



## CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

*Regular Meeting – January 13, 2009*

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### *Call to Order*

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Stephen Blume. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

### *Roll Call*

The secretary called the roll:

Peter Danielczuk, D1-present  
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent  
Jason Bender, D2 - present  
James Fainer, D2 - present  
Gale Banks, D3- present  
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present  
Keith Maynard, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present  
Spero Jordanides, D5 - present  
Pasquale Pietrangelo, D5 - absent  
Scott Nihill, D6 - present  
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present  
Tara Kolakowski, D7- absent  
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

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

### *Consideration of Previous Minutes*

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9 and the Organizational Meeting of December 9, 2008 and Special Meeting of December 23, 2008 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Jerome Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### *Public Session*

President Blume asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

### *Public Official Session*

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Mayor James Della Volpe

To the Aldermen, tomorrow night at the Ansonia Development Corporation meeting we're going to have a public hearing in regard to the Riverwalk. It's going to be open to comments on the preliminary design. Hopefully we'll have some people there to show up and discuss what they'd like to see on the Riverwalk. Right now we have our consultants, DeCarlo and Doll/Lutz have put

up the design as it's been - the walkway in the lobby as you come into City Hall - for the past several weeks. We're really excited about it; it's been a long time coming. It's been five years in the works. Everybody's saying, "Why is it taking so long?" Well, Derby's took 11 years, we're into our fifth year and hopefully we'll get it up and running by the end of this year. So, if the Aldermen could attend tomorrow I'd really appreciate it.

In regards to the snow removal, we have enough money in our line items for the salt and sand. We are short on overtime. Public Works officials are going to be going in front of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation requesting funds for the overtime. It's going to be one of those winters where we get hit every other day with a storm. They're doing a very good job, we've gotten very few complaints in regard to the snow removal.

Before you tonight you have the Public Works contract. Hopefully you'll be able to support that.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

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Corporation Counsel Blake

Just to let you know, on 119 Division Street, that house, I actually just got off the phone with a potential buyer for that - Mr. Waddle. He tells me that Mr. Jones who owns it had someone else who might have bought the property. So the problem is to who is the purchaser. He gave me the name of an attorney in North Haven I'm going to write to and also contact by phone. If the Board of Aldermen could be patient, if not we'll proceed with our action we can do what we have to - rid that property of the blight.

Also, just to let you know, last month I told you about Opotzner - it was a zoning violation on Riverview Drive. We were successful in court to get 45 days to remove the containers, and all the trucks and cars. He is coming to Planning and Zoning for a site plan. We haven't seen it yet, but it's coming in.

Again, it's wintertime and there is an ordinance regarding within 24 hours after a snowstorm the people who have sidewalks in front of their homes have to clear them, or they can be ticketed by the Police Department. If someone falls, they could be liable.

Alderman Sharkey asked, is there some way we can put something in the paper regarding having people clearing the fire hydrants after snowstorms? When there are emergency crews on, the crews actually clean the fire hydrants. But if we don't put people at the fire stations, the hydrants never get cleaned. Maybe we could remind people - during winter it's for their public health and safety.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, we will put out a press release and explain it.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

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Chief Hale, Ansonia Police Department

The Field Training Program with our three new recruits is going very well. They should be released to solo status in March.

Speaking of snow removal, we've been working with Public Works enforcing the parking ban - the 24-hour even/odd side parking ban. In fact today, in an effort to continue to clear the streets of snowed in or abandoned cars, we had 19 or 20 cars moved in a very short period today. We are continuing to work with Public Works. It's going to get very cold and if these cars are snowed in and we get hit with a big storm after that it's like plowing ice.

If you're aware of any vehicles, we've tried to get to every street in the past couple of days, if you're aware of any, please let me know.

Alderman Jerome Fainer stated, just Bassett Street - the snow plow drivers that come by my house - that is their biggest complaint.

Chief Hale stated, Bassett Street is traditionally one of the top three worst with limited off street parking and multi-family homes.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

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Joseph Miller, Comptroller

You have my monthly report in front of you. I added in your mailbox the two audit reports. You will see on page 21 of the audit and financial statements that the City shows a surplus \$669,000-odd dollars, and our tax collection rate which means regular taxes and delinquent taxes were 98 percent of the budget. So, we're doing all right; we did all right.

Alderman Sharkey stated, Mr. Miller, I commend the people for getting it up to 98.74 - it's the highest rate we've had in the past five years. Dollar wise, are we up or down?

Mr. Miller replied, we are down.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### ***Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey***

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

*Charter Revision Commission – Alderman Gale Banks*

We are becoming active and we're having a meeting tomorrow night. I received several comments from the Police Department – thank you. The Fire Department, I think I received three or four. We'll start moving along. If anybody has any comments, please come to the public session Thursday at 6:15 here.

President Blume thanked Alderman Banks. Alderman Duffus arrived at this point, 7:05 p.m. 12 present, 2 absent.

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

***Municipal Reports / Annual Reports***

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

***Tax Refunds***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to pay the Tax Refunds for December, 2008 in the amount of \$3,885.84 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

***Claims***

Alderman Bender MOVED to refer the following claims to the Claims Committee and Corporation Counsel Blake:

12-08-732 Heidi Burwell, PPA John Doe  
12-08-733 Doreen Marsic, PPA Dominic Olivia  
12-08-734 James Smith, PPA John Smith  
12-08-735 Mary Jones, PPA John Jones  
12-08-736 Cecilia Wojciechowski  
12-08-737 Robert and Yvonne Rovasio

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

***Communications***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all of the communications, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If an Alderman wishes one read or acted upon, the communications will be brought up individually in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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**Communication #1****From: Attorney Gregory Stamos****Re: Vartelas Park**

Alderman James Fainer stated, I would like to see the money put aside for the purpose of taking care of that.

Alderman Danielczuk asked, could Corporation Counsel Blake check it out and see if it's legal?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, what this was is, when the Maple Street Bridge is going to be rehabilitated, and back in 2006 the State - we granted them an easement - most of this for drainage easement and temporary easements to store equipment there. For the most part it's set for about 1,500 square feet. They're going to put that park back to where it was. Primarily it's so they can store equipment because there really is no other place to store equipment except for that corner of the bridge.

President Blume stated, Alderman Fainer, we did ask Corporation Counsel Blake yesterday and it will be put back exactly the same way that it was. He didn't feel there would be any need to do that.

Alderman Sharkey stated, with the \$8,500 are we going to establish a line item or do the second paragraph here which means, make it part of the Valley Community Foundation?

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, that's the original, that went back to the General Fund two years ago. This easement was voted on two years ago. It went in front of this Board when the State came asking for that temporary easement.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the communication and place it on file; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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**Communication #2****From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake****Re: MetLife Insurance Company - Class Action Settlement (Executive Session)**

Alderman Nihill MOVED to empower the Mayor to sign the necessary paperwork to settle this for the amount of \$147.32; SECONDED by Alderman Jerome Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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**Communication #3**

From: Board of Education Business Administrator James Gaskins  
Re: Bid Waiver for Ansonia Public Schools Copier Contract

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to waive the bids for the Ansonia Public Schools Copier Contract; SECONDED by Alderman Banks

Alderman Sharkey stated, they've done due diligence in renegotiating this contract with the current vendor, and with two years to go are saving \$4,000-some-odd per year.

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

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**Communication #4**

From: Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, III  
Re: Acceptance of Remaining Portion of Sheasby Road as a City Street

and

**Communication #5**

From: City Engineer Fred D'Amico  
Re: Acceptance of Remaining Portion of Sheasby Road as a City Street

Alderman Blume stated, Communications 4 and 5 are actually the same.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, with respect to this, under Section 24-50, in addition to the City Engineer we also need the Superintendent of Public Works and the Board of Public Works to certify that all the regulations in the ordinance are complied with in terms of that the road is qualified. Once that's done, we have to direct the owners to give us the necessary land agreements. You'll want to make this contingent on getting those two additional things done, then it can be accepted.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the remaining portion of Sheasby Road as a City street, contingent upon the approval of the Board of Public Works and the acting Supt of Public Works; SECONDED by Alderman Jerome Fainer.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, just to let you know, I've spoken with the Board and the Superintendent of Public Works and they will have this on their next agenda.

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

***Resignations***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Raymond Foster from the Zoning Board of Appeals and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

***Resolutions***

None presented.

***Unfinished Business***

1. Attorney Francis Teodosio, Labor Counsel  
Approval of Public Works Contract

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the Public Works Contract Agreement as Amended and approved between the Public Works Union and the City of Ansonia; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstentions (Duffus, Maynard, Jerome Fainer).

***New Business***

None presented.

***Executive Session***

No executive session was held.

***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen