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**CITY OF ANSONIA  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – May 13, 2014**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Philip Tripp. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call**

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1– present  
Charles Stowe, R1 – absent  
Philip Tripp, R2 – present  
Lorie Vaccaro, R2 – present  
Denice Hunt, D3 – present  
Joseph Jeanette, D3– present  
Anthony DeLucia, D4 – absent

Jerome Fainer, D4 – absent  
Anthony Cassetti, R5 – present  
Joan Radin, R5 – present  
Matthew Edo, R6– present  
Patrick Henri, R6 – present  
David Blackwell, Jr., R7 – present  
Daniel Evans, R7 - present

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

**Add-Ons**

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to add the following item to the agenda:**

Late Communication #1  
From: Superintendent of Public Works Douglas Novack  
Re: Equipment Purchases

**SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

**Consideration of Previous Minutes**

**Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Regular Full Board Meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

**Public Session**

President Tripp asked if any member of the public wished to speak.

Randy Carroll, 40 Fourth Street

The bridge that Emmett O'Brien wants to build – does it have to go before the Conservation Commission?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I don't think so.

Mike Schryver stated, I brought that before Inland-Wetlands; they did not say it had to go before the Conservation Commission, no.

Mr. Carroll continued, at the corner of North Main and Fourth Street there is a little convenience store. There is a 15-minute parking sign there. It's really an accident waiting to happen. People don't use their blinkers to pull over; they just open their doors. I know that myself I've almost taken off a few doors. Can a No Parking sign be put up there? There is a parking lot behind the building.

Chief Hale explained that the Police Commission would have to refer it to the State Traffic Commission as that is a State road.

Mr. Carroll continued, I am Chairman of Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission. The fountain we restored is now working. We're going to have a celebration for the rededication of the fountain in a few weeks. I will contact all of you and all of the donors to join us for the dedication.

Lastly, I am on Conservation Commission. I know the Ordinance was passed about no dirt biking. Now that Spring is here I've discovered that it seems there used to be an Indian Village up there where the kids were dirt biking. There are a lot of artifacts. Conservation is invited to go to a meeting next week at Osbornedale; it's sponsored by the State [inaudible] indigenous Indians in our neighborhood. I'm going to ask them if they would be interested in an architectural dig. If they do it that means that all these artifacts would be preserved. Instead of going to the State like all the stuff went when they did the digs up at the new High School, the City retains all that they find. When they did the digs at the High School, I have the report, but the State took everything with them. To me, that's our property and that should stay in the City.

David Knapp, 3 Glen Drive

Congratulations on your election and best of luck to you.

When I was on the Board, we had voted and passed about a half-million dollars worth of school safety measures. Where do we stand on the implementation of those safety measures?

Mayor Cassetti replied, I will look into it and will try to have something for the next meeting.

Mr. Knapp continued, what is our time table for the referendum issues?

Mayor Cassetti replied, everything is out to bid. Mike Schryver is in charge of all the bonding projects.

Tyrell Moore, 23 North Spring Street

I'm here to ask on behalf of the people for new lights, new hoops as well as benches for the basketball courts at Nolan Field. With this new administration, it would be a good way to connect to the youth of Ansonia. We have physical petitions going around and we also have a Facebook page set up. We would like to get the youth involved for a small price to the community, and cooperation possibly between Public Works and the Recreation Department – it would be very helpful.

The Facebook page is titled: "Nolan Field Petition Request for New Hoops, Lights and Benches."

Mr. Moore continued, right now we're running independently but we would like the support of the Board so that we can say that we have the support – obviously we cannot do this by ourselves.

In response to questions, Mr. Moore explained that there are no lights at all on the basketball courts at this time. The hoops, backboards, and rims are in terrible condition; the existence of nets is questionable – sometimes people bring their own nets but they don't last very long.

About four months ago we started with petition papers. I've been going around and talking to a lot of the kids in the community and I think it's a good opportunity to connect to the youth. Everyone is looking for this, and it's something small. I graduated in 2009 and I'm 23 years old. As far as time, we're not looking for a crazy amount of time; 9 o'clock would be a good deadline to keep everyone safe. I think it would improve the presentation of Nolan Field altogether. We know the ball fields are in good shape but I don't know the last time the basketball courts have been updated.

It is Ansonia Nolan Field, so it would be open to everyone. The idea behind the lights, for the summer at least, would be night leagues. They tried to establish a night league at the Armory. I've gotten requests from Craig Behun, and I know there are

not always places for them to play. Outdoors, in the middle of the summer, they can establish their league there. With that there's admission to play, everyone gets shirts, teams, everyone signs on, there would be officials. I think it would be very good.

President Tripp thanked Mr. Moore and advised him that the petition will be filed with the Town and City Clerk.

Millie Rios, 121 Great Hill Road

I want to thank everybody that was here on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The fencing was put up on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Mayor and the Board members because I have been asking for this for quite some time.

I have another area of concern, it was a sunny warm day, I opened my windows. I noticed a man in hard hat and vest sweeping the street and stirring up a great amount of dust. The trucks are going in and out with dirt, and with the sweeping, the dirt is a cloud in the air. I had to keep my windows closed for most of the day. I called the Mayor about it. Thank you for being proactive, today they put calcium down.

Mr. Chris Tymniak stated, they have a water truck up there to dampen down daily with rainwater if needed.

Ms. Rios continued, as I go back, and I have all the newspapers when all this first started. It seems that the Board of Aldermen that ultimately approved this whole development. What is the time frame? This was approved and started in 2006. It's 2014. What is the time frame of something being out there besides just a hole in the ground and a mountain of dirt? And number two, was there anything put in place to protect the land from erosion and sediment; especially the erosion because that is happening to my property. We are having someone from the Department of Environmental Protection coming out to look at it. That is a concern. Back then was there anything put in place?

Mayor Casseti explained, they usually put silt fence and hay bales for sediment control. That is what should be there.

Ms. Rios stated, something is definitely happening with my land. I think it's erosion. I do have someone that's going to come out and give me a report and when they do I'll share it with you. Thank you very much for taking care of this.

Steve Kish, 21 Chester Street

We would like to propose as a lot of the members of the Soccer Club are here today, of getting a dedication sign put in at the Ansonia Nature Center soccer field for the founder of the Soccer Program - Mary Cavagnuolo. She was the originator-

starter-workhorse to get the program started over 30 years ago. Sadly, she passed away two years ago. Through thought and talking to some of the other people who have grown up with the Soccer Program, we would like to propose getting a name sign for her put in at the field up there.

Alderman Henri stated, I got a call in 1980 from Mary Cavagnuolo asking if I'd like to be a soccer coach. There was no soccer in the town then; there was no High School team – that came years later as these kids came up through the ranks. I support this idea.

Alderman Blackwell stated, I support it also. I would like to refer this to the Recreation Committee.

President Tripp stated, we will take it up under New Business.

Dennis Quinn, 15 Holbrook Street

I bought my house about 37 years ago; I've been living in the house about seven years. My first order is Nolan Field. It seems to me about a year ago Nolan Field was damaged by somebody getting on the field with a truck and driving around and ripping it up. What I found curious is going to work at 5 a.m. and driving past the field and seeing the gate open. Nobody locked the place down after that. I spoke to the Public Works Director and he has since locked the place up. But I still see other gates open. You've got a nice field there and you're all very sports oriented. I don't know why you don't protect that field better. There's all kinds of ways to get in and out of there – gates open, people walking around in there; it's ridiculous. You've got a real nice place here. The guy was just up here asking for lights and other things for the field to fix it up. I couldn't believe how the gate was open for so long – it was months. I talked to people after people after people and nobody did anything. I called the Police Department and they'd go up and close the gate. They didn't lock it. Ridiculous. Somebody could get in there again and rip your field up. Why? Because you're not protecting it. I don't understand.

I live on Holbrook Street. Holbrook Street has been one way for quite a few years. I've talked to the Mayor about it and to the Police. They told me to go to the Police Commissioners' meeting, which I did last month.

If you don't know Holbrook Street, Wakelee goes to Jackson, and if you go down Jackson, Holbrook Street is on the left and right. If you take a left, you go straight down, and when you get to the end of Holbrook Street on Clarkson, there are two signs that say "One Way." So if you don't know that, or you didn't go to the end of the street, you don't know it's a one-way street. There are no signs to tell you that it's a one-way street, so you turn around and come back. Well, everybody thinks it's a one-way street.

About a year ago I called the Police Department to tell them there was no Stop sign on Holbrook Court where it meets Holbrook Street. They sent some guy out there to put up a Stop sign with a One Way sign right below it, which is wonderful. Now if you come down Holbrook Court you can see that there's one way. But still, nobody does anything. I don't understand. All they had to do was move that one-way sign across the street. The fact is when I was at the Police Commission meeting, the Police Officer said that he knew it was wrong, he knew it should be across the street, he knew that there was a problem there, and one month later, you can see by the pictures and the date on it, nothing is done. They don't even move a sign for God's sake. What are you waiting for? I don't understand. There's all kinds of confusion. I talked to the Mayor one day, him and I were going to meet; we were going to take a ride up there. I blew it off. He did take a ride up there; he did agree that there's a problem. I had a Policeman call me, tell me that they were going to need months to figure this out, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. They had to have Committees, had to have the Fire Department, had to have this guy, had to have that guy, but they were looking into it. The next Police Commission meeting a couple days ago they voted to make it two ways. I don't care if you go down the road sideways. The problem is there are no signs to tell you that it's two ways, one way, nothing. Once again, if you go on the road, off Jackson, down Holbrook, you think it's a two-way street because there are no signs. You go down half way and you turn around and you come back. You don't know.

Chief Hale stated, Mr. Quinn, I'm the guy who did "blah, blah, blah..."

Mr. Quinn replied, yeah, I know. That's how impressed I was.

Chief Hale continued, the Police Commission voted last Wednesday to make it a two-way street. However, it's been one-way for decades. You don't turn the switch and make it a two-way street overnight. People all over the place are used to, probably their whole lives since they've been driving, it's been a one-way street. It's a screwy situation, all based on a school that is crumbling. The school is closed; there is no need for that to be a one-way street. So instead of putting up a bunch of confusing signs, the Board agreed and voted to make it a two-way street. What we are going to do now is go on an education campaign and make sure everybody in the area is aware. We're going to use the Code Red, we're going to send fliers out with Police Officers, and we're going to pick a date and time that Holbrook Street will become a two-way street. This is not something we're going to do tomorrow afternoon. That is the plan in place. I don't have a date yet. That is what happened last week and that is what is going to happen going forward.

Mr. Quinn stated, I agree with the Police Chief completely, but until that happens, there are no signs that say it's one-way or two-ways. Tomorrow comes and somebody goes down the road, you have the same problem that you've had over the last 10 years because they won't move that sign across the street. Until that education happens, you still have the same problem.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I think between Woodbridge Avenue and Beaver Street I saw a firebox all covered up with plastic – right at the stop sign, at the left, heading toward Seymour.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, I am familiar with this, I spoke to Ed this afternoon.

Alderman Adamowski stated, it could be out of service; I will contact the Superintendent of Alarms and ask him to look into it.

Angela Diaz, 80 Clifton Ave

I had an appointment with the Mayor a week or two ago, with his attorney, and my attorney, in reference to an illegal trespass on my property, a continuing nuisance, and also the installation of a drainage conduit that was put on my property without my permission. I took the two neighbors to court. I had a large out of pocket expense of over \$14,000. My attorney came down and spoke to Mayor Cassetti and his attorney in reference to this to try and come up with a solution or proposal to offset that overage. The City of Ansonia actually oversaw the project between the two neighbors. Nobody called me, nobody got in touch with me from the City of Ansonia letting me know that they were going to go illegally on my property, rip down my trees, put in a sewage conduit, and I ended up losing money taking people to court in order to fix this problem. He told me that I needed to come before your Board and they need to come up with a decision. So I'm here tonight to bring it before the Board.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the claim is on the agenda tonight for executive session, which means that the Board is going to discuss it confidentially without the public being around. If there is any resolution or progress we will be in touch with you.

President Tripp asked if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

***Public Official Session***

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Mayor David Cassetti

I would like to thank various individuals and Committees for the hard work and dedication to the City. First I would like to thank all the members of the Board of A&T and the Finance Staff, especially Bill Nimons, Rich Bshara and Bob Jaskilka for diligently working on lowering taxes for the residents of Ansonia. They worked many long nights and had many long meetings to bring this year's budget. I have asked that this year's budget book incorporate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and my signature. I would like to thank all the employees of the City of Ansonia. Your sacrifices have helped craft a budget that lowers taxes for all residents. You should

be proud of that. Very few towns in Connecticut will produce a budget that lowers taxes this year. I will ask for your help again with this in next year's budget.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped organize this year's Bike Fest. I saw kids smiling and that is what it's all about. Good job.

I would like to thank the Department of Public Works and the new seasonal workers for making Ansonia cleaner and greener. Most of our parks are now litter-free and new grass seed has been planted.

I would like to thank the WPCA staff and commission for planning and executing a successful open house day at the plant. The event was attended by more than 30 people who learned about the treatment facility and its importance to all residents. Hopefully sometime in July the WPCA will be making an announcement that will positively impact all the residents of Ansonia.

I would like to thank all those who attended our Blight seminar last week. Cleaning up the City is a priority of mine.

The planning is underway for the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration. We have already had a couple of successful events. At the end of May there will be a block party in the center of town sponsored by BH Care. I want to thank Melissa Torres and Alderman Pat Henri, and all the volunteers including Judy Nicolari and the Cultural Commission for all their hard work. Alderman Henri actually made the 8-foot tall Ansonia 125 rolling signs. Pat, thank you. The final product looks great. We are also planning a summertime party at Nolan Field. There will be an antique baseball game, gourmet food, a concert and fireworks. Mark your calendars for July 19 between 2 and 10. I want this to be a big party for the City. I encourage all residents to attend.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> we will be holding an announcement regarding the redevelopment of Olson Drive. The announcement will be in the Library of the Ansonia High School.

I would like to acknowledge Polka Pete Danielczuk, who is set to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the United States Polka Association. Since 1971 Polka Pete has been the voice of the Polka across Connecticut. Thank you, Polka Pete, for bringing joy to so many people for so many years.

Let me close by saying, last week placed a sign in my office door that says, "I will make Ansonia a better place than when I found it." With your help we are already heading in that direction. Thank you very much.

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Corporation Counsel John Marini

As Mayor Cassetti mentioned, our Blight Seminar was a week ago. It is the Mayor's priority to get a cleaner Ansonia. To that end, the new ordinance that you passed last month goes into effect this month. We are looking forward to successful Clean

and Lien programs that will finally remediate some of these long-standing blight problems.

In your packets you have two updates – one is on the Bus Shield program. We have results of the initial survey by Bus Shield, which does show there is a problem to address. Within the several weeks of the survey, they looked at 15 different buses – and found 84 violations. We are talking about vehicles that are passing an extended stop sign arm on the school bus. The City has an issue to deal with; fortunately we have the means to deal with it with Bus Shield's cameras on our buses and the information they record will be passed on to the Police Department for enforcement.

You have the update on the Town and City Clerk account. The audit from Blum Shapiro – a study of the account for the last 14 years and will tell us exactly where the money has been going to, what the compensation has been, and what the fees collected were during that time period. It essentially contains the answers to a lot of the questions that we did not have answers to when we started to look at this situation. You also have our final legal opinion on the matter and all the supporting authority. In brief, the legal opinion from the City is that the money contained in the account is properly the City's money, and that account goes into a lot more detail. In terms of resolving the situation, the parties are in an informal discussion period right now. There is nothing to present to the Board at this time. When the discussions go a little further I would anticipate that we'll have a discussion in Executive Session about the resolution of the plan.

Finally, the Spadaro property on O'Neill's Court – this has been a longstanding issue over the last three years. There is an issue involving the boundary lines of the property. The long-standing water drainage issue is resolved, however there is question as to whether or not the Spadaro's boundary lines have been accurately put back to the way they were. The City is entering into an agreement for a survey to figure out whether or not the boundary lines are correct. If they are correct then the Spadaros will be responsible for the survey, and if the survey reveals that they were wrong, then the City will be responsible for the survey. The estimate was about \$2,500 to perform the survey of the boundary line. We hope to see a complete end to that issue.

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Chief of Staff Christopher Tymniak

You have the monthly Personnel report in your packet. We have been doing a lot of interviewing lately. We have interviewed every one of the seasonal workers that are out there helping Public Works clean up. Tomorrow we are doing interviews for the Assistant Tax Collector's position. We start open enrollment at end of this month for this year's health cycle moving forward. We also have AFLAC who has come a couple of times as an additional option for employees to go to and purchase additional health insurance.

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Public Works Director Douglas Novack

We have hired 7 individuals as seasonal temporary help as of now; we are looking to put three more on staff. We've been cleaning up the parks. We finished up Veterans' Park for the Memorial Day weekend.

Alderman Radin thanked Mr. Novack for sending someone out to take care of an issue on Wakelee Avenue.

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Chief of Police Kevin Hale

We are continuing motor vehicle enforcement on distracted drivers. We have issued more than 250 tickets since March. It is a major problem and is the number one killer of young drivers, surpassing DUI. It is a problem.

We are busy planning for the parade. We also have the Woodbridge Avenue Memorial Service at 2 p.m. this Sunday. It is a tremendous event that has been going 70 years – a highlight of the Spring for us.

You should have received an invitation for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. for the Police Department Annual Awards Ceremony at Ansonia High School.

Mr. Marini had mentioned Bus Shield. The national average was under .8 cars pass each bus in America every day of the week. Our survey is showing 1.12. so we are above the national average. It's not a good sign to be above the national average. We are working with Bus Shield to start to enforce this. There is a process involved – it comes down to the Police Department but a lot of the work will be done by Bus Shield. There is revenue involved. There is revenue involved; the original agreement was to split it equally between the Board of Education and the Police Department but more importantly, we want to stop the problem and lower that average.

Alderman Vaccaro asked, out of the 84 how many were ticketed?

Chief Hale replied, none. This was just a survey; we weren't involved with this. They put a number of cameras on every bus in the City. We have 15 buses. Right now we're not getting much and it's really up to a bus driver at this point, while they're trying to do everything else to try to catch a license plate on a car. They do the best they can but they're also trying to make sure kids are getting on or off the bus safely. It's difficult to pay attention. This new process will still require the involvement of the bus driver, but the technology is tremendous.

Alderman Adamowski stated, the buses stop every 10 feet. The people are calling me and complaining saying, "why can't they get these buses off of the main roads?" If you're going to stop every five feet to pick up kids – and if that's not bad enough, the mother comes out and now she's going to talk to the bus driver, and

they're going to carry on a conversation. It's a problem. Where do I send these people? Is that something the City handles, or the Board of Education? I know there are at least six stops on North Main Street in the morning between West Brookside and Daily Mart. The bus stops at least six times.

Chief Hale replied, I'm going to defer to the Board of Education. There are certain agreements they sign with the bus company. It used to be that Kindergarten kids got picked up at their homes. They need to coordinate that. If it's a safety issue such as corners, they have a requirement that they're supposed to be off the corners. I would start with Central Office.

Alderman Blackwell asked, those 84 violations, that is only in a five-day period? I thought it was a mistake. That's more than a problem; I thought it was in a month.

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Ansonia Nature Center Director Alison Rubelmann

We had our Earth Day Celebration, which was part of the Ansonia125. It was raining but it was a success. We had two Eagle Scout projects going on – they planted pine trees along Benz Street, also they put new stairs going down to the playground which came out beautiful. I want to thank Public Works because they've done a ton of work at the Ansonia Nature Center to make it look really beautiful. They fixed the fire pit at Pavilion #1. The Ansonia Soccer Club cleaned all the brush around the soccer fields. We have quite a few community service volunteers and they've been working really hard at gardening and keeping the Center looking really nice.

On Thursday Mike has bidders coming for the ventilation system and hopefully that project will be up and going in the next few weeks and completed by mid-June.

We've met with Earth Tones for the parking lot project and we're hoping to get that going for July and August, after soccer is over. There are a lot of great things, tons of classes coming in. We're working hard up there keeping everyone happy.

The Pond House is all set. They're having their Spring fair on Saturday from 11 to 2. At 3 we're having Wolf Conservation come with a wolf and we already have about 50 people registered for that program.

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Sheila O'Malley, Director of Economic Development

A quick update on the West Main Street Project – the storm drainage and driveway aprons are complete. One accessible ramp and 480 linear feet of sidewalk and curb are complete. Seven light bases and conduit have been installed. The UI poles will be completed by next week. That's the west side of West Main.

We're working on looking at the City Center Plan with legal, Planning & Zoning and the Economic Development Commission. We're working on adding to it.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I talked to ARMS, they had brought to my attention that there is only one entrance/egress into that parking lot. I asked them to put another apron – I caught the contractor along with the engineer this morning in order to have two entrances and exits from that lot, providing better access to that area. It is a large parking lot. They are going to install it.

Alderman Adamowski asked if the Board of Aldermen could have a monthly report from the Grant Writer on how many grants she's applied for and how many we actually received so this Board is aware of that. I know Alderman Stowe had asked for that from the prior Grant Writer and I don't know if she passed that along.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance Committee – Alderman Lorie Vaccaro

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

The Finance Committee met on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Cost Cutting Commission's report that was referred to the Finance Committee for further review, and the notes should be online. We're going to be inviting our Tax Collector to our next meeting, which has not been scheduled at this point. The budget was tentatively passed last night for a .73 mill decrease. I'd like to commend the Board of A&T for their hard work.

#### Fire Committee – Alderman Joseph Jeanette

In April there were 6 MVA assists; 5 CO investigations; 6 smoke and odor investigations; two trash; two vehicle fires; two grass/brush; two structure; 2 natural/propane gas; 6 false alarms; 2 mutual aids; 1 electrical hazard; 2 public service good intent calls. Total calls for the period were 38.

The date of the Fire Department's 125 celebration will be announced in the near future and will be advertised. There will be a Touch A Truck as well where the children can come and see the trucks. The Fire Museum will be open as well.

#### Alderman Patrick Henri –s Committee

We met for the first time a couple of weeks ago. We appointed Paul Lutson of Ansonia as the new Veterans' Affairs Coordinator. He'll have an office when the building opens up on Fourth Street. We have some other things in the works and as they come to pass I'll let the Board know.

ARMS Committee – Alderman David Blackwell

In April, ARMS was dispatched to 218 calls. 152 with advanced life support; 60 were transported to ALS. Mutual aid calls were 16 to Derby, one to Seymour, two to Shelton, one to Hamden and one to Orange. Mutual aid received was one on the second call and one on the third call. Of the patients, 114 went to Griffin; 13 to Yale; 9 to Yale Pediatrics; 6 to Yale-St. Raphael's; four to Bridgeport; three to St. Vincent's; one to Milford; one to Waterbury. The financial statement for the month was \$48,711.85.

Alderman Henri stated, I would like to thank ARMS for letting us use their bays to set up the Ansonia 125 signs. They let us store the trailer in the back. I read about their budget cut the other day and kind of cringed when I saw that. These guys make money for us; they're out there all the time and they go beyond the call of duty too. Overall they've got our support and I'd like to thank them.

***Municipal Reports / Annual Reports***

**Alderman Radin MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

***Tax Collector's Report and Request for Refunds***

**Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the refunds in the amount of \$4,338.19 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.**

Alderman Radin stated, we have a listing of all the delinquent accounts for the year and I was going through them. There's a place called Amity Car and Truck, and there are pages of money that they owe us. Don't we ever go after them? I looked it up on the Internet and their place of business is in New Haven. There is a tremendous amount of money owed to the City of Ansonia. I'm hoping there will be some Commission or group that will look into these; especially places like that where they're leaving us with a lot of money owed.

The Tax Collector, Mrs. Blackwell, explained that they are out of business. We have exhausted every avenue to try and get them, but it is still collectable. If anybody has knowledge of any of the people on the list, a lot of them are out of town businesses that have left us. Some could be bankruptcy. Some could be deceased. There are people that lived in Connecticut and have moved out of Connecticut. We are pursuing the cars with a collection agency and they are very good at trying to find them. I do go to court with a lot of them; they are responsible for them.

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

**Claims**

- 04-14-824 Hammonasset Construction, LLC v. City of Ansonia Re: Ansonia Riverwalk
- 04-14-825 Sheehy & Dillon Re: Clyde & Florine Thompson

**Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel Marini; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

**Communications**

**Alderman Radin MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

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Communication #1

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department  
Re: Force Training Simulator

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve the License Agreement between the City of Ansonia and the City of Milford for the Ansonia Police Department to have access to Milford Training Academy's VirTra Tactical Simulator; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor David Cassetti to sign all documents and effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

Chief Hale described the simulator and how it will benefit Ansonia's Police Officers in use of force training. There is no cost to the City as they will be paying for it from the Asset Forfeiture funds.

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

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Communication #2

From: Principal Laurie LeBouthillier, Emmett O'Brien Tech  
Re: Walking Bridge

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to waive the permit fee for Emmett O'Brien Technical School to construct a trail with a walking bridge; SECONDED by Alderman Henri.

Alderman Henri noted that Emmett O'Brien Tech is a great partner for Ansonia and they do a lot of things for the City.

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

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Communication #3

From: Detective John Rafalowski, Ansonia Police Department  
Re: C-MERS Pension Plan

Alderman Vaccaro refer to Communication #3 to the Board of Police Commissioners and Chief Hale for input; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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Communication #4

From: Chief Jared Heon, ARMS  
Re: Engineering Services to ARMS Headquarters

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the communication; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.

Alderman Vaccaro noted that he spoke with Mr. Schryver who said they're taking \$6,000 off this as Clerk of the Works fees, so it will be under \$29,000. Actually we can just accept the communication; we don't have to waive the bid.

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

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Communication #5

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department  
Re: Forfeited Vehicle

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to approve the sale at auction of a 2006 BMW 750i with the proceeds being placed into the Ansonia Police Department's Federal Asset Forfeiture Account; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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Communication #6

From: Director Sheila O'Malley, Economic Development  
Re: Generator

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to waive the bid and hire W.J. Electric, LLC for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Police Department at a cost of \$59,810 to be provided by bonding and by grant money; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro.

Ms. O'Malley explained that the reason W.J. Electric was chosen is that the low

bidder bid on generator that was not in the specs. There was a \$110 difference between the next two - one is from Wallingford and one is from Seymour; we decided to go with the Seymour bidder as they are in local proximity in case anything happens.

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

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Communication #7

From: Project Manager Michael Schryver

Re: Bid Results for Installation of Library Storm Windows

Alderman Cassetti MOVED to put the installation of Library storm windows out to rebid; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro.

Alderman Henri noted there was only one bidder.

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

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Communication #8

From: Project Manager Michael Schryver

Re: Armory Garage Roof

Alderman Evans MOVED to refer Communication #8 to Public Works – the bids are all over the place; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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Communication #9

From: Project Manager Michael Schryver

Re: Armory Roof Replacement

Alderman Henri MOVED to refer Communication #9 to Public Works; SECONDED by Alderman Edo.

Alderman Henri stated, let's send to Public Works Committee and get their advice on it.

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

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Communication #10

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini  
Re: Town and City Clerk's Account

President Tripp stated, there is no action required at this time.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept as written; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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Communication #11

From: Mayor David S. Cassetti  
Re: Bus Shield, LLC

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to continue the agreement; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

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Late Communication #1

From: Superintendent of Public Works Douglas Novak  
Re: Equipment Purchase

Mr. Novack explained, we are requesting funding to be transferred for the purchase of some vehicles we are in dire need of. I have already been to the Board of A&T on two items and the Public Works Board on three of the items. It was suggested that I come here tonight and address the Board of Aldermen in regard to the following requests.

First and most important is a \$345,000 lease purchase, \$75,000 per year, for two 9-ton dump trucks to replace the aging fleet. I have vehicles that date back to 1994 and are falling apart. The older vehicles aren't compatible for spreading salt on the highways in the winter; they were designed for sand and salt. These old vehicles can't handle it.

I am looking to transfer \$8,000 from the trash/recycling account to the vehicle account for a Parks Foreman pickup truck. There was already \$22,000 allocated in this year's budget for that purpose. It comes in at about \$30,000. We are currently driving a 1999 Dodge hand-me-down that has holes in the floor, the windshield wipers don't work, the lights work sometimes. I think it's about time to get rid of that truck before someone gets hurt driving it.

I would like to transfer \$13,000 for a used van for the building division. Sheila O'Malley was gracious enough to hood Public Works up with Hershey Metal Products as they're winding their business down. They were looking to get rid of some material, some office furniture. Public Works picked it up and put it in storage

at the ATP/Palmer. We also purchased some racking and other items for the maintenance garage. I noticed the gentleman had a small Ford Transit van. He informed me the vehicle is for sale. It's a 2010 vehicle with 23,000 miles on it. He offered it to the City for \$13,000. I would like to replace a pickup truck that I have that was purchased from the State of Connecticut for a couple hundred dollars about 10 years ago that has 207,000 miles on it; it's running on five cylinders, and you could stick your head through a hole in the floor. It is not a serviceable vehicle.

My last request is for \$5,000 for the street sign replacement program. The Program is about 80 percent done.

Alderman Tripp stated, the 9-ton dump trucks – those are similar to the two newest dump trucks we have - didn't we purchase those through the State bid?

Mr. Novack replied, yes.

Mayor Cassetti asked if those trucks would have new plows.

Mr. Novack replied, everything will be brand new.

Alderman Adamowski asked if this is budgeted in the Capital Expenditure side of the budget.

Mr. King explained that the money is allocated under debt services [inaudible] lease; we're not outright purchasing them. I don't have an issue with the transfers; those are usually handled by the Board of A&T.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### **Resignations**

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the resignation of Jeff Lawlor from the Planning & Zoning Commission and to send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the resignation of Carol L. Starkey from the Historic District Commission and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Appointments*****PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Joseph Jaumann (U), of 183 Wakelee Avenue, Lawlor replacement, term to expire 12-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint David Williams (R) of 69 Rockwood Avenue, Sanza replacement, term to expire 12-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to reappoint Thomas P. Clifford, III (D), of 10 S. Westwood Road, term to expire 11-30-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to reappoint Bartholomew R. Flaherty, III (D) of 28 Pinecrest Avenue, term to expire 11-30-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

**RETIREMENT BOARD**

Alderman Blackwell MOVED to appoint Michael Smerznak(U) of 22 Buswell Street, term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Joseph Jaumann (U) of 183 Wakelee Avenue; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint Lorie Vaccaro of 515 Beaver Street; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Vaccaro).

**Resolutions**

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Resolution #1

Re: Creation of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

R E S O L U T I O N

All Aldermen of All Wards introduced the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA:

RESOLVED, that the City of Ansonia, hereby acting by its Board of Aldermen, hereby adopt and ratify a Resolution dated December 17, 2013 from the VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS regarding the Voluntary Consolidation of the Central Naugatuck Valley and Valley Planning Regions and Resignation of the combined Planning Region by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

Further, The City of Ansonia, hereby acting by its Board of Aldermen, hereby adopt and ratify the Memorandum of agreement between the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Elected Officials, the Valley Council of Governments and the City of Bristol and the Town of Plymouth.

Further, that the City of Ansonia shall amend Ordinance Section 2-106 to change the name of the Valley Council of Governments to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 2-106 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

The City of Ansonia shall be a member of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in accordance with Section 4-124i through 124p, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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

**Unfinished Business**

In regard to the Police Department windows, Mr. Schryver explained that the reason it was tabled last month was because there was confusion between one of the bidders – he didn't think he got the proper information on an addendum we had put in. I notified all of the bidders of the addendum 72 hours prior to the bid date. He didn't feel as if we did it properly. Since then I've talked with him and he has agreed that he is wrong; he was not the low bidder but was the high bidder. We had two bidders. The low bidder was within the money we allocated for the job. I

recommend that we forward the entire package to the Board of Public Works for their next meeting and then we'll get back to this Board again.

Alderman Edo MOVED to refer the Police Station Windows bid to the Board of Public Works; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### ***New Business***

Alderman Adamowski stated, as we discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, we would like the City to look into possibly collecting Motor Vehicle taxes twice a year and splitting it up. It would be a good way to relieve some of the tax burden from the citizens.

Mayor Cassetti and the Tax Collector will look into it.

Alderman Henri stated, on Platt Street there is a brick building owned by the Water Company.

Mayor Cassetti stated, that is a pump station. I will notify them about the cleanliness and the appearance of it.

Mayor Cassetti stated, former Alderman Knapp spoke earlier about School Security. Where would we look into that, because I'd like to get back to him.

President Tripp replied, probably in 2012 we discussed public safety and we wanted to redo the perimeter of some of the schools and make them more fortified. There are plans the Aldermen discussed. There was a bond for that, the public did approve it, and it involves construction and improvements.

Alderman Adamowski stated, if you talk to Bob Evans at the Board of Education, he's got a lot of the paperwork and he was working on it.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, this is a project that is being worked on in collaboration with the Board of Education. There are a lot of logistics on their end. In addition, there is an increased presence in the schools, which we implemented some time ago. There are extra security measures in the schools that have remained in place since it went into effect.

President Tripp stated, the Board of Aldermen did act proactively for school security and we actually talked about the bond before the State started dropping down money. The whole process – I would ask that we act expeditiously so the construction company can do their work in the summertime when the children are out of school.

Alderman Blackwell as an FYI – I've reached out to some of you already and I've spoken with the Mayor and Recreation Chairman. We're trying to get lights at Nolan Field Little League. I've contacted UI and am waiting for them to call back.

Alderman Jeanette recommended contacting UI's Light the Night office. You can call me tomorrow and I'll give you a contact name.

Alderman Adamowski stated, you may get a lot of flack from the residents over there when the lights are lit up at night time. You might want to talk to the residents over there and let them know what you're working on before you get lights all put up and then somebody is down here at the public session saying "I don't want these lights on at night..."

Alderman Jeanette stated, that field is kind of set back, and I don't think it will affect the neighbors. I also think you can get timers on these lights where they will go on automatically and shut off automatically.

Alderman Edo stated, Public Works has done a tremendous job up there getting those two other fields up. From last year, having Nolan Field on a Saturday, the concession stands were bringing in about \$60. Being able to put all those games up there now, we're doing around 10-12 games on a Saturday, we're between \$600 and \$1,000 on a Saturday, pure profit into our concessions to help finish off the rest of Nolan Field – redo the bleachers – small things like that have been tremendous assets for us so far. Thank you for everything that's going on over there; the fields look fantastic. Having some lights there will be a tremendous help for us.

Alderman Henri MOVED to refer the topic of naming the field and posting a dedication sign for Mary Cavagnuolo at the Soccer Field at the Ansonia Nature Center to the Recreation Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

### **Executive Session**

At approximately 8:45 p.m., Alderman Edo MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. **Diaz v. City of Ansonia**
2. **Mudry v. City of Ansonia**
3. **Mosley v. City of Ansonia**
4. **Collins v. City of Ansonia**
5. **Thompson v. City of Ansonia**

and invited Mayor Cassetti and Corporation Counsel Marini to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Return to Regular Session***

At approximately 9:45 p.m., Alderman Cassetti MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

President Tripp noted that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

Alderman Evans MOVED to authorize Corporation Counsel Marini to proceed as discussed in Executive Session for Items 1, 2, 4 and 5 (Diaz, Mudry, Collins, Thompson); SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Evans MOVED to authorize Corporation Counsel Marini to enter into conciliatory agreement with Moseley as discussed in Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen