.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I think the letter, it's his ward, that should be the Board of Education, we don't have an answer for that. Maybe take it to the Board of Education and see what they say.

Alderman Tripp stated, I'm sitting here puzzled and confused. The City does not know how much we pay people? This is the second time it's come up and it seems like the greatest mystery in the world. We have a \$61 million budget and we don't know how much money the Superintendent of Schools makes, we don't know how much this person makes. What does it take to get these answers? I am totally befuddled and amazed that it is so hard to get these answers.

Alderman Adamowski stated, we don't know what every single person is paid off the top of our head, and I know that's a concern here tonight. I personally don't know every single person's salary in the City of Ansonia. It's written somewhere; it's public information. Nobody is hiding anything from anyone. If somebody wants to know what somebody gets paid they have to come into City Hall and do the research and find out what they get paid. I don't have those figures off the top of my head and I don't think anybody in this room does. Everybody here is an Alderman just like I am. Mr. Marini, do you know every single person's salary in the City?

Alderman Marini replied, no, not at all. I myself have asked and not gotten answers.

Alderman Adamowski stated, to come up with an answer tonight I think is unfair.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, on the City side, it's in the budget. Everybody's salary line item is within the budget so you have that answer. In regard to when the Board of Education comes in, they always ask for one figure, and they always give us a line of, you know, Administrative Salaries; Teachers' Salaries; and then you get the breakdown. So you go in front of the Board of Education and get a breakdown of all their salaries. Everything is public information. I know everybody knows what I make and what I do at every moment. And every time I say something I get criticized. I totally understand that; that is the position I'm in. But if you want a salary you come in to City Hall and find out. To find out for the Board of Education, you go right to the Board of Education and ask for theirs. As a matter of fact I'll call tomorrow and get a list.

Alderman Stowe stated, one last thing. I'm sorry to bring this up. I think if Madeline can explain what's going I think this matter will be closed. I don't think there's been any wrongdoing. That being said, when the Board of Education came here, which I said this at the other meeting. There were a lot of us Aldermen sitting here and they used coaches and children to bring up how they needed the extra funding or those athletic programs were going to be canceled. This person is upset about the fact, here they are, they needed this money for the kids. She or he looked at the 3 percent and found it very upsetting. I can understand that. I hope this upcoming year, we start working together as a group.

The Board of Education is one of the biggest budgets in the City - they lost a lot of grants. You look at their record where they stand. The way the budget has been going and the stress of people paying their new taxes and the value of their homes, it's not productive. You've got everybody looking at everybody else adversarially. We need to work on the budget as early as possible to try to avoid this. They lost a lot of grants, state and federal, and I can understand their position. On the other hand, Mr. Eheman stands up and says, you know, you look at their record, where they stand as schools with A through F, they're not doing very good.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I am going to disagree with that Charlie because we are a priority school district and we receive \$1.4 million for that and because over the last four years we have improved, the state removed the money. That is what put us in a jam. We are improving. If we weren't they would have taken that money away from us. From the State taking money, the city had to make it up, and that's where the problems come in. The State is giving us grants, we're doing what we're supposed to do, we're improving, then the State takes the money away from us and the City has to pick it up.

Alderman Stowe stated, we have a little bit of difference of philosophy; I got an R and you got a D, collective bargaining is killing this country, killing it. If I could go to work and say to my boss, "this is what I want to get paid," and five of us that work there all agreed and they had to pay us pretty quick, I wouldn't have a job. It isn't the money that's causing the problem at the Board of Education in my humble opinion, but I didn't mean to get into those can of worms, I really wanted to voice this person's frustration and I can understand why this person is frustrated.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, one other clarification - the City does not participate in the collective bargaining agreements with the Board of Education. They do it on their own.

President Sharkey added, and we certainly don't know if that was already something that was in their union agreement already. When they settle the teachers' contracts it's always for a three-year contract. When they settle the administrators it's either a two-year or three-year contract. They received their budget that they got; we don't know if that raise took effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Alderman Stowe stated, I understand all this, Mr. President, and we need to stop this bickering. When you go to a cow and you kill it, and then you're going the next day, "where's my milk?" and these people that come in here the meeting before, they're killing them. They don't have these benefits that the people work here. Now, granted, the economy is tough, but I see no willingness to compromise in certain departments here in the City and that is not looking good with the public. We need to change that image whether the Mayor is right, or I'm right, we need to change that image if we expect to get the Grand List growing and have people want to live here.

President Sharkey stated, take that to the Board of Education. You have a legitimate complaint. The person had a legitimate complaint but it needs to go to the Board of Education. We are listening to you; but you are preaching to the choir.

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

### ***Public Official Session***

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Mayor James Della Volpe

On Tuesday, September 3 our new Economic Development Director Peter Kelly will start work. I will get him around and introduce him to everybody; we'll have an event where I'll invite all the boards and commissioners to meet Peter. We're looking forward to him doing very good things for the City.

I met with the federal staff of Rosa Delauro, Senator Chris Murphy and Senator Blumenthal last week regarding Olson Drive. I explained to them our concerns about acquiring the property. They don't know if we could; HUD still has to give us approval if we want to acquire the property. I asked them for their support; they said they would give to the City in regard to going forward. They're going to set up a meeting with the Boston area HUD office in the next couple of weeks, because I know that the bonding issue is coming up. That is something we'll discuss tomorrow night. They were very favorable. I explained there are five buildings and the asbestos abatement has been done. Those five buildings will be coming down. We'll be putting in an application for the north side, for those four buildings. It is still the City's position that we would like to see that as open space on the south side. It is extremely important for the West Side because they don't have any open space. The only open space they have is at the athletic field. I think this would be very beneficial for the West Side of the City. As soon as I have the next meeting with HUD and our federal delegation I'll notify the Board and let them know what happened.

In regard to the Small Cities Grant - I'd like to commend all that were involved. I'd like to commend Lisa Low Associates, the Economic Development Commission, our Grant Writer, the Board of Aldermen and the Board of A&T because without them appropriating the \$600,000 to pay off the State Department of Economic and Community Development about six years ago, we would not be eligible for any Small Cities money. Once we did that, as you can see with the work of our Economic Development Commission and through Department of Economic and Community Development and Lisa Low we were able to get three grants within the last couple of years.

Alderman Radin stated, I would like to thank the Mayor for Salvage Alley - it looks beautiful up there. It's a much nicer presentation of Main Street than driving by all the junk that was on the sidewalk there. I believe the Chief of Police might have had something to do with that too. I think it's a much nicer

presentation to Main Street coming across the Maple Bridge or coming from North Main. You don't see all that junk sitting out on the sidewalk. The first time I saw it, I said "oh, wow, it's much nicer for Crave and everybody else on the avenue" thank you very much.

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Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

You have my report in front of you; if you have any questions I'm here to answer it. You have an item on the agenda - the amended resolution - there is just a clerical error. If anybody has any questions I can answer them now or when it's time to vote on it

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

The three recruits that you hired last month are in the Academy and will be graduating in January and February.

Several months ago you passed the Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance which granted the Police Department authority to go after properties that meet a certain criteria. We've sent two letters so far and met with one property owner on Myrtle Avenue. It was the right approach and we're working hard to hopefully straighten that area out. Not so good on Columbia Street - I've not heard a response. I'll be meeting with Corporation Counsel Blake when he's back to take that to the next step. These are properties that are not only creating quality of life issues within the neighborhood but they're also a drain on assets - Police, Fire, Zoning Enforcement, Fire Marshal, and whatever other City departments have to go out and address the complaints. We are going to continue. We have two more properties on the radar now and we'll continue to look through the log to see what other properties are coming up. If you have any in your neighborhoods please let me know. Obviously these have to be reported issues as per the ordinance. It gives us great latitude in going after these properties.

Alderman Radin stated, I have a couple of complaints. On Wakelee Avenue the other night my daughter was driving down the street. She was down near Ingrid's and it was about 10:30-11:00. She was going home and she said there was a whole line of young men across the street walking down the middle of the street. She said she didn't see them, and I'm not being prejudice, because they were black, and there were no lights in that area, some of them didn't have shirts on. They were just not going to move. So she said she really didn't care what time it was; she put her hand on the horn and she put her foot on the accelerator and even then some of them wouldn't move. This was, again, last Wednesday or Thursday.

The other thing, I happened to have had an operation a few months ago and I'm still in the apartment section downstairs in my store and at 1 a.m. people are going by there talking loudly, but what scared me most was they were banging on the side of my building. Somebody must have had basketball because it

sounded like a basketball hitting the side of my building. I have two windows there and what frightened me even more was that somebody might have hit the side of the window. It's been going on practically every night. I hear a group of people, I don't know who they are, I'm not saying what kind of a group it is, but they are going by my building and banging on the side of the building. I would appreciate it if maybe we could have a patrol up there occasionally sometime between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Most of the time this happened around 1 or 1:30 and would wake me up. I would appreciate that thank you.

President Sharkey asked, has either one of those incidents been reported?

Alderman Radin replied no, I didn't report it because...

President Sharkey interjected, your daughter?

Alderman Radin stated, she was more scared than anything else. She was afraid to stop. She truly was afraid to stop; she was by herself. She didn't know what to do so she figured they wouldn't move, they just kept walking, so she put her hand on the horn and the accelerator went down. I asked her to report it the next day but she wouldn't.

Alderman Adamowski stated, we have an issue at Gatison Park. They had a fire alarm there about 10:30 last night. I responded down there, had the lights off as I pulled in, I put the lights on, I saw a kid running from the box. Once he got into the park I couldn't tell exactly which one it was because they were all wearing similar clothes, but there was a group of probably 10-15 kids hanging out inside Gatison Park. I have gotten calls from the condo that people are in the condo complex, that there's a group of kids. I don't know if it's been reported to the Police Department at all. We need to address it; make sure signage is up in every City park saying that they close at dusk. We need to start handing out fines to every single person that is in violation of that, every time they are. That is the only way we're going to control it. I wouldn't want to live in that condo complex with 30 people hanging out there. I can see their frustration. Thank you.

Alderman Tripp stated, I would like to publicly thank Chief Hale and the Police Department for resolving the situation on Myrtle Street. It's the boundary between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and residents there were complaining to me. I even had a situation when I was trying to drive past the house in question. I know that was a very problematic situation. The neighbors and the neighborhood are very much relieved that the situation has been resolved. Thank you.

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Attorney Fran Teodosio

I am here for one matter; it's on your agenda. If I can ask for the courtesy of moving it up I would appreciate it.

President Sharkey stated, okay, thank you. I will ask that as soon as we get to it and I'll explain why when we get to communications.

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Director Donna Lindgren, Ansonia Nature Center

You may or may not have visited the Nature Center lately, but if you were to take a walk down into that wetland that we're trying to protect with a newly-designed parking lot there, including rain gardens and pervious pavers and asphalt so that it's a safer, more environmentally-friendly and more attractive parking lot than we have right now. What's growing down there in that wetland is this flower, this is a Cardinal flower, it's kind of an unusual flower. Several years ago the Ansonia Garden Club came to the Nature Center and saw that flower and named it the official City of Ansonia flower. In the same wetland area there's a plant called sweet pepper bush which is extremely fragrant and you can smell it right now if you go up in that parking lot and into that wetland, that is what you're going to smell. Again, I am here to urge you when it comes down to a vote to include that improved parking lot in your bond issue. I hope that you're going to vote in favor of that because there are so many good reasons to do so. I am working very hard getting prices together and comparisons together. I think we've got everything that we need at this point. I hope that all of you will vote to do the right thing.

Alderman Stowe asked if the department heads are invited to the bond meeting tomorrow.

President Sharkey replied no, we've got consensus on everything we've already discussed. We have the Director of Public Works that worked with Mrs. Lindgren and her group. I don't know if the architect who drew it will be there. We're going to discuss it later as well.

Alderman Stowe stated, I would suggest being that where I work has three crews that put down all different kinds of pavers and are very knowledgeable in that you ought to bring somebody who's going to represent how all of that is going to actually take the water and what percentage of water and run off and flat area. Those pavers are almost triple what it would cost to pave that.

President Sharkey asked Mrs. Lindgren to have the architect there tomorrow night.

Mrs. Lindgren stated, Dominick Schiffletti was there and calculated the flows as was done in a topo map done several years ago. That's kind of in the works and we all agree that if we had a speaker here earlier this evening that was complaining about a water problem, we're trying to avoid downstream water problems. That is what rain gardens and pervious pavers will help to alleviate. People live downstream of that wetland. You don't want to make it any more polluted than it is already.

## ***Committee Reports***

### *Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski*

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

### *Salary Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski*

We have Communication #10 on the agenda tonight - it's an amendment to a previous resolution we had.

### *Community Property and Sales - Alderman David Knapp*

We met and discussed the property located at 48 Silver Hill Road, which I believe there is a resolution on the agenda to proceed with the sale of that property.

### *Charter Revision Commission - Alderman John Marini*

I'd like to call the Board's attention to the draft report that the Commission passed over to the Board of Aldermen tonight. It's my understanding that we can't take any action on this until we have a public hearing. Then we can discuss the substance of this. At this point I could hope to answer any questions on behalf of the Charter Revision Commission, but I will say that I am looking forward to our public hearing and discussing the changes that are proposed. I think they are very solid changes that will save time and money for the people of Ansonia.

It is a priority because we are on such a tight time constraint on so many things in the next month that we schedule a special meeting, our own public hearing on this, sooner than later. The way the process works, we schedule a public hearing, we discuss either approval of these changes or sending them back to the Charter Revision Commission for revision. If that's done, Charter Revision Commission needs to have their own special meeting to receive those revisions and decide what to do and then, theoretically, we would have to have another meeting. Knowing the deadline is really about September 5<sup>th</sup> to be conservative, the sooner we have our public hearing and our discussion on it the better. Once that public hearing is out of the way we don't have to worry about having another public hearing. I would recommend that tonight we come up with a date for that.

President Sharkey stated, that is Communication #5; we can discuss it further then.

Economic Development Commission – Alderman John Marini

The Loan Program has just begun to be rolled out; applications are going to vendors. One informational session was already started; another one is going to be planned for September. Vin Scarlata of the Commission has gotten the banks involved so they'll be offering certain packages, and the idea was also floated to perhaps consider waiving a portion of the building permits or the building fees for people that are accepted into the program, so they can realize an additional savings. The main point of the entire proposal is not for the City to take in money, but to really assist businesses in making much needed changes to their storefronts to enhance the business atmosphere for everybody. That could be something we can address in September when a proposal gets buckled down. I want to float the idea here. An additional idea talked about was a percentage. For example, if you're using \$2,000 of this loan money to pay for a \$2,000 project, you perhaps can get 100 percent of the required building fees waived. But if you're doing a bigger project, say you're going to spend \$10,000, you're going to use our maximum loan of \$2,000 to pay for 20 percent of that, you would only get 20 percent of the fees waived. That way we don't have a situation where someone is really actually saving more in waived permit fees than they are realizing by getting that loan interest-free. So there can be some fairness, the City can still be realizing some of the revenue, and we can still be giving a break to businesses in doing the repairs. It's an idea out there.

With Economic Development, it does tie to the bond. A lot of the projects in the bond are Economic Development. Obviously this group has put a lot of time and effort into making sure this bond is streamlined, it's going to necessary projects. We still have work to do but a lot of the projects there, including the Nature Center, that is Economic Development, because that is enhancing this City's ability to pull in people. It brings them in to not only places like the Nature Center, but also downtown to spend money. They're coming to Ansonia.

We look forward, of course, to the hiring of the Economic Development Director, and also Dick Stoltz's report. We put time and money into that report and I think it's going to be very important for us to introduce that to the people of Ansonia so they know exactly what we've been working on and so they have an understanding of what our objectives are and how we intend to realize them. Thank you very much.

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept all of the Committee Reports;  
SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED  
12-0.

Alderman Stowe stated, regarding Economic Development we were discussing when you were going to invite Mr. Stoltz back. I was directly involved, and Tara was too. That is a blueprint for us to increase our Grand List. It's a shame being that was done in February that we're working on the bond and in all

honesty this group here hasn't done a complete analysis of that report. There were all kinds of recommendations and there was a year by year if we followed the blueprint what we would gain out of it as far as the Grand List goes. We're talking about bonding here and that proposal was done in February. The Mayor has hired a director and before that director, I'm hoping, steps foot in here, we've done a complete examination of the consultant report, because the consultant report, the City Center Plan, the Conservation Plan, the Parking Plan, all those plans have been looked at by a consultant and our new director, and the director that we are going to hire, I have read he has a scope of where he plans to be in so many months, six months, a year, 18 months. That right, Tara?

Ms. Kolakowski stated, yes, when Peter Kelly came and interviewed, Charlie and I both sat in the interview committee, Mr. Kelly had a full comprehensive knowledge of Bartram and Cochran's Economic Development Plan for the City. He explained it back to us to the interview team. He had total grasp of the concept. He said he couldn't wait to get his hands on it and take it and run with it and implement it. That is exactly what the City's objective was, to hire Bartram and Cochran, have a plan design, and then hire a Director of Economic Development which the Mayor did. He'll be starting taking that plan and implementing it. I think in my opinion it is better to let Mr. Kelly start in his position, take the plan and run with it, and implement it as it was designed to be done. That is what the process and the pre-planning process was about. Before we have Dick Stoltz come back, I would like to see Mr. Kelly take this plan and work this plan. Because he has full knowledge of the plan, let him go and do his job. That's why we're hiring this gentleman. Hopefully the goal and objective is to build the Grand List. I know that this Board and the Charter Revision Commission and the Bond Committee have a lot of meetings in the next two weeks. Everyone in this room, and I respect every single one of you for your time that you dedicate. You guys are really busy in the next two to three weeks. It's inconceivable. I was an Alderman for six years before signing on with the City. I've never seen an August this busy. This is the busiest August we've had in 10 years, and that this Board has had. I would get the priorities in order, meet with the Bond Commission, meet with the Charter Revision Commission, meet with the Board of Aldermen, let the gentleman we hired as Director of Economic Development come in and do his job and implement the plan. Then down the road, if you want Dick Stoltz to come in, we can ask him to come in also.

Alderman Stowe continued, that blueprint had specific details, signs, dealing with parking, sidewalks, and I understand exactly what Tara is saying and I'm not trying to be argumentative, but that had detailed plans of how to move forward. We are discussing a bond and as of right now, without knocking down that school, you're \$1.9 million. This Board had got this year \$1 million, they got another \$500,000 school safety, you're going to Nolan Field and doing something over there and now you're going to knock a school building down. How does that pick up our Grand List? How does that work? I'm not trying to criticize, but we need to fix our Grand List. I mentioned here at several

meetings where I thought that the Aldermen should get to read that report and see them. I said that before we were completely done because we have a big say in what's going to go on; we vote here for things that can help or not help or delay. I can understand if we have to wait I just don't like it because that plan is very important and we paid some serious money for it and there was a lot of hard work done on it. Went to all the businesses and asked those businesses what they thought would help our City. They went and talked pros and cons. Here we are letting it lay dormant.

Ms. Kolakowski stated, we're not letting it lay dormant.

[Multiple people speaking at once - inaudible].

Alderman Adamowski called for a point of order.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'm sorry if it sounds like I'm arguing with Tara but that has been laying dormant since February.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I believe last time we met we spoke about this. What we should do, and I agree with Tara, we are going to meet with new Economic Development Director that we hired, and the consultant, to put everything that we have together and make sure it works for us. I believe we left out of that meeting saying that if we were going to have another meeting with the consultant, if the Aldermen had certain questions that they did not understand out of the packet - that we all received and took home with us and were supposed to read - if somebody didn't read it that's their problem. Lack of work on their part. Everyone should have taken it home and read what the plan was and when we have this Economic Development Director, like Tara said, he can get in and we can all sit down together and make sure this plan is going to work. I don't understand why this is such an issue. Where are we letting this lay dormant, Mr. President?

President Sharkey stated, we're not letting it lay dormant at all. I thought we were going to have the Director and Mr. Stoltz together. We haven't been able to bring the director on yet and that has been one of the delays.

Alderman Radin stated, I think Tara is right, let's give Mr. Kelly a chance to look at all of this. I'm sure he's been looking at them. He's got his plan; I'm sure we're all going to work together with him. I think we need to get going on it and stop discussing it and let it get started.

Alderman Marini stated, I think August is a busy month and we should do it when we have the time to devote toward it. My recollection from the last meeting was that the report was out there, certainly everybody on this Board should have read it. However I recall we were going to meet with Dick Stoltz a month later after we had a chance to review it. There were a lot of comments at that time where the Aldermen said they were just being handed the report and they really couldn't ask questions.

I am more concerned about the public. We spend \$25,000 of the public's money on this report. I believe it was well spent because it's a great report. The public has a right to know what we spent the money on, They should know where we're going with this report. All the meetings in City Hall and all the discussions among us really, really aren't going to mean too much to them. We hired Stoltz not only to write the report but also to present it. He can present it to the public - he should present it to the public - we should make a date so we can roll it out. Input from the public - maybe they'll have an idea about the report that none of us has. None of us can be arrogant enough to think that anybody in this room, or any director that we hire, is going to have all the answers. It's going to be a team effort. Public communication is going to have to be vital. Part of that, easy enough, is just to do a roll out, give the public a plan and let Dick Stoltz give the answers. Our director is going to implement that plan, but the public has the right to know what is he going to implement, why have we hired a director, what has he been hired to implement. The public deserves to know. It's just that simple.

We should set a date, probably in September, for the public to be able to ask Dick Stoltz questions, for us to ask Dick Stoltz questions, because that report is not going to change no matter how the director decides to implement it.

President Sharkey stated, I think that tonight before we leave we will set a date. I think we're right in setting the date in September. I think we have our regular meeting coming up and we should set another special meeting to do it - probably the Tuesday after our regular meeting. By that time we will have the new director on board. He will already have had a couple of weeks in there so we can have the two of them here in the same room working on it together. And the plan rolled out - Dick Stoltz can explain the plan and the man can say how he's going to implement it. That is what I think I've been hearing all night tonight. So it's not that anybody was putting it off.

I am also hearing concerns that we got apples and oranges out here, and we're talking about the bond on one hand and the report on another hand. We're talking in the middle about Dick Stoltz, and we're talking about tearing the school down. We've got two different issues going on here, so let's keep the two issues straight. I also heard someone say that we need to upgrade our Grant List, which is yes, we do.

It sounds like we're questioning why we're doing the bond. We all understand why we're doing the bond. This bond was talked about unanimously both by this Board of Aldermen and the Board of A&T. It is the proper time to do the bond. We had our bond counsel come and say that it was like one percent money for what we're doing. We talked about the fact that we have the money put away to do this. Our notes are decreasing; it is the time to do it. I don't want to get anybody in this audience to go and talk to one person in the City of Ansonia and say it looks like the bond is not a good idea. That was mentioned here, okay? We don't want to go that route. The bond is a very good idea. The

items in there were all up for discussion and if people made the two meetings we had consensus on 90 percent of it. The information has been given out there and you have everything that I have. So let's talk about the bond under the bond. Later on tonight before we leave we will set a date for a special meeting.

### ***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 Adamowski.**

Alderman Radin noted that it was a very nice report from Public Works. It was a complete report and I thought it was very nice.

President Sharkey stated, I think he left off a few things that he's done, too.

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

### ***Tax Collector's Report and Request for Refunds***

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept the Tax Collector's report; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

**[Alderman Jeanette left the room at this point, 8:24 pm - 11 present]**

**Alderman DeLucia MOVED to pay the refunds in the amount of \$4,433.03 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

### ***Claims***

None presented.

### ***Communications***

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia.**

President Sharkey stated, I would like to take up items #3 and 8 together; they appear to be on the same matter.

Also, Item #7 - that is not pending litigation - that is a personnel matter.

**A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

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**Communication #1**

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: 24 North Prospect Street

To be discussed in Executive Session.

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**Communication #2**

From: Christ Episcopal Church  
Re: Request to Upgrade Right of Way Walkway

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to turn Communication #2 over to Public Works for evaluation and ask that they report back to the Board; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.

[Alderman Jeanette returns at this point, 8:27 p.m., 12 present]

Alderman Radin stated, I own a business in Ansonia. My understanding is, the City owns my sidewalk but I'm responsible for all repairs and keeping it in good shape. If I do repair the sidewalk, the City pays a small percentage back for whatever that part is. Most of this, I don't understand. Is this between the properties owned by the churches, are they not responsible then for the upkeep of it?

President Sharkey stated, what we're going to do also in turning this over, we're going to research and see who owns the property. If I'm not mistaken, we own the stairs.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, we own the stairs and there is a right-of-way agreement between the churches up to South Cliff Street.

Alderman Radin asked, aren't they responsible for keeping it clean and fixing it?

Mayor Della Volpe replied, the City is. This was done in the '30s and '40s when they first built the steps that led from South Cliff. It's something we'll clean up, and make the asphalt repairs whether or not we'll do a full asphalt replacement is to be determined. We're doing more research on it.

Alderman Tripp stated, this is right between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. My son enjoys the swingsets there and we walk down to East Main and we come back up these steps and stairs. We've been on these steps and stairs numerous times and yes, it does not have the traffic that it had in 1930 when it was probably first built. I can just envision back in 1930 South Cliff Street, Prospect Street, Judson Street, all emptying out and everybody walking to work down to the factories. Obviously we all have automobiles now so people walk a lot less. However, there are still a lot of people that like to walk for recreation enjoyment. These

steps are not blocked off and they are in a dilapidated state; most of the rails are rusted out and in very poor condition as these photographs point out. I agree with Alderman Adamowski - I would like to request that Mr. Schryver evaluate it. I'm not looking for the City to spend \$1 million; the only caveat I will put to that is with this bond issue we are doing a lot of paving - a lot of asphalt work. Whoever the contractor is, it's a very big ticket item. I'm just curious, while we are paving West Main Street and all the paving going on with this bond issue, what would be the cost of that same contractor running their machine down there and paving this part of sidewalk. It's just a question.

President Sharkey stated, I'm sure Mr. Schryver already has a square foot percentage or figure that we use on everything, so we could have that for tomorrow night.

Alderman Tripp stated, I would only hope with the amount of paving that's going to be done with this bond issue and the other grant we have for train station and West Main Street that you're getting a very good price from this paving contractor for the amount of the work that the City of Ansonia is giving this company.

President Sharkey stated, we approved as the Board of Aldermen for all the road work and everything. That is the price that's out there and I'd imagine that's the lowest possible price.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I would like to add that once we got the letter we contacted a welder who is going to take care of the railings. A mason is going to take care of some of the steps. We've dealt with that already.

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

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Communication #3

From: Attorney Timothy Dillon

Re: Denita Homeowners Association, Inc.

President Sharkey stated, I'd like to take Communication #3 and Communication #8 together. One is from Tim Dillon and the other is from Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake who is not here. I'd like Mr. Dillon to come forth and explain.

[See Communication #8 and Resolution #1]

Attorney Dillon stated, about five years ago, Mr. Nick Macero dba Denita Estates has received approval to build a small subdivision off of Elm Street. It consists of five new houses. We closed on the last one earlier this year; it's a very pretty subdivision. As one requirement of the City, it required five catch basins and two manholes. Even though it's a City street, the catch basins are on the property of the homes and they wanted those to be maintained and cleaned if needed by the homeowners. So we created an agreement between the City of

Ansonia and Denita Homeowners' Association, Inc. - a maintenance agreement. The street is very flat topographically. So those storm drains, because there is virtually no runoff and they are inspected periodically by the City as well as Mr. Macero, probably won't have to be cleaned for 10 or 15 years because there is just no runoff that would cause them to be filled up. From a practical standpoint, the amount of money that the homeowners would put into this and the fact that it's probably not going to be used but once a decade, it was decided that by setting up the corporation, there is going to be a lot of paperwork that's going to have to be filed with the State for tax purposes on an annual basis. The suggestion was to change the agreement if approved by the City from the corporation to a partnership, so there would be less overhead expenses to maintain the organization. There is no shirking of responsibility - we're fully obligated. It's just changing the legal entity in this case because as I say, the maintenance agreement is not an agreement where it's going to have to be - although the agreement is going to be in effect - these catch basins are not going to have to be cleaned with any degree of regularity, so there's not going to be a lot of cost involved over a period of a decade. It might be \$1,000. So I contacted Mr. Blake. He sent a letter to me and suggested that I go in front of the Board of Aldermen with this proposal. If anybody has any questions Mr. Macero and I will be happy to answer them.

President Sharkey stated, a question when I read this - was this agreement a part of the subdivision?

Attorney Dillon replies, yes. That was one of the requirements, that we maintain these catch basins. They're not going to be maintained by Public Works, or the manholes.

President Sharkey stated, that's the way it presently is now. The agreement that I see, that Attorney Blake has underlined here, would it be the individual property owner be responsible for the catch basin on their property?

Attorney Dillon replied no, what would happen is each property owner would pay an amount in on an annual basis, let's say perhaps \$50. And for a period of time that money would accumulate. When the catch basins needed to be cleaned, then that fund would be drawn down to clean the catch basins. So it's not going to be the individual homeowner that would be responsible - let's say there was a catch basin on Lot #3. It wouldn't be Lot owner #3's responsibility, it would be the partnership of all the property owners - one of whom is Mr. Macero because he had to refurbish a multi-family house on Elm Street that is part of the subdivision that he, himself still owns. So it would still be the responsibility of everybody in that subdivision to contribute to make sure that everything is properly inspected and cleaned.

Alderman Adamowski asked, what happens if one of those properties are sold and somebody new comes in?

Attorney Dillon replied, then it's their responsibility to contribute. It doesn't

make a difference who the property owner is. This is being established for this limited purpose; there are no other requirements or conditions. The street is maintained by the City - garbage pickup and etc. In this case it's just a matter of changing the legal entity.

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept Communication #3 and turn over to Corporation Counsel Blake in order to change their legal terminology to a partnership; and further,**

**MOVED that if needed notify Planning & Zoning of the change and the Board of Public Works; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Jeanette).**

[See also - Resolution #1]

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Communication #4

From: Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning & Zoning Commission

Re: Section 8-24 Referral

President Sharkey stated, this is basically just for information. Last month we referred to Planning & Zoning under Section 8-24 about a temporary construction easement and drainage and maintenance easement agreement for 46 and 50 Park Place. They voted and gave us a favorable response and from what I understand, it is already being taken care of.

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to accept Communication #4 and place on file; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

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Communication #5

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Charter Revision Commission

President Sharkey stated, you have before you the explanatory text for City questions on the ballot. You have the ones that, the three questions for the ballot that had already been submitted and you have before you also a draft report dated today - this one was dated July 30<sup>th</sup>. You also have one that now has five recommendations - 1, 2, 3, 4 and... because #4 on here would not be on the ballot, so #5 proposal A, the recommendation that's coming from the Charter Revision Commission is that also is included to go on the ballot.

Alderman Marini stated- the statute on Charter Revision requires at this point that the draft report is forwarded to our Board. The draft report has to include all the recommendations we're proposing and it also has to include any recommendations that we were asked to look into. So any recommendations that the Charter Revision Commission was asked by this Board to look into but didn't act on were also required to list in this report.

The first part is recommendations proposed, the three items – those are the three items that are completely fleshed out in your explanatory text for City questions. The fourth is not something that would be proposed for a Charter change for the ballot. It's basically a request that the Board of Aldermen act to immediately re-initiate Charter Revision after this one concludes. The reason being is that there is a lot of discussion of the budgetary system, particularly changing the way the budget is approved. Currently it is approved by the Board of A&T and obviously we all know how the budget process works. There had been ideas thrown out such as reversing the order that the Aldermen and the Board of A&T receive it so that the Board of Aldermen would have the final say and there was also a suggestion to dissolve the Board of A&T and actually replace them with a Finance Director and have the Board of Aldermen and the Finance Director maintaining budgetary questions on a monthly basis and approving the budget with the Mayor having the veto power.

Without getting into all these ideas that are already very fleshed out in the minutes of the Charter Revision Commission, essentially Charter Revision felt that they did not have enough time to really get into changing that system. Once you change something like getting rid of the Board of A&T it opens up, obviously, a lot of cans of worms across the rest of the City Charter. So there really needs to be a lot more attention paid just on that one issue.

The fifth is having to do with the budgetary system. There was a change that was adopted, a recommendation that was adopted tonight to add on a referendum system to our budget process. That is fleshed out in proposal A. So you'll see all the details that go together with that. Sort of a modified referendum system or a responsible referendum system rather than the budget always going to referendum, it only goes to referendum if it's triggered by a certain increase in the budget. Here it was indicated as 1.5 percent. There was some discussion also with Commission members that as we review the proposals we take a special look at that 1.5 percent. Those are the proposals that Charter Revision Commission has recommended. We're going to have a public hearing on them and at that time thereafter we're going to have an opportunity to either approve them, send them back for revisions, or to reject them.

Continuing on, there are recommendations on this draft report which the Commission was requested to consider, but ultimately didn't act on. Those have to do with the Tax Office. There are four of them. Having a prerequisite for the Tax Collector to be a CPA, the timely payment of City taxes being a prerequisite for holding public office in Ansonia, a requirement that the Tax Office maintain a record of all clearance certificates issued in connection with the motor vehicle taxes, and that the Ansonia Tax Office conduct regular internal audits. These issues, we actually talked a lot, it was actually the first matter of business that the Charter Revision Commission took up. It actually took two months looking at these. It did put together drafts on all of these items but in the end, after a lot of debate, it was the Commission's opinion that

most of them were really the obligations of the Salary Committee of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor's Office. It was the feeling of the Commission that they didn't want to mandate the precise way that elected officials are accountable in the Charter. That simply was an element of the duty of being an elected official and being in charge of the Tax Office, or, being the Board of Aldermen and overseeing the salaries.

The other item was that timely payment of taxes to be a prerequisite of holding public office. The feeling of the Commission was they were getting into Constitutional questions there - was it even proper to require an extra prerequisite of holding office in the City. There was a large question raised over that being appropriate.

That being said, obviously this is not the end. The Board of Aldermen can make changes. They can certainly decide that any of these matters that weren't ultimately left in, we can advise that they be put back in, or any other changes. Ultimately it is this Board that has the ability to vote to approve any report of the Charter Revision Commission and upon approval, and only upon approval, will this actually go to the ballot. So the big picture is, Charter Revision will continue until a final report is approved. When a final report is approved by this Board, the Charter Revision Commission dissolves and it will be at that time that this Board would have to act on that fourth request to reinstitute the Charter Revision Commission so it can continue it's overall look at the budget.

So Kevin is not here tonight but obviously he is very knowledgeable about the entire process. I've tried to lay it out as best I can. Time is obviously the major concern. We'd have plenty of time if it wasn't for the ballot coming up very soon. So anything we do we need to get done and on to the ballot before September 5<sup>th</sup>. If we can't act on these things, if we can't come to a decision on what to vote for, Charter Revision will simply discontinue. However we would miss the opportunity to essentially get the free ride of getting this stuff on the November ballot. We'd have to do a referendum in order to propose changes otherwise. So we can't really vote on this at all until we have a public hearing.

Are there any questions? I think it's important for us to be on the same page before this is put out.

Alderman DeLucia asked, the difference is that this one was done tonight?

Alderman Marini stated yes, that was the purpose of the meeting tonight. We had to hear from the public. This is how this comes about. It's the duty of the Charter Revision Commission to give a draft report to the Board of Aldermen. But it can't do that until it's heard from the public. We really had to find a way to be sure we had enough time to get our public hearing and reconsider everything in light of a public hearing. This comes to you for the first time.

We knew, those first three, we had decided really early on that these were definitely going to be things we wanted to send to the ballot, so Kevin was able

to help us in writing up the explanatory text and everything for those three. We would have to do the same if we went forward with the proposal. This is really just ahead of the game for us.

We can't vote to accept anything tonight; until we have a public hearing of the Board of Aldermen. It shows the importance of getting the public involved. When we have a public hearing we can take an action to approve what goes on the ballot.

President Sharkey stated, if Corporation Counsel Blake was here I'd ask him - we have specific dates we have to meet in order for the bond to be on there. Does this information have to meet the same requirements?

Alderman Marini replied, Corporation Counsel Blake told me September 5<sup>th</sup> and basically said yes, it seems to be similar to what we're going on to for the bonding questions.

President Sharkey stated, we're talking about doing ours on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in case there is a hurricane or some emergency happens, we can always move it a day or two. September 5<sup>th</sup> is the drop dead date for the bond. It should be the same for this. A lot of what we do tomorrow night has to be published in the paper starting Friday.

Alderman Marini stated, there is a publication requirement but it's not exactly the same as the bond. We'll have to speak with Corporation Counsel Blake.

President Sharkey stated, I'm reading proposal 5A and I don't understand it; when you look at it there is a typographical error. It says that the City of Ansonia will follow the budget referendum of July 25, 2013. We didn't have any referendum. It says a referendum will be held. That really needs to be changed. And if I can, on your second part Proposal A, I also don't understand, you have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6... sixth sentence down says the voters will be given the option to vote either yes or not and additionally the option to vote too high or too low. I understand that. If both budgets are rejected, after revisions by the... both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot... that sentence also doesn't make sense. If you look at that very carefully, I understand both budgets can be rejected and it says, after revisions, by the Board of A&T, both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot. For a ballot, that's true, and then it goes on to say, in case of further rejections the aforesaid process, blah blah blah, or until the City and Board of Education budget represents less than one and a half percent increase. You haven't taken into account, what if for any reason one of these budgets comes in and overwhelmingly the people say "too low"? You haven't taken that into account.

Alderman Marini stated, I guess the bottom line is, either the public accepts them or the total amount of both of them combined are below 1.5 percent.

President Sharkey stated, that has to be explained. If they feel, and they say

“too low” on both budgets, how can you still say that no matter the people voted overwhelmingly, they turned down the budgets, but said too low, which means they want them to increase.

Alderman Marini stated, they would have to revise, resubmit to the ballot higher, and then of course the public would have to...

President Sharkey interjected, then you’re saying, the total still has to be less than 1.5 percent. That can’t happen.

Alderman Marini stated, it’s either-or, either the public approves it or it drops below 1.5 percent. I understand what you’re saying. You’re saying if it’s very low, there has to be an override option.

President Sharkey stated, you have to allow the people to be able to say that they’re willing to spend more than 1.5 percent. It says under this section shall be repeated until said budgets are accepted or until the total City and Board of Education budget represents less than 1.5 percent increase. You’re telling the people they can vote that the budget is too low, but it’s never going...

Alderman Marini interjected, if the budget is set by the Board of A&T for under 1.5 percent, it would never go to referendum. It would just pass without referendum. So if the budget is higher than 1.5 percent it goes out. If people get it and they say, no, too low, it’s rejected and sent back to the Board of A&T and they make it higher.

President Sharkey stated, under that sentence it can’t be, it still says the total has to be less than 1.5 percent. If you read that.

Alderman Marini stated, that’s only one way for it to be accepted. It could also be accepted by approval of the voters. Say the Board of A&T raises it to a 3 percent increase. The voters could accept it and it’s passed.

President Sharkey stated, my personal opinion is, great work was done on those three questions. I think question 5A needs to be fleshed out; need to be done...

Alderman Marini stated, the cover sheet is a little more complicated than it actually is, it just says our recommendation is what’s on Proposal A, but I think the actual referendum proposal itself is actually very detailed and does account for that precise first scenario that we’re talking about.

President Sharkey stated, 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date that is being set for the bond public hearing. That was the recommendation from Attorney Fasi. September 4<sup>th</sup> is a bad day in City Hall. This room is taken, and there are many meetings. Police Commission, Board of Education, both meet September 4<sup>th</sup>. September 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, is available. This meets the requirement that John and I were talking about for the drop dead date.

Alderman Marini stated, it does meet the requirement, however, and obviously the time constraints are really tough on us here, if our Board of Aldermen were to decide not to approve it but to send it back for changes, then we've missed the deadline. So in talking with Kevin, he suggested, maybe do it right away, maybe even next week on the 20<sup>th</sup>. That way, if we approve it, fine. We can go ahead. But if we want to send it back to the Charter Revision Commission, we could easily schedule a special meeting of the Charter Revision Commission for the 21<sup>st</sup> and then kick it back to the Board of Aldermen on a date like September 5<sup>th</sup> and still be within our deadline. We need to anticipate the possibility of a second round of meetings. As soon as we blow that deadline then it isn't going to make the November ballot; it's going to have to be a referendum. To be safe something like the 20<sup>th</sup> or at the very latest the 27<sup>th</sup>. A show of hands showed that the 20<sup>th</sup> would be acceptable for a public hearing. We have to determine available so we will tentatively set August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. here.

Alderman Marini stated, I will set tentative dates for a special meeting of the Charter Revision Commission just in case it is necessary.

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Communication #6

From: Chief of Police Kevin Hale

Re: Approval of Purchase Equipment and Installation Costs and Maintenance Contract for Telecommunications System for Police, Fire and ARMS

President Sharkey explained, this is about the communications system and our provider, Northeast Communications. He has listed an upgrade to the radio system. On Page 1 it's talking about four different things. The FD is the Fire Department comparator that is obsolete. The Police Department comparator must be updated. They need to add the comparator display to the dispatch center that's on the consoles. Underlined is three UPS (uninterrupted power source) systems - that is in case you have a power outage at the Police Department you have to have clean, uninterrupted power going to all these computers. To handle this, it's another \$6,150. The total is \$44,300. If you look at page 2 everything is explained but he says they've been appropriated \$18,500 in the Emergency Operations Center budget - Maintenance Contract - that they're going to do will cover all three of our emergency services radio systems. In the past we have had a maintenance contract for the ARMS, we have never had a maintenance agreement for the Police Department or the Fire Department. We need to do that. He is respectfully requesting the following:

1. Approve the purchase and equipment and installation cost for the updates to our radio system at the cost of \$44,300 to be purchased and installed by Northeastern Communications
2. Approve the improvements of the dispatch console located in the Police Department, equipment purchase and installation handled again by Northeastern Communications will be paid by way of the Police Department's Asset Forfeiture; and
3. Allow the City to enter into a maintenance contract with Northeastern

Communications, once approved by Corporation Counsel Blake, to cover the radio systems for Police, Fire and ARMS at a cost of \$18,500, which has already been appropriated.

President Sharkey stated, part of this maintenance agreement they will come in and go through every radio that's in every vehicle, every portable. We have communication equipment that's never been updated for firmware. All of you that have smartphones know that constantly they're updating your firmware. Our radios are not upgraded. We really need to do that. I'm sure we'll eliminate a lot of our problems when we do it. Chief Hale is requesting a couple of things. We approve the purchase, number one, we approve the improvements, number two, and we allow the City to enter into a maintenance agreement. All of these are with Northeastern Communications. They will not go out to bid. We have Northeastern Communications is the only company that touches any of our equipment. We don't want any other vendor coming in with technicians to touch them. We have one group that handles all of our radios now. This is the best the City has ever done.

**Alderman Radin MOVED to approve the purchase of the equipment, the improvements, and allow the City to enter into the maintenance agreement with Northeastern Communications; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

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Communication #7

From: Attorney Francis Teodosio  
Re: Pending Litigation

To be discussed in Executive Session.

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Communication #8

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: Denita Homeowners Association

See Communication #3 and Resolution #1

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Communication #9

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: Sale of 48 Silver Hill Road

The Community Property and Sales Committee met. Alderman Knapp stated, apparently an individual passed away and the City has taken over the property for back taxes. If my memory serves me, they want to get it appraised, put it out to bid, and then offer it to the two adjoining property owners, and if they are not interested, then to the public. We're talking about 1/5 of an acre,

between two other properties on Silver Hill Road, right on the corner.

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept Communication #9 and adopt Resolution #2; and further,**

**MOVED to send the letters included in the packet to the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission;**

**SECONDED by Alderman Radin.**

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

**[See also - Resolution #2]**

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Communication #10

From: Acting Personnel Director Tara Kolakowski

Re: Amended Salary Committee Resolution

President Sharkey stated, you have before you a resolution to reflect the initial hiring salary of the Grant Writer. You received information before that Tara can explain - the original hiring salary was a mistake. It was posted at one but...

Ms. Kolakowski explained, what came to light was originally when Acting Mayor Steve Blume hired the Grant Writer, the salary was at \$49,166. Unfortunately in the resolution that was put forth in December of 2010, it reflected the \$48,9?? Salary. It's a difference of \$192 so we wanted to go back and correct it so going forward we have a correct salary for the Grant Writer.

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to correct the salaries of the Grant Writer to \$49,155; and further,**

**MOVED to correct the salaries of the Registrar of Voters and the Deputy Registrar of Voters who were also supposed to be included in the 2.25 increase; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.**

Alderman Stowe noted that he would like to see monthly reports from the Grant Writer, including information about what department has requested the grant.

President Sharkey asked, your request is for that information that has been given every month at the Board of A&T when she comes and any other ones that she brought forth?

Alderman Stowe stated, it also gives the opportunity of interested parties, because we're all interested in the betterment of the City. If somebody looks and says, oh, that's what she's doing, and I heard this grant was out there, it would save her grief and aggravation and answering the same question three times.

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

### ***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]

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Resolution #1  
Denita Homeowners Association

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1 pending the same procedures outlined in Communication #3 through Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Jeanette).**

[See action - Communication #3]

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Resolution #2  
Sale of 48 Silver Hill Road

[See action - Communication #9]

### ***Resignations***

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Florence Camilleri from the Zoning Board of Appeals and send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Nancy Marini from the Ansonia Housing Authority Commission and send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

### ***Appointments***

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James Della Volpe's appointments as follows:

#### Ansonia Housing Authority

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Dan Kershaw Sr. of 309 Beaver Street, Marini replacement; Term to expire 10-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

Board of Assessment Appeals

**Alderman Radin MOVED to appoint Florence Camilleri of 163 O'Neils Court to fill a vacancy; Term to expire 12-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski.**

Alderman Tripp asked, she resigned from one and is being appointed to another?

President Sharkey replied, yes, that is why she is resigning from one.

Alderman Radin stated, she is very good at assessments, she happened to work in the Assessor's Office downstairs for years. She resigned from the one so she could serve on the other.

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

Board of Library Directors

**Alderman Stowe MOVED to appoint Eileen Ehman of 48 Rockwood Avenue, Capozzi replacement; Term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

Water Pollution Control Authority

**Alderman Knapp MOVED to appoint Anthony Limauro of 32 High Acres Road; Merlone replacement; Term to expire 1-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

**Alderman Stowe MOVED to appoint Carmine Durante of 30 Hoinski Way, Blume replacement; Term to expire 1-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.**

***Unfinished Business***

1. Attorney Francis Teodosio - Personnel Matter (to be discussed in Executive Session)
2. Bond Proposal Discussion

President Sharkey stated I would like to take a moment of your time tonight and discuss the last items on the bond proposal and see if we can reach a consensus here. If we approve figures tonight, I can tell Attorney Fasi that everything is fine and for tomorrow night's meeting he can bring us the new paperwork that needs to come with all the questions. Otherwise, he's going to come tomorrow, we have the meeting, and he doesn't have the final figures. I made up the same exact sheet that I sent to you people on Friday for anyone

that wasn't able to bring their papers with them. The only changes that I made are the ones I explained to you in several e-mails.

#### POLICE STATION

We received a quote for the large window in the stairwell - it is 14' high x 8' wide. The cost will be \$11,000 to replace that window. I changed it from \$67,000 to \$78,000 and gave a new total on the Police Station of \$728,000. That now takes care of everything, and all of the windows will be thermal pane windows.

The Aldermen reached the consensus to go forward with \$728,000.

President Sharkey stated, Chief Hale and I discussed several times, and he met with one of the engineers yesterday to try and get a final revision of the electrical panel so we can move forward and get a heating system in that building before it gets cold. We thought we would be out to bid already.

#### ANSONIA NATURE CENTER

We had a revised parking lot, Donna had spoke about it earlier. I gave you the figure of \$242,000. I left it there at the \$430,000 just in case we were low on the pond dredging. We can adjust any of these figures. Some people thought the pond dredging might be light.

I brought a map with me. Several things had happened with the Nature Center parking lot. The lot has a fire hydrant in front of the main building. The lot is not striped or marked for roadways. Once we put in a parking lot we will have to have a fire lane there in front. There were many considerations taken of this. The Nature Center personnel originally asked for many, many more pavers in the traffic area all the way around. In our discussions I explained to her that is the main traffic pattern for any fire truck or emergency vehicle coming there. The average weight of your fire engines approaches 40,000 pounds, your ladder truck is somewhere between 70,000 and 75,000 pounds. You cannot drive those vehicles across pervious pavers. The architect moved the pervious pavers to the area bordering the wetlands. It is an 18' by 270' strip. Everything else is asphalt. Because of the increased runoff the architect put in a galley system with drainage. I will pass this along. They made all the turning radiuses acceptable to the City of Ansonia tower truck - a 50' turning radius. It incorporates three sets of rain gardens that were specifically requested to be there to try and take some of the flow of the water and keep it there rather than put it into the galley system or into the pavers. It's an engineered parking lot now. Our first plan was just to pave the lot.

Something I sent also was concrete stoppers for the cars. It was advised to us that we did not put asphalt curbing because that would not allow the water to go into the rain gardens, so instead had to be separate. It will be about \$9,000

for concrete stoppers so that the water can go between them and go into the rain gardens.

Alderman Tripp asked if the lot will be plowed in the winter.

President Sharkey explained, the lot is presently plowed when available. They make one pass through it. They will not plow the individual parking spaces because all that would do is push the snow into the rain gardens. That is not the intention of it. They will come in, make one sweep in around and go back out. They will not go where the pavers are or where the concrete stoppers are.

Mrs. Lindgren asked, if the asphalted portions are plowed, we don't need the entire lot plowed. But parts of the paved, striped area should still be plowed so that we have parking areas rather than just one sweep around the entire perimeter. Where will people park in the winter? It's okay to plow the snow into and next to the rain gardens; that is what they're designed to handle.

Ms. Rubelmann, the Assistant Director of the Nature Center, stated, I do lots of programs with Ansonia Public Schools, K through Grade 6 that come to the Nature Center for programs in the winter for maple sugaring. The buses come. I have home school classes - this year 10 different home schools that will be coming up during the winter for programs at the Nature Center. Each family will have a car that needs to be parked at the Nature Center. We provide tracking programs, cross country skiing at the Nature Center, and lots of other winter programs. It is very important that we have parking spaces for our visitors to park.

President Sharkey asked, was Public Works aware of that?

Mr. Schryver stated, not totally. We discussed that they don't need as many spaces in the wintertime. We were under the assumption that possibly for the workers and maybe a casual cross country skier, they would need possibly 10 to 15 spaces.

Mrs. Lindgren stated, I would say that first strip of spaces, at least.

Mr. Schryver stated, I think that is very doable. We can make a circle for buses, get buses in and out of there, and accommodate 15 to 20 spots during the winter months. All the scenarios we went through, this works the best. I like this. They're happy with it; we're happy with it as far as maintenance.

President Sharkey stated, this is actually less money - we reduced the price. We can either take the money, we're about \$37,000 lower on the parking lot, we can either add it to the pond dredging or leave it alone because the figures have already been out there.

Alderman Marini stated, this proposal doesn't just make the Nature Center happy, it makes everyone happy that uses the Nature Center. Whether it's the

people in Ansonia, people we're bringing in from outside of town. This is an asset to the community that is unique. Public Works side or the City side - if it comes to question whether or not we can accommodate it, I think the answer is we figure out how to accommodate it. It's the type of facility that is going to change what Ansonia is all about. It already has. That is the kind of perception we want when people think of Ansonia. We want them to think not what's going on downtown, not the blight, not the problems - but the Nature Center, which is an example for the whole town. That's Ansonia. Double down on that. That is Economic Development.

President Sharkey stated, I was impressed with the architect that did the plan and what he came up with. He incorporated all the suggestions and the idea of rain gardens as an actual teaching tool that the Nature Center can use when they have people there to talk about using some passive way of getting rid of the water.

My thought was to give the true price on the parking lot and add the money to the dredging, so we really are transparent and tell people what we're doing. I can easily tell Attorney Fasi to make the parking lot redesign at \$245,000 and move the additional \$35,000 that we had there to the pond dredging, if that is agreeable with everybody.

The Aldermen reached a consensus to move forward with it and leave the figure at \$430,000.

#### PLATT STREET ACQUISITION

This was in at \$420,000. There were many comments made last time about the two properties. I thought a compromise would be the one property. The Chief has explained more times his need for parking. Joan Radin talked about the problems with parking at the Police Department last time. We talked about the need for that one building, and we did get an appraisal of \$170,000. I reduced that one lot and took it off - I left it at \$220,000 in order to leave money for demolition and site work as soon as we did buy the property to make it a working parking lot for the Police Department.

Alderman Tripp stated, I agree with the acquisition of that property and you have mentioned demolition. I understand there are legal sensitivities involved but as soon as those leases have expired the residents can be moved to another location. I'd like to see that building torn down as soon as possible. I do not want to see the City of Ansonia get into the landlord business. I would like that to be resolved in the shortest amount of time possible.

President Sharkey stated, that's why I left money for demolition so that as soon as it's done we can actually contract and take it down.

Alderman Jeanette asked, did anyone ever look into the fence that goes around the around the Police Station? Is there any chance of getting that replaced? It is

really an eyesore. That is my Ward and if we're going to do all this to this building and this land, we should make that area look a lot nicer than what it does.

President Sharkey stated, we hadn't gone into any of the aesthetics of the building; we had gone into infrastructure and energy savings. I thought that was enough rather than add on some extra money - we're not talking about painting or anything else. These are very needed items at \$728,000. That is something you can look forward to in a budget and ask Public Works to put money in next year's budget for that.

Alderman Marini stated, the Police Department does an excellent job and they deserve the best. The building they're in now does not suit the Police Department. We have a City that needs a good Police Department, and we should make sure they're equipped with the best possible. It is not that building, and I don't think it's ever going to be that building, and I don't want to put more money into that building than we need to. I know it needs to be maintained which is why I completely support the boiler and the replacements. But when we're talking about the parking lot, now we're basically saying long term this is where they're going to be. That can't be the option. Like the Chief said, there is no time for delay on this any more. We need to put a commission together and figure out where the best place for the Police Department is. My opinion is, it's not there. I don't want to put good money after bad. \$220,000 to acquire a property - so again we're taking private property and turning it into City property which really should only be done in the case of necessity - shouldn't be done there. I think we should have our information. There's going to be an opportunity to do this later. If it turns out that I'm wrong and this is the best place for the Police Department, an old middle school building that is falling apart, well then I'll be surprised. Then at that time let's go forward and buy the property and put up a lot. To be honest, we're going to have an opportunity to do this again. This isn't the end of the world with this referendum, and judging by the tax rate we're going to have another referendum and another bond in at least the next year or two.

President Sharkey stated, over 20 years to buy this property you'd probably pay it back at about \$12,000 a year.

Alderman Stowe stated, I heard something about a consultant that was going to look into other locations. Is that true?

Chief Hale stated, that was a discussion we had at a meeting a couple of weeks ago. The point is, if we're going to have a committee, if you're going to be serious about this, you need the committee to hire a consultant, it's going to be \$25,000 or \$30,000, an architect to come in and say "this place - this is what we can do with it." Just a base, not a full design. Or, is the answer 2 Elm Street? Is it another location? Is there a current building? I've heard several different existing locations. We've looked at a number of these. You need somebody to

say yes or no, recommend or not recommend. Then go forward. We've talked about it for a very long time and I think we need to get a consultant.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'd go with the consultant and I agree with Mr. Marini; I think spending more money and it's never going to be really right over there. Then I go back again, if you get a consultant, somebody that really does this stuff, they would come there in a very short time and give you their answers. That is a secure building, somebody like Manafort they do this stuff all the time and they would know exactly how much it would cost a square foot to redo that building and roughly within a few percent. I don't see the sense in buying that house before we know that. It doesn't make sense to me.

President Sharkey stated, we talked about putting a committee together to do it, we talked to the Chief, he explained his need for parking there. Alderman Radin went on at length about the need for parking there. That is why it's there. Consultant is a totally different discussion. We can go forward with a committee to do it.

Alderman Radin stated, I happen to be a senior citizen; I am old enough to be your grandmothers. I feel we need the Police Department, we need it fixed now. We need the parking space. I'm not going to be here for your new Police Department that you're going to spend \$25,000 for a consultant and it will cost you \$10 million or whatever it will cost. I, as many of the people that are here, are older. We need a Police Station, let's get it fixed now. Next year if we want to discuss hiring a consultant, we'll take it out of our budget and we'll hire one, and we'll look around and see what we have in town. We need to move forward now - we need to let people know this bonding is important and the Police Department is important to be fixed - now.

The Aldermen reached a consensus on the \$220,000.

#### SCOREBOARD AT NOLAN FIELD

Alderman Tripp stated, I wish that Scott Nihill was here - I'm going to talk about a conversation I had with Scott, who is a football coach himself. Speaking just about the scoreboard, there isn't a lot of burning desire amongst the football coaches for a new scoreboard. I was asked to look into new scoreboards, which I did. I checked out pricing and to me, personally, and I spoke to Scott Nihill, it's very expensive and I don't want to blow the top off this bond issue. What the coaches are looking for are the improvements to the field house that we've already discussed. There is no burning desire in the football community for a new scoreboard.

Alderman Mott asked, does Public Works believe a new scoreboard is required? Is there something wrong with the existing one?

President Sharkey stated, at one of the meetings I heard the Recreation Director is looking to get a sponsor for the scoreboard and said there might be some

money out there, like from Pepsico or something. They would give you money toward it. They are looking into trying to see what we can do.

Alderman Tripp explained that pricing for a new scoreboard ranged from \$71,000 for a new scoreboard - broken down into 7 areas - scoreboard by itself is \$13,500; LED messaging display is \$14,000; a decorative truss across the top is \$8,500; horn every time there's a touchdown \$800; solar power for the environmentally conscious - \$4,000; and the audio system which somebody brought up - \$29,000.

In conversation with Scott Nihill, if the football community didn't have a burning desire to have this, if they're really not that interested in it, and their interest is in improvements to the Field House we've already discussed, personally I see this as a luxury that the City of Ansonia given our current economic condition cannot afford right now.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I totally support the football community, but did anybody talk to any of the other sports that use that field house? Baseball goes in there, Pop Warner Football uses that field house.

President Sharkey stated, the football coaches were asked about the scoreboard. Mr. Schryver and Public Works is in charge of all the maintenance on the field house, and they made the determination of what was needed in the field house.

Alderman Tripp noted that the scoreboard vendor is very familiar with Mr. Schryver and Ansonia and we've already replace some of the scoreboards when the different sports communities requested them.

Alderman Jeanette stated, if they want to do some work to that field house they should get all of the sports involved and ask what they want too.

Alderman Tripp stated, it's basic stuff that everybody can use. It's the showers for the athletes...

Alderman Jeanette interjected, no, not really. There is storage downstairs, there is a laundry room for uniforms. There is more to that clubhouse than just showers and lockers.

President Sharkey stated, we were doing the roof, a brand new ventilation system, and the shower system.

Alderman Tripp stated, to my point, those things are generic to everybody's benefit. They are not football-specific.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I was told that the football community wants their say on what goes on in that field house. I just want to be fair to everyone.

Alderman Tripp stated, I was told to check out the football scoreboard. I took a day off from work and went down to Stratford and investigated the fields down there. Beautiful facilities but I don't think we're looking to spend \$1 million on a football field and \$2.4 million on a combined baseball/soccer field. As I reported to the President of the Board of Aldermen I found that to be exorbitantly expensive and something the City can't afford right now. So I reverted back in phone conversation with Scott Nihill - he has been very busy with the Seymour Police Department - and when I was able to talk with him he got ahold of football coaches and once again, they said, "we've got no burning desire for a scoreboard, please get the field house straightened out." As the President of the Board of Aldermen just said, a new roof, new showers, and new ventilation, that benefits every sport and every person that uses that field house. To me it's very neutral and very general.

President Sharkey stated, and if anybody's nose was out of joint that we weren't, this proposal has been out here since April. This has been on the Internet, all over the place, and for some people to arrive, and I was very upset when I spoke to Mr. Nihill and told him on Friday morning at 9 o'clock at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and 59<sup>th</sup> minute, to tell us that they wanted some things changed around and doors replaced and all, that was not the proper time to do it. I was not a nice person at that time.

Alderman Knapp stated, say what you will about the football program, that is one of the crown jewels in this town, along with the Nature Center, and it's a great economic driver the days of our football games. My feeling is to leave \$50,000 in there and let the people decide. I don't think it's going to make that big of a difference and let the people decide whether or not they want a scoreboard.

Mr. Schryver stated, I'm the one that put the scoreboard on there and when we went through all of this we were looking for things that we wouldn't take on in an ordinary budget that we need to replace. I've been working up there for 39 years. That scoreboard was there long before I was there, it was probably put up when the field was built in 1963. When the coaches get the field, the scoreboard works. All they have to do is push the button and it's on. But every year we go up there; there are birds living in that thing all year long. The screens are a mess. It's the old 25 watt bulbs that you have to screw in and half of them don't work. We have electricians up there two or three times a year to make this work. So when the coaches get there yes, the scoreboard works and everything looks great. But it's what goes on before that, what we spend in man hours and money of the City to get this thing to work. It will go for 10 more years if we keep buying parts and keep putting it back together. I just want to let you know that is why that scoreboard is there, it is something we do need. It dresses the field up. Maybe not with all the bells and whistles but we do need to replace the scoreboard.

Alderman Tripp stated, for \$22,000 you can have a scoreboard with a decorative truss that says "Ansonia Chargers".

After more discussion, it was the consensus of the Aldermen to add \$25,000 for the scoreboard.

#### PECK SCHOOL DEMOLITION

That is a quoted price from a demolition contractor turning the property back to something you can plant grass on. That is taking all the bricks away, filling the holes. There is probably as much as \$200,000 on asbestos abatement. That is why no one will buy it. It's all asbestos board up and down the hallways. The recommendation was made to us to take it down. I added it. You will be at \$4,993,975 in total - still less than \$5 million. We took that other lot off there and also had a big savings in the ARMS building. ARMS had originally been in for \$230,000 for the roof. With hard work on Jared Heon's part and a lot of work with the builder of the roof, we can get the roof for \$200,000. We are getting \$85,000 from insurance. So the roof is only in for \$115,000. We were able to lower one price and get the \$85,000 in there.

Alderman Tripp stated, when Peck School is demolished, it will remain flat ground - it will be a park and nothing will be built on it, correct?

President Sharkey stated, the original proposal that the man made was to tear down the building and turn it into 3 building lots. But when it reverts back and becomes the City's property, I think the Land Community Property Committee should probably recommend that this stays open land for a neighborhood park.

Alderman Tripp stated, to my point I'm not for the City spending \$400,000 to tear it down and take care of the asbestos so some developer can come in, grab it, and put four houses up. That is not what I'm voting for. If I'm voting for this now, it needs to be left as a park, put some swings in there, open space for a very congested neighborhood. I am all for tearing it down, remediating the ground, and making a park.

Alderman Knapp stated, I'm in favor of tearing it down and leaving the \$400,000 in there, but as far as what we do after I'd like to leave our options open.

President Sharkey stated, I think we need to tell the people what we're doing with it.

Alderman Marini stated, I think I'm agreeing with Dave here - we'll be spending all this money and it's not going back on the tax rolls. It's not going to be an income generator. That's a little worrisome to me. It's also another public facility that we're going to maintain. We are creating public facilities left and right - that's not good. The ideal is not to make more residences, we have overpopulation in terms of too many residential developments. We need a school to be turned into an income-generating business. We need someplace for people to go and spend their money, really. Park idea is nice but the dream of

everything being a park - we have a nice park, it's called the Nature Center. It's pretty big too.

President Sharkey stated, it needs to come down. The Alderman reached consensus on the \$400,000 to take Peck School down.

***Executive Session***

At approximately 10:05 p.m., Alderman Radin MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. 24 North Prospect Street
2. Personnel Matter

And invited the following to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers: Attorney Teodosio, Mayor Della Volpe, Ms. Kolakowski, and Mr. and Mrs. Tenney.

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

***Return to Regular Session***

At approximately 10:53 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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

1. 24 North Prospect Street

Alderman Knapp MOVED to TABLE Communication #1; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

2. Personnel Matter

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to authorize Attorney Teodosio to enter into negotiations with Mr. Tenney; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

*Adjournment*

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen