

**CITY OF ANSONIA  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN*****Regular Meeting – March 10, 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- absent  
Robert Duffus, D1 - absent  
Jason Bender, D2 - absent  
James Fainer, D2 - present  
Gale Banks, D3- absent  
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- present  
Stephen Blume, D7 - present

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

***Consideration of Previous Minutes***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2009 and the Special Meeting of February 17, 2009 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Kolakowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Recognition of Original Oil Painting Donated by Artist Gregory Karas***

Mayor Della Volpe stated, I have a plaque of recognition to present for the oil painting downstairs. I'd like to wait on this until Greg arrives.

***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

Eurospeed has reached an agreement to purchase the Healey Ford property. Healey Ford is going to stay on as a tenant. These are difficult times and Mike Healey is looking for alternative ways to stay in business. He has been working with Eurospeed for a long time and this is an agreement they've reached. The sale will bring Eurospeed National Headquarters, the sales, service and parts as well as its national product showroom to the City. This is a great opportunity for us and will create about 20 new jobs. Eurospeed offers a full line of fuel-efficient gas-powered scooters, motorcycles, ATVs and utility vehicles imported from China. Drive by Healey Ford and you'll see that he's redoing the showroom, and he has most of those products in the showroom.

American Precision is expanding on the Cook Industrial site. They just received some environmental financing with help through the Valley Council of Governments and the City of Ansonia. They're expanding their manufacturing, fabrication, welding and assembly divisions. This is also good news because they're going to be able to hire new employees. They're going from one shift to three shifts this spring.

Ansonia will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day flag raising celebration at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. All of the residents, Aldermen, and City officials are invited.

Today I met in Shelton with all of the Mayors from the Bridgeport area, Fairfield County and the Valley, and we were discussing the stimulus money. The first wave of money has come in. Hartford got \$17 million; Bridgeport area got \$8 million; the Valley got \$2.2 million. What the Valley is going to do is, we decided we were going to split it amongst the four Valley towns. This is used for shovel-ready projects and transportation, so we're going to use it to mill and pave roads and possibly put in sidewalks.

Nathanial Taylor is a sixth grade student at the Middle School. He's been invited to conference at Hofstra University and he's looking for donations. If any organization is willing to donate, please contact Beth in the Mayor's office.

We've had 31 snow events for the year and 50 inches of snow.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

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Corporation Counsel Blake

This month we collected about \$13,000 in taxes.

In regard to some old business, 119 Division Street, I'd like to bring that up in Executive Session to give you a status of where that property is..

There is a heart and hypertension claim involving Sergeant Louis Owens. We just met yesterday with his attorney and labor counsel. I need to talk about that in Executive Session.

I have some gentlemen here from Nutmeg Adjusters to talk in Executive Session about Communication #1 regarding the shredder building and the fire back on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I've been in court lately; there was a variance granted and the neighbors, the Boylans, filed an administrative appeal in court. I was in court two weeks ago and was able to assistant broker a deal between the two property owners for so we could resolved the variance hopefully the two can live at peace and complete the construction of the addition.

I got a decision yesterday on the case of Stephen Zuber. He wanted to build a multi-family home on an inside lot where you're only allowed to have a single-family. I anticipate an appeal for that.

There were a couple of fires on North Street. We have one person relocated to the Howard Johnson's. I talked to the owners today and by April 1<sup>st</sup> the owner will have the property repaired and he will be back into that home.

I received a call today on yesterday's fire. A mother and her two children need to be relocated. I still have yet to determine whether or not the fire was due to the landlord. I'm trying to get the statute changed so it will be no fault, because unless it's a fault by the landlord, the City is stuck with the bill.

I'm also following up with the Department of Economic and Community Development on the relocation plan. I think we have comments from the Health Department as well as the Police Department. The ones that really have to approve it are DECD in Hartford, and they have not responded yet; they're busy with their budget.

You've asked me about some streets to possibly sell, those streets that no one's using. There are also possibly new streets that will be come - they're not accepted streets but they become new streets. I've talked to Mr. D'Amico, he is doing the work, coming back to me so we can get appraisals so we can do what we have to do. There are approximately three streets to be accepted.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

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Lieutenant Wayne Williams, Ansonia Police Department

Lt. Williams stated, Chief Hale apologizes for not being able to be here tonight; he had a previous obligation.

Just to update you on a couple of things, we have three new officers who are finishing up their training. They're in their final phases now and they should be on the street by the end of the month.

Last week we had a bank robbery at the Naugatuck Savings Bank on Main Street. Our detectives are following up on some good leads on that case.

The next day we had a pursuit on Division Street that resulted in a car hitting one of our patrol cars. The Officer is out of work and we expect him back soon. Three gentlemen were in the vehicle and fled. They were found quickly, hiding in the basement of a house.

Our annual Awards Ceremony will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ansonia High School. You will be receiving your invitations.

Alderman Maynard asked, were they found in that abandoned house that caught fire?

Lt. Williams replied no, they ran through the back yards on Howard Avenue, and it was about two houses down from the house that had the fire. They got into the basement of one and another person was hiding underneath the car.

President Blume thanked Lieutenant Cota.

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Comptroller Joseph Miller

You have my report in front of you. The budget still has one big gap in it, the amount of money that we will be receiving from the State of Connecticut. We have not heard one word from the Governor's Office or the Office of Policy and Management, who usually passes it out. We have to wait.

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 Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

#### ***ARMS Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer***

In February we billed \$89,252.04 and we collected \$70,457.96. Since we went to the computerized system from the ambulance, we get a faster return on our money. We're very busy over there.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

*Fire Committee - Alderman Eugene Sharkey*

We're having quite a few structure fires since the start of the year, including one yesterday. Steve and myself and several of the Chiefs met with the Derby Fire Commissioner and Derby Chiefs, we talked about the fact that we have a limited response during the day; they have a limited response during the day. So we're working it out and covering each other's towns. Yesterday we immediately called for an Engine and RIT Team from Derby. They arrived with an engine and about 10 firemen. The RIT team - that's Rapid Intervention Team in case anybody gets hurt. Derby calls Ansonia for the same RIT team response. It seems to be working quite well.

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jerome Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***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 Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Tax Refunds***

Alderman Nihill MOVED to pay the Tax Refunds for February 2009 in the amount of \$3,356.57 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Claims***

None presented.

***Communications***

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to accept the one communication, dispense with the reading, and place it on file, and take it up in Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman James Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

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Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake  
Re: Fire Loss (Shredder Building)

To be discussed in Executive Session.

***Appointments***

Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone read aloud Mayor James T. Della Volpe's appointment as outlined in his letter of March 5, 2009 as follows:

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Alderman Jordanides MOVED to appoint Sandro Epifano of 26 Clarkson Street to the Water Pollution Control Authority to fill a vacancy; term to expire 1/31/2011; SECONDED by Alderman James Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Resolutions***

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Resolution #1

Re: Repayment of Funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides.

Alderman Sharkey noted that this Resolution was previously adopted, but with a typographical error indicating the wrong dollar amount. This corrects that error.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

R E S O L U T I O N

Aldermen Eugene Sharkey of the Sixth Ward and Joseph Jeanette of the Third Ward introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

WHEREAS, The Board of Aldermen at its meeting on September 9, 2008 authorized the repayment of funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for \$576,000; and

WHEREAS, The revised amount to be repaid is \$576,700;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and/or Comptroller of the City of Ansonia are hereby authorized to pay from the Ansonia General Fund funds in the amount of \$576,700 pursuant to the original resolution approved on September 9, 2008.

***Unfinished Business***

None presented.

***New Business***

None presented.

***Executive Session***

At 7:15 p.m., Alderman Nihill MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. Communication #1
2. Heart and Hypertension Claim - Sgt. Louis Owens

and invited Mayor James Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers. In addition, two representatives from Nutmeg Adjusters were invited to remain regarding item 1; and Lieutenant Williams was invited to remain regarding item 2; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Return to Regular Session***

At 7:43 p.m., Alderman Jerome Fainer MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman James Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Items from Executive Session***

1. Fire Loss - Shredder Building

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to proceed with resolving the fire lawsuit and further, authorize Mayor James Della Volpe to sign any and documents necessary to effectuate same; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

2. Heart & Hypertension Claim - Sergeant Louis Owens

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to proceed with the recommendations of Counsel; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

***Recognition of Original Oil Painting Donated by Artist Gregory Karas***

Mayor Della Volpe stated, there is a painting downstairs, it's "Silent Night," an original oil painting by Gregory Karas. The plaque reads as follows: "The City of Ansonia gratefully acknowledges the talents and generosity of Mr. Karas for his gift presented to the City. Dated December, 2008."

***Adjournment***

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen