

**CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN*****Regular Meeting – December 8, 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:

Edward Adamowski, D1-present
Robert Duffus, D1 - present
Jason Bender, D2 - present
James Fainer, D2 - absent
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
John Marini, R3- present
Robert Beall, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Spero Jordanides, D5 - absent
Pasquale Pietrangelo, D5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - absent
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present
Tara Kolakowski, D7- present
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 Special Meeting of October 13, 2009 and Regular Meeting of November 10, 2009 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Public Session

Randolph Carroll, Chairman
Ansonia Historical Commission

Over a year ago, we have two historic signs that need to go up. They still haven't gone up. We've written letters to Public Works. One is for the Coe Family Cobblery which is at the top of the hill in back of the baseball field near the Police Station. There's a foundation there. That sign still hasn't gone up. Also, on Jewett Street where the Gristmill was - 1680 - we paid for a sign that still hasn't gone up. Could this Board please write a letter to the Board of Public Works? I hate to spend City money for things and then have things sitting. We've had the signs for over a year - they're at City Hall. Thank you.

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

Congratulations to everybody; I'm looking forward to working with you in the next few years.

From 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16th, Dr. Martin Luther King Brotherhood Awards will be given out at the Macedonia Baptist Church. The award recipients are those that were involved with the fire up at the north end on Fourth Street at the McMichael house. There are three officers, public works employees, and two citizens will be honored.

This month is the Servicemen's Fund. We have a few names. If you know anybody that is in the service, we'd like to send them a small gift from the City. Please get the names and addresses to Beth Lynch in my office.

Just recently I was named to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan Panel. We've been meeting in Hartford. They're looking to reduce the municipal aid by three percent. That would be a \$450,000 cut to our current budget. It would be devastating if this were to occur. We have another meeting tomorrow in Hartford at 2 o'clock. Personally I'm against any type of cut mid-budget, because of the agreements we did reach with our unions in regard to the concessions. Obviously the place where you get the most money is through layoffs. Unfortunately, we've made the concessions and we're not able to lay off. We're going to look for other avenues to reduce if it goes into effect, but I'm hoping that the other mayors that are on the panel will go along and vote against this.

Next Wednesday also, the Governor is coming to John J. Sullivan's for a Chamber Breakfast. If anybody wants to go, please notify my office and we'll get you a seat at the table.

This Saturday at the Armory, there's going to be a Veterans' Stand Down. The organization, Stars and Stripes from Derby has asked to use the Armory and we've granted that. This is a day in which veterans will come to the Armory to get help and services provided to them from the State agencies and/or local agencies. If anybody can make it there it would be appreciated.

That will be all for this month. If anybody has any questions I'll certainly entertain them.

President Blume thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Blake

Just to let you know, this past weekend I've been busy with it - 70 Grove Street - we got call from the Health Department on Friday. First they didn't have heat on the second floor. We didn't convince her, consistent of his attorney, put the people up and they're still there until this coming Thursday at a hotel until that building gets heat into it. But we don't have to pay for it.

On the Bassett Street fire, today I was able to get two other tenants into, they're actually going to share a rent on Francis Street. Everyone from there are no longer in hotels. I am putting a lien on the house just in case it is found to be arson. It's a precautionary measure until a final decision is made.

To give you an update on the Overchuck (sp?) property on Pulaski Highway. I did speak to their attorneys. Because there are so many people in the family he hasn't gotten back to me as to what their position would be in terms of the City possibly buying the property.

The New Haven Register filed an FOI complaint against the Chief regarding some medical aspect of a report regarding a case. That complaint was withdrawn by the New Haven Register, if not we would have been in court tomorrow.

On 17-19 Sixth Street, I have a proposal to discuss with you in Executive Session tonight. I have nothing else.

President Blume thanked Corporation Counsel Blake.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

The winter parking rules took effect December 1st. We've had some questions, and the first four or five days we issue just warnings before we start ticketing.

Rockwood Avenue as of December 1st has changed back to a two-way street.

The Detectives made a very substantial drug arrest last week - a marijuana seizure from the same individual we've been dealing with for the past year. They seized a sizeable amount of cash and about 10 pounds of marijuana.

Our phone system was installed today - so far so good.

Our in-car reporting should hopefully be coming in the next couple of weeks. We just received two new IP addresses from the State to get that up and running. Along with that we'll have our electronic fingerprint system as well. We're moving along in the technology area.

Alderman Jeanette asked, next month are they going to be ticketing cars that are parked on the wrong side? Some people might not realize that we're doing this one-side thing.

Chief Hale stated, what we thought perhaps is January 1st, provided there are no storms - we'll give a grace period; readjust the fliers. Hopefully when its up and running we should have some questions in the first part of December, and the rest of the season [inaudible].

President Blume thanked Chief Hale.

Committee Reports

President Blume welcomed new First Ward Alderman Ed Adamowski and new Third Ward Alderman John Marini to the Board.

Finance Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

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

ARMS Committee - Alderman Jerome Fainer

In the month of November, we dispatched 225 calls, we transported 164 patients, and we collected \$47,643.55.

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

Fire Committee - Alderman Gene Sharkey

We've had a very busy past 30 days. We had that serious structure fire that put four people out of Bassett Street. It entailed mutual aid coming from the City of Derby, as well as the Towns of Seymour, Beacon Falls and Oxford. We are working hand-in-hand with our neighboring communities and they respond well to all requests. Ansonia is probably going to be put in the same position - whenever people need assistance we will be lending it in return.

We also had what could have been a devastating fire on Main Street today. We had a fire at 96 Main Street - a storefront - it's out of business right now. It was a great stop by the Ansonia Fire Department. Again, we requested and were given two pieces of equipment from Derby. Immediately what we do is request a RIT team - that's a rapid intervention team to prevent any fireman that's in a perilous situation - that's a rescue team to go in to pick them up. It's totally for rescue purposes. At times, we supply a RIT team to someone else that needs our assistance.

We've had a very busy 30 days and will continue.

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

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

Tax Refunds

Alderman Beall MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the Tax Refunds for November, 2009 in the amount of \$19,607.36 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Claims

11-09-747 Mustafa Salahuddin v. City of Ansonia - CHRO

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I've already sent this to the insurance carrier and has been assigned to the Attorney who handled the initial CHRO complaint. It's for information only.

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 11-0.

Communication #1

From: Chairman Randolph Carroll, Historical Commission

Re: Contract with Seccombe Bros. Memorial

Mr. Carroll stated, I'm asking to pass Phase 1 for the restoration of the fountain at the Library. It's for \$1,970, which I have the money for. The total cost of Phase 1 will be \$8,240. As of yesterday I have raised \$7,375 of those dollars.

The only part of this project that includes the City is what is before you. It is a grant. The rest of the money is the Friends of the Library, who are the fiduciary, which I am also Chairman, and will complete the rest of the project.

You have before you the diagram and the cost. The contract A, B, C and D, the rest of what you would need on this will be done by the Friends of the Library.

This is Phase 1, it is just for the fountain itself. It doesn't include the pump or retention pond.

President Blume stated, it's a request for permission to enter into a contract with Seccombe Brothers Memorials in the amount of \$2,600.

Mr. Carroll stated, no, the correct amount is \$1,970.

President Blume stated, the Agreement for Services we have before us says \$2,600.

Alderman Beall MOVED to modify the agreement to reflect the amount of \$1,970; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor James Della Volpe to sign the agreement; SECONDED by Alderman Bender. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #2

From: Police Chief Kevin Hale

Re: Lease Agreement for Copier

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to waive the bidding process and authorize the Ansonia Police Department to enter into a lease agreement with A & A Office Systems, Inc. for a Savin model 9040B copier at a cost of \$197.20 per month (pricing under State contract #04PSX0044); SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #3

From: Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning and Zoning Commission

Re: Hunter's Landing Subdivision

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, it's been reviewed by the City Engineer who sent it on to the Planning and Zoning Commission. I think it's fine. And I believe we have named it before - all you have to do is accept the road as a City street.

Alderman Bender MOVED, per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to accept the dead end road in the Hunter's Landing Subdivision as a City Street; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: Forbearance Agreement - 17-19 Sixth Street

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Communication #5

From: Chairman John Finnucan, Board of Public Works
Re: Bid Award - Scrap Metal

Alderman Kolakowski MOVED, per the recommendation of the Board of Public Works to award the bid for scrap metal to Calamari Recycling Co., Inc. of Essex at a bid price of 82% of the American Metal Market (NY); SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Communication #6

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Re: ARMS Votes at Meetings

President Blume stated, this item is for information only.

Appointments

None presented.

Resolutions**Resolution #1**

Re: Ansonia Riverwalk - Funding

R E S O L U T I O N

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

State Project 002-125
Federal Project No. H124(001)

WHEREAS, the City of Shelton has prepared an overall master plan for the Ansonia Park and Riverwalk as identified above, which has been unanimously supported at the City's public information meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City, based on comments from the DOT/FHWA proceed only with the design of segments 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the overall Ansonia Park and Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, the DOT/FHWA now desire a resolution from the Ansonia Board of Aldermen committing the City to construct the pedestrian bridge (Segment 8) over the Metro-North rail line by July 27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ansonia continues to work with and cooperate with Congressman Rosa DeLauro concerning additional appropriation for construction of subsequent phases, specifically Segment 8, of the Ansonia Park and Riverwalk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Ansonia Board of Aldermen that:

- The City will use existing funds covered by the State Project #02-125, Federal Project No. H124(001) in support of the project and will seek other financial assistance as needed to complete these segments.
- The City commits to fund Segments 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the Ansonia Park and Riverwalk no later than July 27, 2017 using any form of grants and/or City financial aid to complete these segments.

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

Unfinished Business

None presented.

New Business

Alderman Jerome Fainer stated, I'd like to thank our Blight Officer for spending a few hours with me riding around the Fourth and Fifth Wards, checking out blight and people that have issues.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I think a major problem that contributes to some of the blight, and I don't want to pick on the Fourth and Fifth Wards. It is an enormous problem in the Fourth Ward when the people put their trash out. Honestly, we can't keep calling the Police Department and have them go out, and go up and down certain streets. The night that we had the structure fire on Bassett Street, I swear it was a Monday night. Their trash is picked up on a Thursday. Every single person on the street had their trash out, including the house that was on fire. We had to fight our way through the trash cans.

What I notice people do is, I see it constantly during the day. They leave the trash cans out on the street. They're out there 24/7 and what they do is they fill up a garbage bag in the house and bring it out to the curb and put it in their trash can. They're using the trash cans in front of the house as a dumpster. So they never leave the curb. They're out there Sunday mornings, they're out there Christmas Day, they're out there constantly, all the time. I don't know, we have to look at some way. I think we have an ordinance that says it has to

be taken in within 24 hours. I don't know if people know when it's picked up, because they just constantly leave their trash out there. The snow plows are hitting all the trash cans. Somehow we have to educate the people that their trash does not belong out on the street until it's time to do it. Honestly, you go to church on a Sunday morning, drive up North State Street, and everybody's got their trash out. Drive around the west side tonight and you'll find trash cans out there, and this is Tuesday. Drive to the Fifth Ward; it's picked up Friday. The trash is out already, all over the Fifth Ward. Somehow we have to educate the people on when their trash should go out. They just can't leave it out there 24/7.

President Blume stated, perhaps we could address it at the Ward meetings. Jerome has a block watch and it seems to be attracting many people. Maybe we could do something there, too.

Alderman Sharkey stated, I'd like to look into a bulk mailing that goes to every household. We did that when we went to recycle. We listed the rules of recycling. Maybe every household should get a mailing that says, "These are the rules of trash in the City of Ansonia."

Mayor Della Volpe stated, it's just the enforcement of the Ordinance. That's why we've tried in the past to have a full-time Zoning Enforcement Officer that would be here on a daily basis to go out there and do it. Right now we only have a part-timer. That would be an answer, also. We did mail out when we had the bulk policy and the Ansonia preparedness. We can certainly look into that, Alderman Sharkey.

Alderman Duffus stated, I'd like to thank the Police Chief for the work that he did over that fire. I was there that night. You and your guys did a perfect job and I just wanted to thank you.

Executive Session

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Alderman Kolakowski MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. Forbearance Agreement - 17-19 Sixth Street
2. Pending Litigation - Take action if necessary

And further, invited Mayor Della Volpe and Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 7:43 p.m., Alderman Sharkey MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Items from Executive Session

Forbearance Agreement - 17-19 Sixth Street

Alderman Sharkey MOVED to TABLE Communication #4 and have Corporation Counsel Blake ask Mr. Markette to attend our next Board of Aldermen meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen