

**CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN*****Regular Meeting – October 13, 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.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Peter Danielczuk, D1-present
Robert Duffus, D1 - present
Jason Bender, D2 - present
James Fainer, D2 - absent
Gale Banks, D3- present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Robert Beall, 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 12 present, 2 absent.

Deviate from the Agenda

Alderman Banks MOVED to deviate from the agenda to take up Communication #4; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #4
From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Ordinance - Winter Parking Regulations

Alderman Sharkey stated, the Ordinance Committee met to consider a change to the winter parking regulations, Section 16-2. [He read aloud the proposed revision at this point].

Alderman Nihill MOVED to adopt the following revision to the Ansonia City Code Section 16-2 (a) as follows:

ORDINANCE REVISION - SECTION 16-2. Winter Parking Regulations

- (a) Parking Prohibition; Exceptions. During the winter months of December, January, February and March, there will be in the city a 24-hour a day, seven (7) days a week, parking ban on all city streets and

highways, the purpose of which is to allow snow equipment to remove snow and ice as quickly as possible from all city streets and highways, with the following exceptions:

- (1) Motor vehicles shall be allowed to be parked starting in December on the even-number side of municipal streets during even-number years and continuing through March 31 of the following year.
- (2) Motor vehicles shall be allowed to be parked starting in December on the odd-number side of municipal streets during the odd-number years and continuing through March 31 of the following year.

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

[Alderman Kolakowski left the meeting at this point - 11 present.]

Alderman Banks MOVED to return to the regular agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2009 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Public Session

Jason Morrill, 1182 Racebrook Road, Woodbridge

I was here about six months ago and I have additional information I'd like to pass out to everybody regarding the Massaro Farm. [He handed out two pieces of information to the Aldermen.] I want to give you a quick rundown of the accomplishments we've had at the farm in 2009. I was here before the Board in April, and since then we've been awarded the Agricultural Viability Grant from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$50,000. We've been awarded 25 hours of technical assistance from the American Farmland Trust. They're going to help us with rules and regulations within the Town of Woodbridge. We've filed with the IRS to obtain 501C3 status. Having that status is a great benefit for non-profit organizations to receive donations, and it makes it easier to apply for grants.

We've tilled five acres and planted buckwheat, which is also considered clean manure. The idea of planting buckwheat is that it rejuvenates the soil. It captures nitrogen from the air and puts it right back into the ground. The five acres where we planted this is the five acres we're going to be using for the 2010 growing season. Next month that buckwheat will be turned into the soil and winter rye will be planted, which will also help to rejuvenate the soil.

We have a lease approved by Town of Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. It will be signed contingent upon having enough funds in our bank account to purchase insurance. One of the stipulations of the lease is to have liability insurance.

We've had two walking tours with 130 people in the communities of Ansonia, New Haven, Woodbridge, and Bethany. We've begun forming partnerships with the Ansonia Nature Center, the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, the Connecticut Farmers Association and others in the area. A membership campaign has started.

One piece of information I've given you is the information to pass around to gain membership to our organization. Membership is somewhat similar to what you'd give to a historical society. Our cause is preservation of farmland, agricultural education on the farm, and charitable giving. Some of the produce grown will be given to local food banks, schools, and other charitable organizations. We're using a membership campaign right now to purchase insurance to get the lease.

A sister organization has been formed - the CSA. The CSA will actually operate the farm. They'll have a farmer, they'll grow the produce, they'll go to the farmer's markets. The way that a CSA works is that you buy your 2010 subscription in 2009. That guarantees the farmer financial security, and it also guarantees you weekly produce. That membership will start at the end of this month. You can visit the website, www.massarofarm.org to get more information and join the e-mail list. Also, come up to the family fun day.

If you've driven by the farm, you'll notice that there's a tractor out front and a dumpster. Barn renovations have begun. The interior renovations in the dairy barn has started. A lot of the milking stanchions have come out. The interior walls have come down to expose a lot of structural repairs that need to be done. Hopefully before the end of this year we'll have all the structural repairs done. The framing, roofing, siding, windows - all put in place thanks to the agricultural liability grant.

The latest news, there was a press release from Senators Dodd, Lieberman, and DeLauro. In the spring we applied for a federal appropriation and it looks as though we will be receiving that. It's enough money to get us going on our phase one, to get the farm really rolling.

I have one more thing. I have some old photos here. A lot of you used to work on the farm. I have photos here and if any of you would like to keep them, please do.

The Massaro Farm will hold it's first annual Family Fun Day October 24th. There will be a lot of activities going on for families - garlic planting, pumpkin painting, carving and informational tables.

President Blume asked, is there going to be a resident farmer?

Mr. Morrill replied, yes, there will be a farmer. We're in the process of looking for one right now. In 2010 we hope to have a farmer living in the renovated farmhouse.

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

Mayor James Della Volpe

I'd like to welcome Robert Beall to the Board, he'll be a tremendous addition to this Board. I've known Robert since he was a youngster, I coached him in high school - he was very coachable; very attentive. I'm sure he'll work very well with each and every member of the Board of Aldermen and he'll represent his constituents well in the Fourth Ward.

I'd like to thank Elizabeth Lynch and Eileen Krugel for the wonderful job they did organizing the Harvest Festival. They put a lot of time and effort into it over the last several months. We had a rain delay but it went off without a hitch on Saturday. The crowds are getting bigger each year. I'd like to personally and publicly thank Elizabeth and Eileen.

Just today we had a meeting regarding the swine flu. I'd like to let the Board know that the City of Ansonia is prepared. We still have a few things to work out with our Department heads on how we're going to handle it internally if it were to hit here in Ansonia. We had the Health Department here along with the Chief of Police, ARMS, and our Personnel Director and Corporation Counsel. We are prepared in case there is an outbreak of the swine flu.

Our bulk pickup is this month. Please monitor your wards. If you see something on the street that should be picked up or blighted land or property, please notify the Mayor's Office so that we can address that.

The WPCA project is ahead of schedule and under budget. It's moving along well. We went to bid on new receptacles for Main Street and the parks. We're waiting to open the bids and see who is awarded.

We have new businesses on Main Street and East Main Street. Martial Arts has opened a studio on Main Street, and Lanza has opened up on East Main Street. They're going to have their grand opening Thursday at 2 o'clock.

This Saturday night Charter Hose is having their 100th anniversary dinner at Grassy Hill Lodge. Congratulations to Charter Hose.

I'd like to thank the Board for passing the ordinance. I think it's very important legislation. The last couple of years, Public Works equipment has been damaged quite a bit because of the ice that builds up. By moving cars from one side to the other, the ice buildup was damaging the plows and this should eliminate most of those problems.

Demolition has started at the Riverside Apartments. Two buildings have come down. They should be all cleared. It will be open space in the next couple of weeks.

We received \$78,000 in stimulus money for an energy plan, which we will submit very shortly.

The Riverwalk - the City has done our part and handed in our paperwork to the Department of Transportation. We're awaiting final approval from them. We're into October so it doesn't look like it's going to happen until spring. But it should happen in the spring.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Blake

There will be no executive session tonight.

We've collected about \$23,000 in taxes this month.

In the case of Schuster v. Fountain Lake and the Planning and Zoning Commission - the family wanted to get an access road where Mr. Scinto is going to put his buildings. The Judge found in favor of the Planning and Zoning. They can still appeal it, but the decision came down on the 8th.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Hale, Ansonia Police Department

As you are all aware there was a tragic fire on Fifth Street. I just want to publicly recognize the heroic efforts of all of the Police Officers and Firefighters. Early on and throughout the whole blaze, before any equipment got there, several Police Officers and Firefighters went in without any gear on and saved the first life. One officer received a burn and was back to work two days later.

We're progressing on the phone system. We met with AT&T and the contract has been signed.

We also have progress on our fingerprint system and our in-car reporting system. The vendor will be in later this week working on the Livescan Fingerprint system and the in-car reporting will follow after that.

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Committee Reports

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

Recently the City of Ansonia received the newest piece of fire apparatus, Engine 3. It was accepted by the City and placed into service on Sunday, October 4th. It's already answered several alarms.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Della Volpe for all his hard work in getting that piece of equipment. He has gone on record as trying to supply both the firemen and police with the necessary equipment that they need. He has carried through on that. Our fleet is now right where it should be. We shouldn't anticipate any requests for new apparatus for quite a while.

The Webster Hose is going to have an open house this Saturday from 11-3 at its quarters, and I'd like to invite all the Aldermen, City Officials and the public to view that piece of equipment.

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

Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

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

Ansonia Rescue and Medical Service Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

ARMS responded to 2,016 calls this year.

The Board of Apportionment and Taxation has given us permission to research getting a new ambulance. The present ambulance is 10 years old and has a lot of engine hours and mileage on it.

Last month we collected \$57,600.67.

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

President Blume stated, ARMS is presently putting together specs for a new ambulance. We should be able to go out to bid on that in a couple of weeks.

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 11-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the Tax Refunds for September, 2009 in the amount of \$3,220.03 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Claims

10-09-746 Louisa Garcia-Orellana

Alderman Bender MOVED to refer the claim to the Claims Committee and Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communications

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

Communication #1

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Appointment of Michael Schryver as Superintendent of Public Works

Alderman Nihill MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works, to appoint Michael Schryver as Superintendent of Public Works; SECONDED by Aldermen Sharkey and Duffus.

President Blume stated, I call Michael Schryver at least six or seven times a week. He always takes the phone call and always gets it done. No complaints - no matter what it is, where it is, it's always done. He'll be a great addition to the City as Superintendent of Public Works.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think this is one of the first times we've put someone in an interim position. He's held the interim position now for almost nine months and has done a tremendous job.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, the Board of Public Works unanimously sent the recommendation to the Board.

Alderman Duffus stated, Mike Schryver did a great job for me on the north end getting the parks cleaned up, and quickly.

Alderman Jeanette stated that he and Alderman Banks called about the island, and the next day it was cleaned.

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

Communication #2

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Bid Award - Treated Salt

Alderman Nihill MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works, to award the bid for treated salt to International Salt Co., LLC at a cost of \$87.94 per ton delivered; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #3

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works

Re: Bid Award - Screened Sand for Snow and Ice Removal

Alderman Nihill 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 at a cost of \$17 per cubic yard delivered; or \$13 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.

Late Communications

President Blume opened the Public Session on Late Communications 1 and 2. He asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Late Communication #1

From: City Engineer Fred D'Amico

Re: Bid Award - Permanent Patching of Street Excavations

Alderman Sharkey stated, this is quite lengthy and complicated reading.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to TABLE Late Communication #1; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Late Communication #2

From: Lucecita Herrera, 292 Wakelee Avenue

Re: Authorization for Building Permit to Repair Roof

Alderman Sharkey, in looking at the letter that we received from Ms. Herrera, this pertains to getting a building permit to allow her to replace the roof on her house before winter sets in. We have an ordinance that no one can receive building permits while taxes are in arrears. However, she is on a payment plan, she is current on making partial payments. Based upon that I'd like to approve her request.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to approve her request and allow her to obtain a building permit; SECONDED by Alderman Jordanides. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resignations

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept the resignation of Gail D. Kryvanis from the Ansonia Board of Ethics and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to accept the resignation of Gail D. Kryvanis from the Ansonia Cultural Commission and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Appointments**COMMISSION FOR ELDERLY SERVICES**

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Grace Forbes of 25 Church Street to fill a vacancy; term to expire 12/31/2012; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

CULTURAL COMMISSION

Alderman Duffus MOVED to appoint Christine Boulay of 28 William Street, Kryvanis replacement; SECONDED by Alderman Sharkey. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Resolutions

Resolution #1: Grant Application - Youth Services Bureau

Alderman Danielczuk MOVED to adopt Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

R E S O L U T I O N

Aldermen Peter J. Danielczuk and Robert J. Duffus of the First Ward introduced the following Resolution:

Resolved,

That the State of Connecticut, Department of Education Youth Service Bureau service contract extends financial assistance to municipalities; and

WHEREAS,

It is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Ansonia make application to the State in such amounts that may be available for undertaking a Youth Services Bureau, and to execute a grant application request to the Department of Education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State assistance imposed by Section 32, P.A. 99-1, 10-19m through 10-19p of the Connecticut General Statutes;
2. That it recognizes the responsibility for the provision of local cost sharing grant to the extent that they are necessary and required for said program;
3. That said program will be administered by Ansonia Community Action, with all rights and responsibilities of a subcontractor;
4. That the filing of an application by the local Agency is hereby approved and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file such application with the Commissioner of State Department of Education, to provide such additional information as the Commissioner may request, to execute a Grant Action Request with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions and

revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the local agency.

Late Resolution #1: OPM Municipal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

President Blume opened up the Public Session on Late Resolution #1. He asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to adopt Late Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Banks. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

R E S O L U T I O N

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, James Della Volpe is the municipal officer who is authorized to sign grants, contracts and other documents on behalf of the City of Ansonia in Ansonia, Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that James T. Della Volpe is authorized to sign the application for funding under the Office of Policy and Management Municipal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and understands that funding under this program is from Connecticut's allocation of funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

None presented.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was observed.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen