



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN Regular Meeting – October 8, 2013

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Gene Sharkey. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- absent
Peter Marcinko, D1 - absent
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Kevin Mott, D3- present
Joseph Jeanette, D3 - present
Jerome Fainer, D4 - present

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

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 11 present, 3 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

**August 20 Public Hearing
August 20 Special Meeting
August 27 Special Meeting
September 3 Public Hearing
September 3 Special Meeting
September 10 Regular Meeting
September 17 Special Meeting
September 25 Special Meeting**

SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Public Session

Elizabeth Lynch, 15 Macintosh Lane

I'm a lifelong resident. Tonight I stand here first on behalf of my great-grandfather who looks down upon all of you from that photo of Ansonia's first Board of Aldermen; on behalf of my late father, who at the age of 21 in 1943 was the youngest person to ever serve on this Board; and also on behalf of my late brother, who was elected to the Board of Aldermen in 1985, and because of his confinement to a wheelchair was responsible for our City Hall becoming handicap-accessible. They served the City proudly. While I can't speak from personal experience, I would hope that none of them were ever part of anything like the contentious display I witnessed at last month's regular Board meeting.

I understand that most of you are seeking re-election and want your voices heard, but please take your campaign to the streets. When you enter this room, it is not about you. You are here on behalf of the people who place their trust in you and to represent them and their best interests, not your own. To do otherwise is a disgrace to the memory of those who came before you.

Thank you to those of you who are completing your terms of office and not seeking reelection. And to those of you who are fortunate enough to return to these Chambers, I ask that from now on you check your agendas and your egos at the door. Thank you.

James Fedock Jr., 88 Commodore Commons, Derby

I'm coming to you tonight to thank you for allowing me to speak to you for a few moments. I am the founder/president of Master's Table Community Meals, which is a non-profit based here in Ansonia. We've been doing it for about two years now. We provide free hot meals to anybody that attends attached with a clothing bank. I'd like to get the word out and get you familiar with who I am, and what Master's Table is about. I also am asking if there are any available office spaces. I see a lot of empty buildings around here and we are in definite need of office space. Perhaps someone has something they could donate to us; it doesn't have to be a big space but somewhere we could have an office, a little storage unit to put our things in. Right now I'm working out of my house; I'm working out of another storage unit in Shelton. I'd like to condense it to one place. Our monthly meals are at Christ Episcopal Church usually on the last Sunday of each month. You can reach me at 203-732-7792. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I've been going on with this here for the past five and a half months. They just came up to fix the curbing but the sinkholes are still there. I have a suggestion, giving it until Tuesday. They come in with a camera. Otherwise I can get news to come in there because somebody suggested to me today, "tell them you're going to get new." Because I'm not going nowhere because 2012 Mike Schryver's guys came in, they filled it, one hole, and now they're just not doing nothing. And, because the holidays coming up, they guys will be off Friday,

Monday, whatever, I'm going to give it until Tuesday then I'm going to call the news because this is going on too long. I know you don't want to see me here no more. Because I already spoke with news they said "let us know."

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I'd like to thank those members that will be leaving office here shortly after the election. Especially, I want to thank John Marini for what he has done for the City of Ansonia. Understand he's not running again, but I think that his hard work and dedication to the City seems to have changed the direction that we had been going into. Maybe we'll get our taxes down to a reasonable amount. We're glad for the progress made to put it to a referendum to let the citizens have a voice when the larger tax increases are dropped on us. We hope that things are more open to the public. I think there's been too many things that I don't know if I'm just missing it, I do try to keep up with the Internet, the Register, the Post, and the Valley Independent. Maybe there are other things in the paper that I'm missing. I think that the City should be much more open than it has been. Once again I encourage the City getting together with Derby to form one community. Doing it piecemeal does not seem to help our tax base. Things like the sewer system should be a negotiated item. I don't know why we have such a large sewer system that we're paying quite a bit for that we would be able to take in another community. Thank you.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview Road

Last month the Alderman in the 7th Ward was moaning about a sign that was in front of the Riverwalk. I went there that night and it was a sign for Juvenile Diabetes out of Shelton to use our Riverwalk. I called the foundation out of Shelton and they said they had our permission to put the sign up there for five days. I don't think that sign bothered anybody. I mean, is there an ordinance that you can't put up signs there when he had permission to do it?

President Sharkey stated, we discussed that last month. The answer was they're going to look into people just can't put signs up any place; you can't put them on City property without permission.

Mr. Plavnicky continued, the group did get permission.

Also, there's going to be a new road when Department of Transportation makes the new ramp off Division Street. I'd like to suggest if we, my suggestion would be to name it after the late, great coach Jack Hunt if possible. If you guys come to that maybe you could remember to keep it in mind for the street that's going to come in on Division Street, okay?

Last thing I would personally like to thank on behalf of the citizens of Ansonia I'd like to thank Alderman Marini for all the time he put into the City of Ansonia. I'm sure he'll be missed by many but he'll still be active in one way or another. Thanks John.

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

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

In regard to the issue, Ken, we've discussed it and due to the businesses on Westfield Avenue, because Westfield Avenue will be cut off, they're looking to have it as "Westfield South" so that they don't have to change their addresses. It's a great gesture on your part in regard to Coach Hunt, and I'm sure somewhere down the road we're going to name something after him. That's what's been discussed with Department of Transportation, Council of Governments, and the City itself, just to let you know.

We have finally reached an agreement with CCM regarding the prescription discount card. All residents of the City of Ansonia will receive a card at the end of October and they'll be able to use it when they go to get prescriptions at any local pharmacy.

Demolition has begun at Olson Drive. It's going to take 2-3 months to finish demolishing all five buildings, but they have started.

I, too, would like to thank all the Aldermen that won't be returning. I think you all did a great job. Good luck to everybody in upcoming election.

Alderman Radin stated, in the past year's we've been able to get our bill online and this year the bills were late going out and it's not online any more. Is there a reason why it was taken off?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I'll look into it tomorrow and find out why it's not online. It should be online.

Alderman Radin stated, when I did look at the online thing there was a thing about reading. It said "If a previous balance is indicated on your bill you have a delinquent sewer use fee. Please contact Attorney John Androski for further details on delinquent accounts. Past due bills must be paid in full to Attorney Androski before payments on current charges can be accepted." I understand we have two women working in the WPCA Office and I know they're very busy. Why do we have to go through Attorney Androski, because when you go through a lawyer you have to pay an additional fee. He gets the money, he holds onto it in his account for perhaps a month because he waits to get all the bills in. The person who is late already has to pay a finance charge or whatever they charge, a delinquent charge. I don't understand; he's not an employee of the City so why would we be paying bills to him when they should be going to the WPCA Office?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, he is the attorney for the WPCA. I understand your concern. We also have a marshal that goes out and does the collections at a lesser rate and that's something that has to be addressed.

Alderman Radin stated, well I think there's a problem because the people are struggling to pay the WPCA and I know they don't mind paying the interest if they're late, but I do not see any reason why we have to pay Attorney Androski since he is just a consultant; an attorney for the WPCA. He is not an employee of the City. These girls are down there. People can come in and pay, and pay whatever interest is on it. I also am interested in the fact that four people resigned two months ago from the WPCA; they had a meeting the other night and couldn't get a quorum. We know we're having a problem getting quorums. I think we need to do some investigation and not necessarily because anybody is doing anything wrong, but I don't think people know enough about the WPCA; I think it's being run on its own, it's got its own budget and everything. I think we as Aldermen and the citizens of this City should know what's going on in that office. I don't want to say it's a closed thing because I have gone to the meetings, but I think we need to know more about it and I would appreciate it if we could do something about that. I don't understand why they're a separate entity. They're part of the City.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I agree with you; it's a separate entity. They have their own board; they have their own budget. I reach out to everybody asking for volunteers to go on commissions. I've done that for several years now. There were some problems with this previous board and they resigned. I am trying to fill the positions as we go along. I have a few new members; I could use more. The City could use more to go on the Board. Anybody willing to volunteer, just let the Mayor's Office know. It's State-mandated that they have to be a separate entity.

Alderman Radin stated, the State mandates that? We still need to know about it. I'm sure the citizens here would like to know about it too.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, under State Statute it has to be a separate entity.

Alderman Radin stated, we still should have some information here.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, that's why we appointed a Board.

Alderman Stowe, I agree with the need of people to volunteer to serve on this Board. We have a position that needs to be filled and it's been unable to be filled because of lack of quorum. I think it's almost urgent that it be filled. It's a State requirement I believe. The papers are here to do us a big service and let people know we need people to volunteer.

Alderman Tripp stated, I concur with Alderman Radin's comments on WPCA but when I hear "State mandated" it's one of the City's biggest problems. Many of

the City's problems come from the unfunded State and Federal mandates. What I've seen here in the last two years, half the City of Ansonia's problems are coming from unfunded State and Federal mandates. I'm aware of that. I'm not a lawyer but dealing with these issues from the State and Federal Government is where a lot of our problems are coming from, and this is just one example of that. I do agree and hopefully we can get more members on that WPCA commission and bring more daylight to that.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

There are a couple of late communications and one late resolution.

For the last two days I've been dealing with tenants that are having problems with their landlords and issues with the Health Department. We're trying to resolve them so we don't have to relocate anyone.

Alderman Fainer asked, is it possible to get our Workers Comp people here? We have an inordinate amount of people in this town collecting Workers Compensation. Last time you had them in here the claims went down, and now they're back up. For our small town we have so many people on Worker's Comp.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I can ask them to be here for next meeting.

Alderman Tripp stated, I concur with Alderman Fainer's observation. I agree with what he's saying and I thank him for bringing that forward.

Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

I have three items on the agenda tonight. The first one everyone has seen before and it's on the agenda because the Board of A&T requested a complete package, not the revisions as we went along.

Number 4 is the part-time Tax Collection job description. We had a Salaries Committee meeting and it was voted unanimously to go forth with the adjustments.

Number 5 is Employment of Relatives - it's just a good practices resolution to go forward with the City to make everyone more accountable. If you have any questions I can answer them.

Alderman Stowe stated, at the Senior Center, the Assistant Director posting?

Ms. Kolakowski stated, the job has been posted; applications have come in. It was more of a fiscal concerted effort to wait a little while before we did the hiring for that. I believe we will start interviews in November. I've had inquiries about it; it's simply a cost saving on the advice of the administration.

Mary Deptula was on her own for a year as the Acting Director doing a great job there; we had Jeff Coppola there, we had Mr. Collins up there. The Center has always been covered and there's never been an issued where it's not been open or there hasn't been accessibility.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Brendan Nelson has been released to solo status and has been patrolling the streets on his own for the past couple of weeks.

Our Anti-Crime Unit conducted a very successful search warrant last week over on Church Street. They seized a handgun and a fairly large quantity of narcotics and made two arrests. They did a good job on that.

The Mayor mentioned the Olson Drive project and noticed that when they killed the power to the buildings they also killed the power to the streetlights. I was in touch with UI and they should be coming out tomorrow. Something got crossed over there so they're coming out tomorrow to try and get most if not all the streetlights back on.

Recruits - we have one in Waterbury; two in Milford. Waterbury will be graduating in January and the two in Milford will be coming out in February. They'll be on their own sometime in May or early June.

On the Westfield Avenue/ Westfield Avenue South - this came up to the Police Commission last week through VCOG. Several requests to the Commission - they handled most of them - concerning parking issues. The Police Commission officially deferred to this Board for the naming of the street, figuring either Westfield Avenue South or something else. My only thought for discussion is there should be some naming sooner rather than later. The project probably isn't going to start until next year but there are businesses with many, many customers or patients that we're probably going to have to send notices out in volume. I would just throw that out as a suggestion.

Alderman Radin stated, congratulations on your new position. This afternoon around 3:15 I was standing and facing the front of my store talking to customer and the school bus stopped across the street in front of Dr. Zaretsky's office. The bus driver put her sign out with the lights flashing and she had her hand out the window, and a car went right by her. Of course we went right up to the front of the store and she was very upset because she says this happens frequently right at that stop. The cars just don't stop and she says she sticks her hand out. And Officer Esposito stopped off to see me and I asked him about it and I'm going to ask you. If I were to take license plates, if I were to be at the front of the store around 3:15 and somebody did that and I took a license plate, could I report that? Would there be a problem?

Chief Hale replied, you could because the bus drivers can do that. Sometimes we'll see a bus parked in front of the Police Department and that's why they're

there - to report a license plate. We are actually in the early stages of discussion of getting cameras on buses. The State Legislature is passing legislation to allow that, and some of the money would actually come back here. We're looking at that now. If you do report it you may be called at a later time to come and testify.

Alderman Radin stated, I don't care. It's horrible to see these cars come down like crazy trying to jump the light.

Alderman Tripp asked, Chief Hale, do you have a West Ansonia patrol in that area at that time?

Chief Hale replied, there is a patrol on the West Side of town, it depends on where they are, depends on calls and arrests, etc.

Alderman Tripp stated, maybe a request could be made that if maybe once in a while he can frequent that intersection at that time, around 3:15.

Alderman Fainer asked, what is the procedure about getting a street light put in that area? I have two constituents calling me.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, just get us the address and if there's a pole there give us the pole number and we will notify UI and get somebody out there.

President Sharkey stated, UI has a program that is called "Light the Night" and they're very good at that, if you find a darkened area where you feel that one is requested, get the pole number and they'll put a light on it.

President Sharkey stated, I'd like to thank the Chief for taking care of the "No Parking" sign problem on Platt Street. There was a complaint by many neighbors.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

Alderman Knapp MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Scott Nihill

I would like to make the Board and everybody present aware of an incredible thing that happened last night at the ARMS Commission meeting. The Ansonia Rod and Gun Club gave an incredibly generous \$10,000 donation to ARMS for the purchase of a utility vehicle. The Ansonia Rod and Gun Club are a group of responsible gun owners that take responsibility in the City they belong in. This isn't the first time they've helped out ARMS. A couple years ago they gave a generous donation which allowed ARMS to purchase a power cot. I want to

publicly thank them again - Mr. Horace Behrle who is the Treasurer and Warren Connors who is the President of that organization.

The ARMS monthly report - they were dispatched to 262 responses resulting in 183 patients being transported to the hospital. 66 of them required Advanced Life Support Medic. We provided mutual aid on 21 occasions to the City of Derby and two to Shelton. We passed zero first calls, and three second calls. We collected \$54,097.31 for the month of September.

Our new ambulance is out and about; it's marked Vehicle #10. I want to thank Chief Heon and Doc Geloso and their Committee - they made an incredibly concerted effort with a lot of suggestions based on their experience in designing the new ambulance. It is a beautiful piece of equipment that will serve the City for many years to come. They are planning an open house in the near future to show off this new piece of equipment to the citizens.

It's not directly related to ARMS but it's another positive thing for the City - I want to make the Board aware we had a new business move in, indirectly, the ARMS Commission kind of steered this company our way. They made Ansonia their new home. The Emergency Medical Management Solutions - a medical billing company - they actually do our billing. They relocated their business into the City a couple weeks ago to 230 Beaver Street - the old Birmingham Utilities building. They are a first-class billing operation and they are planning on possibly expanding in the near future and possibly adding some staff there.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Dave Knapp - Land Use Committee

We met a couple weeks ago and discussed making Quarry Road a City street. No final decision was made; we are waiting for further information from Corporation Counsel Blake and the City Engineer.

We had a limited presentation because of time constraints from two firms interested in the lease options up on the cell towers on Wakelee Avenue. We will have to bring them back in to finish up the presentations. Nothing has been finalized.

Alderman DeLucia MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jerome Fainer - Salary Committee

The Human Resource Director Tara Kolakowski presented us with two items. One is updating the job description for the part-time bookkeeper in the Tax Office and the other is employing relatives where money is collected.

The decision of the Salaries Committee was to accept both and pass them on to the full Board.

Alderman Mott MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

We have a pretty big event coming up this Thursday. Economic Development Commission and our new Director and Dick Stoltz, our hired consultant, will formally present the Strategic Development Plan to the public. I would encourage all members of this Board and members of the public to come to the presentation at the High School and really get a chance to hear in depth from our new director and from Dick Stoltz about the direction that they're moving in for Ansonia.

The Commission itself has been preparing for that presentation. In addition, they still have a lot of other irons in the fire including the applications they're taking in for the loan improvement program and some other initiatives. Hopefully we'll have a representative from the Commission come to next month's meeting and start to fill us in directly from the Commission as to how those things are going.

There has been a little news about a possible film project at Copper and Brass. It's related back to that Film Commission forum we conducted about three years ago. This one's going to be a monster movie from a production company out of Hamden. They worked on a promo in Copper and Brass and they're looking to build a full set and to film a full movie there as well.

Those are the high points for Economic Development. Then there is the Strategic Development Plan. Then I would ask, the Mayor can comment about the potential unveiling of some plans for the Farrell buildings.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, there are still discussions going on with the developer - we are supposed to unveil something at the end of October but it doesn't look like it's going to happen. We are still in discussion.

Alderman Stowe stated, 7 o'clock this Thursday at Ansonia High School.

Ms. Kolakowski stated, John, I had a call that I referred to the Economic Development Commission - the gentleman's question was, "will everyone be considered for the storefront project - are there too many people applying - is it first-come first-served..." I said it is. He asked how many businesses have applied. Do you have a number of how many applications have come in so I can ease the burden of people worrying - saying everybody will be considered; you don't have to feel threatened by how many we've received so far.

Alderman Marini replied, I can reach out to Vinny Scarlata to get that information. I'm not sure how many there are.

Alderman Stowe stated, to add to that it's the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 o'clock at City Hall for any business people to come and talk to the Economic Development Commission Chairman.

Alderman Fainer asked, what's the deal on the website for the Economic Development?

Alderman Marini stated, the Commission has been working on the project and to be honest, [inaudible], I know there has been a lot of content sent to the Webmaster and as of yet the website hasn't really gone live. It went live for a little preview. But I don't see it up right now. So I think when we get Economic Development here we can ask. It's been a while. They have the content ready to go up. I'd like to see it up too. We certainly have a robust commission that's been having meetings so I think we can get those details.

President Sharkey stated, I just hope it's not going to be left to our new Economic Development Director to fold this out and get it running. We paid a consultant to do this, didn't we?

Alderman Marini stated no, we used the money to obtain the actual web page, not the consultant. A grant, actually.

President Sharkey stated, money was expended to get it up and going, yes.

Alderman Stowe stated, the website I believe was temporarily mistakenly put out before it was finished. I was at the last meeting and they voted to give the second payment to the outfit doing the website. It should be finished any day. It is moving forward.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Tax Collector's Report and Request for Refunds

President Sharkey stated, there are increases on the total collection percentage, real estate percentage, motor vehicle percentage and personal property. We are moving in the right direction.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the Tax Collector's report; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to pay the refunds in the amount of \$2,784.67 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 Knapp MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #1

From: Acting Personnel Director Tara Kolakowski
Re: Completed Salary Resolution Revision

President Sharkey explained that this is correcting a couple of salaries that needed to be corrected. These go back to 2012 - all non-union. This is also in reference to Resolution #1, which resolves that these salaries and wages be adopted effective July 1, 2012 or as specified.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Fainer).

Communication #2

From: Aldermanic Ordinance Committee Chairman Jerome Fainer
Re: Proposed Ordinances
CC2 and Ordinance

President Sharkey stated, Communication #2 is that the Board of Aldermen will be meeting in Chambers Tuesday, October 8th to consider the Anti-Blight Program and Open Burning.

We will take this up later in this meeting under Ordinances.

Communication #3

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works
Re: Bid Award for Screened Sand

Alderman Stowe MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works, to award the bid for screened sand for snow and ice removal to H.I. Stone & Sons of Southbury at a cost of \$15.50 per cubic yard delivered and \$11 per cubic yard picked up at the vendor's plant; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #4

From: Acting Personnel Director Tara Kolakowski
Re: Part-Time Tax Collector Job Description

Alderman Fainer explained that the job description was re-written so that the job duties of the part-time person will mirror those duties of the full-time person; the only difference between the two are the amount of hours worked.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the job description as revised; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #5

From: Acting Personnel Director Tara Kolakowski
Re: Employment of Relatives

President Sharkey stated, Communication #5 and Resolution #2 are related. He explained that it is a best practices resolution that prevents the employment of a person in any position that would put them under the direct supervision of a relative in a department that collects money. The Salaries Committee voted unanimously to pass this on to the full Board.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Marini MOVED to accept the following Late items:

- Late Communication #1 from the Ansonia Recreation Commission regarding Referral - 48 Silver Hill Road
- Late Communication #2 from Mayor Della Volpe regarding Prescription Discount Card
- Late Resolution #1 regarding ProAct, Inc. Service Agreement (Prescription Discount Card)

SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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

Late Communication #1

From: Chairman Alfonso Smith, Recreation Commission

Re: 48 Silver Hill Road

President Sharkey explained that the Recreation Commission has determined that this small sliver of land on 48 Silver Hill Road has no recreational value to the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the Communication; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Late Communication #2

From: Mayor Della Volpe

Re: Prescription Discount Card

and Late Resolution #1

Re: ProAct, Inc. Service Agreement

President Sharkey stated, the Mayor discussed this pharmacy prescription drug discount card program providing for the dispensing of prescription drugs during his report. The cards will be mailed directly to the residents.

Alderman Mott MOVED to ADOPT Late Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resignation

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the resignation of Flore Jett from the Ansonia Housing Authority and send her a letter of thanks for her many years of service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Appointments

Alderman Knapp MOVED to reappoint Edward Norman to the Ansonia Housing Authority, term to expire 10-31-2018; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Anne Lynch to the Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy, term to expire 12-31-2013; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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]

Resolution #1

From the Salaries Committee of the Board of Aldermen
Completed Salaries and Wages Including Revisions

Previously acted upon - See Communication #1

Resolution #2

From the Salaries Committee of the Board of Aldermen
Policy of Employment of Relatives

Previously acted upon - See Communication #5

Ordinances

1. Open Burning Ordinance

Alderman Nihill MOVED to ADOPT the Open Burning Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Mott.

President Sharkey explained that the Ordinance Committee discussed this at length and revisions were made. This Ordinance mirrors the State Ordinance on Open Burning. There was great input from the Fire Marshal.

Upon a question from Alderman Tripp, President Sharkey explained that this ordinance restricts burning fuels such as garbage, paper, glass, metal, plastics, leaves, rubbers, painted surfaces. It allows you to burn dry, seasoned wood. It allows you to burn them in grills, barbecues, outdoor fireplaces, open cooking fire, enclosed cooking fire, a chiminea. All of those things are allowed.

Alderman Nihill stated, this Ordinance is very well written and takes a lot of things into consideration such as the size of fires, the distance you have to be away from a structure, etc. It allows people to enjoy a campfire or chiminea fire and also gives the ability to cook on a fire.

President Sharkey noted that many of the calls the Fire Department responds to is for "heavy smoke," and quite often we find it is the burning of material that shouldn't be burned. Violations can now be tied right to an ordinance.

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

2. Anti-Blight Program Ordinance

Alderman Tripp MOVED to ADOPT the Anti-Blight Program Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.

President Sharkey stated, this ordinance has been revised several times. It deals with the dates from notice to the request for abatement. It had been 60 days and this revision makes it 10 days. The City may cause the removal of the blighted condition. It spells out the violations, and what needs to be done.

Alderman Stowe expressed concern about the notification process.

President Sharkey pointed out the first sentence, "shall receive written notice to an owner of a premise, personal in-hand delivery or mailing such notice to the owner's last known address, certified mail, return receipt requested." Many times we actually use our City Sheriffs to serve notice.

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

Unfinished Business

Addition of name to Veteran's Monument

Alderman Tripp stated, this Board of Aldermen had previously discussed the addition of the name of Sergeant Eugene Sharkey, a World War I veteran that lived at 26 Root Avenue, was a member of the 102nd Infantry Regiment of the 26th Yankee Division to the Veterans' Monument in the park next to City Hall.

Sergeant Sharkey deployed to France during WWI, saw action in the Battle of Meuse-Argonne, he was listed as missing in action on May 29, 1918. He was reported a prisoner of war and held at Lindberg, Germany on June 18, 1918. Three months later he died in captivity on September 3, 1918 and was buried in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in Romagne, France.

Alderman Tripp continued, having been in the military myself, I have no comprehension of the horrors that this man had to deal with and what he had to put up with and the conditions that he died in. I think it's an egregious oversight that Sergeant Sharkey's name was left off of the monument that graces our park next door, and **I MOVE that his name be added prior to the next Veteran's Day so that he can be honored along with the other Veterans that made the supreme sacrifice for our nation; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

Meeting with Superintendent of Schools Carol Merlone

Alderman Radin stated, at the last meeting I mentioned it would be nice if Superintendent Merlone came to the next meeting. Well she came the next day

to my store, and she explained everything to me. I think it's great and I think we need as the Board of Aldermen to see what's going on. Some of the papers and things that she showed me put a new light on how I feel about our school system and what's happening down there. We have a lot of fluctuation of students in and out of our system. Some of the things she told me were just horrendous.

I told her I want to come to the schools. I think it would be great if somehow or another we as a group could talk to her and see some of the things that are going on. It is absolutely horrendous and you just can't imagine some of the things she told me about and showed me. I do appreciate the fact that she did come. I want to go to the school, see her, talk to her. We talk about the Board of Education budget; we talk about State and Federal mandates. We don't appreciate what they have to go through. I'm learning a lot about the school system. I do appreciate the fact that she took time out of her day to come to my business. I would like to see our group talk to her to discuss the problems they're having.

Riverwalk

Alderman Tripp stated, in reference to the memo to the Board of Aldermen from Eileen Krugel dated 8 October, "the City is moving forward with Section 8 of the Riverwalk." Is that the bridge section?

President Sharkey stated, we have not approved going any further, other than that, and we talked about for health and safety reasons we would do the bridge section.

Board of Apportionment and Taxation meeting discussions

Alderman Tripp asked if the Board of Aldermen will be able to speak with Mr. Sturges or Mr. Norman about the comments that came out of the Board of A&T meeting last month.

President Sharkey explained that he spoke to Mr. Norman, who said he never made that statement that it was going to have an enormous impact. He meant that if the bond proposal was *not* passed and we had to do the projects, it would have an enormous impact on our budget.

Public Awareness Campaign in Support of the Bond Referendum

Alderman Tripp asked, as an educational thing, in what manner could the City of Ansonia make the residents and citizens aware of the bond issue and what is included in it?

President Sharkey replied, we hope to get something up on our website. The Register wrote a very good piece. Very well done. If we could do another one and have our Valley Independent Sentinel mirror what the Register did, the

Valley Gazette as well. We do miss The Evening Sentinel. We miss having a newspaper that we had a tie to, that the citizens could just open to the Ansonia section and see it.

People that I've talked to, some were aware of it and some are not aware of it. The more we make people aware of it, many positive comments, it is something that should be done. We have to rely on our news people to help us get the word out.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, the media will be covering it. I plan to get notices out and press releases out in the next four weeks.

Alderman Tripp stated, with all the election chatter going back and forth, I am concerned the bond issue will get lost in all that chatter. I am a fiscal conservative and this bond issue makes fiscal sense. I don't want to see it get lost with everything else that's going on. I know there are legal technicalities as to what we can say to the general public and the voters. I guess information, press release, we can educate the voters as to what this will entail and not necessarily tell them how to vote.

President Sharkey stated, I hope the press in this room tonight will echo all of our comments that we have voted unanimously to do this, we feel it is in the best interest of the City, the Board of A&T was on board 100 percent with this and everybody, once they understand all the ingredients of that bond and the fiscal advantages it gives us, it is a great thing. We implore them to follow up and do another one on it.

Alderman Marini stated, we did unanimously agree on the bond project and I agree that putting these projects into the budget in whole would be disastrous. But the comments that went out in the minutes of that meeting, misconstrued or not, have created some confusion. I would like to clarify in the interest of this Board that's going to have to sit and set a budget next year, exactly what is the impact going to be to the budget next year. I've heard from Rich Bshara and some other sources that we do know that there is a number, there is something that will have to be added to next year's budget at the very least, before you start to hit that payoff. What is that number?

President Sharkey stated, I was told it was \$300,000 and I was told that the money is there in the budget to cover it.

Alderman Stowe stated, the Mayor mentioned a press release. I would suggest that possibly we have a couple leading members of the Board of A&T make a statement that there's not going to be a tax increase, this is a good thing. I remember that we discussed adamantly that for six years this is not going to cause a tax increase. Board of A&T should be able to verify that. It would be good if they were part of the statement.

President Sharkey suggested that instead of the Board of A&T that our Comptroller address it, as he is the one that knows what's going on right there, right now with it. That would be an adequate answer. We can have the Comptroller address it and if Board of A&T wishes to, and the Mayor, that is fine with including them.

Alderman Marini stated, as long as we have the statistics, I would extend an invitation to you - we could put a joint letter endorsing not only this budget proposal but the referendum proposal the Charter Revision Commission has put together. I think if residents see that this really is a bipartisan effort, I think it is on both fronts, they would be more likely to understand that we are unified on this.

President Sharkey agreed.

New Business

Water Main Project on Hill Street and Pinecrest

Alderman Nihill stated, Mr. Schryver, if he has time tomorrow or the next day, on Hill Street with the Regional Water Authority Water Main project, there were some saw cuts in the road. We had some major rain in the last few days and it appears the saw cuts are washing out, maybe some of the process under the asphalt. Maybe Public Works could look at that. There are a couple of inches of asphalt that washed out and are in a pile there. With the cold weather coming maybe they're going to come back and put a permanent patch there. If you could look at that and make sure there is no undermining going on. And include all of Pinecrest as well.

Ansonia Harvest Festival

Alderman Knapp stated, I attended the Harvest Festival on Saturday. It was a great turnout and **I MOVE to send letter of thanks to Judy Nicolari and Mary Gibson, the Cultural Commission and any others involved; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

Adjournment

Alderman Fainer MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen