

**CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN*****Regular Meeting – February 10, 2009***

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, led by Boy Scout Troop 105, Hilltop Hose.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Peter Danielczuk, D1-absent
Robert Duffus, D1 - present
Jason Bender, D2 - present
James Fainer, D2 - absent
Gale Banks, D3- present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Keith Maynard, D4 - present (7:01)

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

President Blume declared a quorum of 9 present, 5 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2009 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

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.

Alderman Maynard arrived at this point, 7:01 p.m.

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

Just to give the Board of Aldermen an update as to the City's stimulus package that we sent to the Governor and to our Congresswoman. We sent five projects that were going for the stimulus plan. One of them being the Waste Water Treatment Facility - that's the \$38 million project that's started down at the

Public Works Complex. The second one is the Armory - we're looking to make that a Community Center. We're looking to renovate all the rooms and put a new gymnasium floor in the Armory. The third one is the Riverwalk - just yesterday we received notice from the Department of Transportation that we have approval of the preliminary plans for the Riverwalk. We're looking forward to sending up the final plans and going out to bid in early spring for the construction of the Riverwalk, which we've already received the money for from the federal government. DOT, once again, is the fiduciary for this project. The fourth project is for the Pump Stations which obviously lead into the Waste Water Treatment Facility. The fifth was our share of the road going up to the Fountain Lake Project, which, for those who haven't seen, Bob Scinto has already started up there. He's cleared out quite a bit of area. He's talking to a developer who has come to my office which I referred to Bob. This person is looking for warehouse space, office space, and manufacturing space. Those are what we have submitted for the stimulus plan.

In honor of Black History Month, we're having our Martin Luther King Awards Ceremony at the Brickhouse Café on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our local State Senator Joe Crisco and Mr. John Gentile are being honored by the group.

For those that don't know, on the 19th at 6:30 the Public Hearing for Charter Revision will be held. I would recommend that the Board of Aldermen come and listen to what the residents have to say and/or offer any recommendations or comments themselves.

I'll entertain any questions the Board may have.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Blake

We've collected over \$39,000 in taxes. We also inspected the water line assessments. Most of the people have paid that were delinquent. They're back on schedule. There's about another 13 years left on that.

We had a Safety Committee meeting last month. The good news is that our workers compensations costs are going down. We've had a good year on that.

The Mayor signed tonight with respect to the communications tower above us and relocating the communications system to the ATP Building. That has been signed. We negotiated a regional price for electricity. That can be moved and hopefully our communications will all be resolved.

Alderman Fainer asked, did we just get a collection on a blight case?

Corporation Counsel Blake replied, yes, on 530 or 520 Main Street - Miss Ramos - we had a fire last year. We collected \$18,000 - and Mr. Marganski collected the blight lien. Also there's a stipulation that she has until June 30 to have

that building repaired satisfactorily. I understand that she might be selling it, and there is still a forbearance agreement in there.

Just to give an update on 119 Division Street, you've got some information but there's been a snag in the owner trying to sell it, because the first buyer seemed to be backing out on it, but he put a lien on the land records. I told the attorney representing the present owner, Mr. Jones, I gave him a little time to resolve that issue. I've also worked with the Building inspector to see if we can address and make sure that building is still sturdy and under the building codes. There are avenues available and next month I will tell you definitely which way we're going with the owner, or new buyer - will either raze it or work to resolve the blight.

Just to let you know on 13 North State Street, I talked to the owner. They'll hopefully in two weeks will have that building put back together again. We are housing a gentleman for 10 days - he was a first floor tenant. He is at Howard Johnson's under the Relocation Act.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Just to continue with Corporation Counsel Blake's report on the radio system, and moving the tower from the top of this building to the ATP Building. This is actually an add-on and wasn't in the original plans. This will further enhance our system. We are currently on 100 percent wireless. We have much better coverage throughout the City - we have coverage in all the schools and in places we didn't have any coverage before. We no longer have any dead spots. This has been a 3.5-plus year project. I would like to thank everybody for their assistance - the Board of Apportionment and Taxation - it's been a long haul and we did it in phases. It's all been worth it.

On Thursday we're going to have a Swearing In Ceremony of our newest police officer just released to solo status. He's already been sworn in, but this is a photo op for his family to come in and watch an official swearing-in by the Mayor. That will be here at 1 p.m. Thursday.

After months and months of wrangling with DOT, the No Turn on Red signs were installed today at the light at Wakelee Avenue and Jackson Street. This has been quite a long process. Mrs. Radin is here, she can attest to that. We're going to give the motoring public a little bit of time to get used to that, but there is no turn on red at any corners at that intersection.

The Mayor and I have decided that we're going to meet with Mike Schryver from Public Works while we're going through the Charter Revision process to take a look at our winter parking rules. They've been in effect for a very long time, and there may be a better way to do this. I think Public Works will have some input on this. There's a lot of enforcement out there and it's really tough.

These streets are not built for three-family homes with so many cars, and the streets are narrow. We run into a problem every year. We're trying to be sensitive to the needs of the neighbors, but there are some places where they just can't park. We're going to meet and try to come up with a better plan. That's in the Code, and we're going to try to address that through Charter Revision.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Joseph Miller, Comptroller

You have my report in front of you. I'd like to publicly thank Mr. Sharkey and his Finance Committee for giving up all those nights meeting with us and the Department Heads to come up with the tentative mill rate. I'll entertain any questions.

President Blume thanked Mr. Miller

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

In January we did 177 transports. We collected \$47,158.50 and billed out \$138,239. I'd like to thank all of the ARMS Commissioners for all of the hard work they've done in the last year. Things are starting to run a little more smoothly. We're getting there. Thank you.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey.

Alderman Banks asked, is that amount collected about the same or is that an increase - now compared to a year ago?

Alderman Fainer replied, I can get that information for you. With all the ambulances having a laptop hooked directly to our billing outfit - it's billed out in three days or less, so we should have a faster collection rate.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Charter Revision Commission - Alderman Gale Banks

I would like to invite all of the Aldermen and the public to our Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. February 19th in this room. Thank you.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to pay the Tax Refunds for January, 2009 in the amount of \$553.39 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Maynard. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Claims

None presented.

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 Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #1

From: Michael Schryver, Acting Superintendent of Public Works

Re: Bid Award - Asbestos Abatement Project at Police Department

Alderman Fainer MOVED per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works to award the bid for the asbestos abatement project at the Police Department to Ultimate Abatement Inc. of Springfield, MA at a total cost of \$6,849; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

Alderman Banks asked, where is this asbestos located?

Chief Hale replied, it's in the basement, surrounding the old pipe system.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, we may be covered by insurance on this.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #2

From: Michael Schryver, Acting Superintendent of Public Works
Re: Acceptance of remaining portion of Sheasby Road

Alderman Sharkey stated, we accepted this street last month, contingent on receipt of this communication.

Corporation Counsel Blake recommended the Board restate this action.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the remaining portion of Sheasby Road; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Humpty Dumpty Ice Cream Contract

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, just to let you know, the current license agreement expires in October, 2009 and he just likes to be timely. This will come at the end of that license agreement.

Alderman Sharkey asked, do we approve it now?

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, approve it at the expiration of the current license agreement.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to place it on file until October.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, if you prefer we can bring it back in October. He has done this...

Alderman Sharkey stated, we can table it and bring it up again in October.

President Blume stated, if somebody remembers it.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve it now and grant it to him in October; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Nihill).

Alderman Nihill stated, we should wait until October and then take it up.

Late Resignation

Alderman Banks MOVED to DEVIATE FROM THE AGENDA to accept the resignation of Police Commissioner Karl Alston; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Karl Alston from the Board of Police Commissioners and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resignations

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Gregory Karas from the Ansonia Historical Commission and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James Della Volpe's appointments as outlined in his letter of February 5, 2009, as follows:

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Bruce Robert Goldson, Sr. of 29 Glen Drive, Alston replacement, term to expire 12/31/2009; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to appoint Bartholomew R. Flaherty III of 28 Pinecrest Avenue, Karas replacement, term to expire 11/30/2009; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

INLAND-WETLANDS COMMISSION

Alderman Nihill MOVED to reappoint Kevin Cegelka of 117 Ford Street, term to expire 3/6/2011; SECONDED by Alderman Maynard. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to reappoint Timothy Holman of 48 Elm Street; term to expire 3/6/2011; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to reappoint David Madar of 27 Finney Street Extension; term to expire 3/6/2011; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to reappoint Edward Phipps of 118 Myrtle Avenue; term to expire 3/6/2011; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to appoint Sandro Epifano of 26 Clarkson Street, Foster replacement, term to expire 12/31/2012; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resolutions

None presented.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

Mayor Della Volpe stated, as a reminder, next Tuesday the Board of Aldermen will meet to turn over the budget to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. We will need a quorum at this brief 7 p.m. meeting.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen