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CITY OF ANSONIA
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – February 11, 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, led by Alderman Jerome Fainer.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1– present
Charles Stowe, R1 – present
Philip Tripp, R2 – present
Lorie Vaccaro, R2 – present
Denice Hunt, D3 – present
Joseph Jeanette, D3– absent
Anthony DeLucia, D4 – present
Jerome Fainer, D4 – present
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 13 present, 1 absent, noting that Alderman Jeanette is presently in North Carolina and Georgia working to restore power to those that had lost it during the recent snowstorm.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting
February 4, 2014 Special Meeting

SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Public Session

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

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

Public Works did an excellent job this past snowstorm. The Police Department did a good job too, they were short handed. The Fire Department did a good job too.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz Street

I'd like to thank the Finance Committee for the work they put in with the proposal of reducing our taxes. I realize this is not an easy task. Departments that have complied with the Mayor's request for reductions are also thanked. When a budget is formed with a goal to reduce taxes, the big-ticket items must be looked at the closest. If the Education Department is once again given an increase in their budget then you should demand some increase in their production. I for one am tired of year after year them getting increases and the published material telling us how poor our educational system is. Last month my wife's name was mentioned by the Superintendent, and I resent that. Her name was brought up inappropriately. Individuals going on walk-throughs of the Ansonia school system should also take a walk through a successful school system so they would have something to compare it with. One last thought on the budget. Look at the whole picture and make the tough decisions. Have mercy on the taxpayer, especially the one hardest hit, the senior citizen.

Another area, a recent article in the Valley Independent Sentinel titled "Ansonia Holds Invite-Only Meeting on Public Matters" was of much interest. First I'd like to thank the VIS staff for keeping us the citizens up on happenings in the Valley. We all make mistakes, but in my opinion the criticism in this article was not justified. I thank the group that held and attended this planning meeting. From the report it was a good, diverse group. Planning or lack of it has been one of our City's failures in the past. I encourage the City to continue having this type of meeting. Thank 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

Mayor David Cassetti

Tonight I am presenting the Board of Aldermen with an honest and fair budget that lowers taxes for all residents of Ansonia. Ansonia currently hast the ninth highest mill rate in the State of Connecticut. The budget being presented tonight lowers the mill rate for the first time in five years. The budget lowers the mill rate .73. A .73 reduction may seem small, but in reality it would be very difficult to reduce it much lower based upon department reductions. The budget proves it is possible to lower taxes while keeping the promise to educate our children intact. It has been said that taxation is the art of plucking the feathers from the bird without killing the bird. It's time we realize there are no more feathers on the bird. In other words, this

goose is cooked. We cannot ask our departments to cut their budgets any further without a noticeable reduction in services or staffing. I do not intend to ask for further reductions from our departments. This year Ansonia faced the reduction in the Grand List and a lower than expected tax rate of collection. The taxpayers of Ansonia deserve more relief than we can presently give them. We need to look at new and creative ways to lower taxes. We absolutely need to take advantage of some of Ansonia's resources in order to generate new tax dollars and renewed interest in our great City. The taxpayers of Ansonia deserve better.

Tonight, under Communications, you will see a letter from me to our Union leaders asking them to engage in conversations to look at ways we can possibly lower the rising costs of our insurance plans. We have met with numerous insurance companies who have indicated there are reasonable ways to reduce these costs without compromising our employees' health benefits. It is becoming apparent that the Affordable Health Care Act is going to bankrupt every City budget across this country if not addressed early on. As a part of the Affordable Health Care Act in 2017 the federal government will start charging the 40 percent Cadillac tax for all plans considered to be Cadillac health plans. The current employee health plan offered to municipal employees is considered to be this category. I believe an effort must be made to avoid having taxpayers absorb the bill for this very expensive new tax. If the law does not change, and our healthcare plans remain the same, we will incur a tax of $800,000 – that equates to roughly a 1 mill increase. Every town and city must start planning for this now.

We are also looking at partnering with federal and state agencies to provide some relief and to secure funding to create new opportunities for development. In that regard, two weeks ago my staff along with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State Department of Economic and Community Development met to discuss options regarding the deposition of the Olson Drive property. I can say with confidence that the meeting went very well for the City. I look forward to calling a joint meeting between our Housing Authority and the Board of Aldermen to discuss the partnership with my staff. The Ansonia Housing Authority and federal and state officials look at leveraging funds and creating new residential, commercial and recreational opportunities for Ansonia residents.

I am happy to report that today we had a ribbon cutting for Personal Care America, a federal credit union with the doors now officially open. I am thrilled to welcome them to our downtown business community. They are located at 200 Main Street.

Finally, on the lighter side, I want to share some upcoming news with our community. This year marks Ansonia's 125th Anniversary. To celebrate this occasion, I have asked the Cultural Commission to put together a special series of events that spotlight the best of what our City has to offer. A quick reminder that my first Mayor's Night Out will take place at 6 p.m. February 18th at the ARMS Building. I encourage any department heads who want to attend to do so. This is a wonderful

opportunity for us to meet with the public and address their concerns in an informal setting.

Finally, on February 20th, Alfonso Smith, a long-time Ansonia resident and important member of our community will be named "Honorary Mayor for the Day" in my office at 10 a.m. Mr. Smith and I will then tackle the duties of being Mayor for the rest of the day. Thank you very much.

Alderman Fainer asked Mayor Cassetti for an update on the audit of the Town Clerk's account.

Mayor Cassetti explained that it is more extensive and it is just not ready yet and he is hoping to have a report for the March meeting.

Chris Tymniak, Chief Administrative Officer

Per Alderman Henri's request we put the personnel report in a new format this month to make it more readable. We went to sentences and heading topics. If you have any questions on that I'm happy to answer them. Hopefully it's a more reader-friendly document now.

Alderman Henri thanked Mr. Tymniak.

Corporation Counsel John Marini

In regard to the audit, there are still conversations about setting up the work to be done. It all echoes the concern of this Board last month - taking careful look at the cost. We don't want to over bill the City for any work done, and that explains a little bit of the delay. We are very well situated with a good firm that's very capable of delivering us the information the City needs to proceed, but it's going to be done in a responsible way.

The Ansonia Nature Center Pond House is the largest claim right now that the City has pending. I was promised by Great American Insurance today that we'll get an update within a week and a half of inventory, of all the repairs, all the damaged items, and the cost of all health inspections have already been submitted. We are waiting on the decision of whether or not we have coverage for both structure and the personal property, and then we're going to get an announcement as to how much.

We have been planning to hold an FOI Seminar – Open Government Seminar with members of my law firm and also invited members of the State FOI Commission on March 25th. In light of a meeting reported last week, a meeting where several public officials affiliated with Economic Development met to talk about some issues regarding the ATP/Palmer Building. It was a 100 percent legal meeting but I would sort of agree with the story even if the City is following the laws, there are always

ways to be more transparent and this is going to be one of the topics of conversation at the seminar. The public deserves to know where they stand and where the City stands on a number of issues.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

As you may know, a week and a half ago we had an unfortunate incident on the Maple Street Bridge where an Officer was forced to discharge his firearm. The Officer is doing okay. We've been talking to him regularly. I won't discuss the case because there is pending prosecution and the case is not closed.

We have another storm coming; the Officers have been out in the past several days looking for cars that are snowed in, red tagging, getting hold of neighbors, moving the cars. We had about two dozen cars moved and I'm sure there are more out there. If you see any please call and we will do what we can to get the cars off the streets.

Alderman Henri suggested increasing the fine from $5 to $50 for those snowed in vehicles.

Alderman Radin thanked the Chief and the DEA for the big drug bust in the 5th Ward.

Allison Rubelmann, Director, Ansonia Nature Center

We're preparing for our annual Maple Festival. We participated in Martin Luther King Day at the Peabody Museum with over 500 participants that day. We're scheduling presenters for our 2014 Spring calendar of events. We'll be having Wolf Conservation with their wolf Attica. Dennis Waring, a doctor of music, is coming to do a program for families. We had 50 participants for our animal tracking program. It was in the New York Times. And our Full Moon Lovers' Hike was also listed in the New York Times and has 30 couples registered for Friday night.

The Department of Economic and Community Development grant the Ansonia Nature Center received, we had to revise the scope for our heating/cooling system. Hopefully that will be happening in May. We are working with Public Works and the Grant Writer on that.

Our Annual Reports for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been submitted for the year. We are the second largest rehab facility in the State of Connecticut.

Wendy Sabol will be hired as our new Assistant Director. She is one of the part-time Rangers. We are really happy that she will be starting on the 19th.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Alderman Lorie Vaccaro

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

City Audit

The Finance Committee met with the auditors on February 4th. We discussed and asked questions and then accepted the report. There are two recommendations and a copy inside the report. Items13-01 and 13-02 are the recommendations. Bill Nimons, the City Comptroller will be implementing these changes.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Consideration of 2014-2015 Mayor's Recommended City Budget Proposal

You all have a copy of the budget. It represents a decrease of .73 mills, a little tax savings for the people of Ansonia while the Mayor's commitment to fund education is certainly intact.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the Mayor's proposed City of Ansonia budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 along; and further,

MOVED to turn it over to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation along with the recommendations of the Aldermanic Finance Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe.

Alderman Radin would like to see the funding for ARMS. The cut will cause ARMS to be without coverage, no crew to work for 6 hours.

She also requested that the funding be restored in the Police Department budget to pay for the Crossing Guards.

Alderman Adamowski agreed, and requested the funding be restored to the Police and ARMS budgets.

Alderman DeLucia also agreed that he feels funding should be restored to the Police, Fire and EMS. He asked what Chief Hale feels about the cuts.

Chief Hale explained that he sent letters to the Crossing Guards just to put them on notice that there may be cuts. There are 9 that we fund at a total of $75,000 a year. These positions would go unfilled. It is still early in the process and there may be some adjustments and we may be able to save most of those positions.

Alderman Vaccaro explained that the Finance Committee included a recommendation to go with the proposed budget to the Board of A&T that if any other funds become available that they better-fund ARMS and the Police Department. That recommendation is part of the budget and is a recommendation of the Aldermanic Finance Committee. He also noted that he received a letter from ARMS Chief Jared Heon stating that the current level of service will continue through fiscal year 2014-2015.

Alderman Stowe commended all those that worked on this budget proposal. He is pleased with the letter from ARMS Chief Heon. Crime is an issue; a lot of work needs to be done in the First Ward. We are counting on Chief Hale to continue his good work.

ARMS Chief Heon explained that he had multiple discussions with the Mayor's Office and will try to push for continued volunteer coverage. With anticipated cuts we will do quarterly reviews on our staffing and our budget.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Ordinance Committee – Alderman Matthew Edo

The Committee met last night. We are working on several ordinances for the health and safety of our residents. We're working on giving the Police Department and Blight Officer multiple avenues to go after the graffiti problems and blight issues.

We want to make sure we discuss with homeowners and business owners what the repercussions will be. We want to make sure we hold offenders accountable. And we want to take care of the issues we need to clean up the City for businesses and residents alike.

We are looking into banning motorized all-terrain vehicles on public properties, and we are looking into expanding the Recreation Commission to help with the sports representation going forward and the Mayor's plan to increase activities.

With this budget the Mayor has proposed, his commitment to give back to community, this budget fully funds a summer camp program for five weeks for the kids ages 7-14. We want our kids to be active and safe in the summer. This camp program is the greatest way to ensure that. We're planning on bringing back Youth Basketball League and Adult Softball League as well.

President Tripp asked about the State Grant for a new basketball court in the Armory, which is now a recreation center. The Bonding proposal is going to provide for a new roof. Is there a time schedule on that?

Mayor Cassetti replied, June.

Fire Committee – Alderman Patrick Henri

As a reminder with all the snow we're having, if you have a property that has a fire hydrant on it, please see that the fire hydrants are accessible and not snowed under. Thank you.

ARMS Committee – Alderman David Blackwell

ARMS was dispatched to 263 calls, transported 186 patients, 75 with advanced life support. We provided 27 mutual aid calls to Derby, 1 to Seymour, and 6 to Shelton. We received mutual aid,1 on the 2nd call and 2 on the third calls. 142 patients were transported to Griffin Hospital, 17 to Yale, 9 to Yale Pediatrics, 5 to Yale/St. Raphael's, 7 to Bridgeport, 4 to St. Vincents, 1 to Waterbury and 1 to St. Mary's.

$98,756 was billed, and of that they collected $53,650.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Henri noted that the Tax Office monthly report contains many pages with many columns and rows of numbers that really don't explain anything. Unless someone really feels the need to have this information– could the Tax Collector just provide the cover sheet in the future?

Corporation Counsel Marini noted that while the previous Board had requested the information, it could possibly be presented in a more useful manner. He suggested that the Finance Committee or the Mayor meet with the Tax Collector to possibly come up with a better report.

After discussion, **Alderman Henri MOVED that the Tax Collector's provide the report with the spreadsheets to the Town and City Clerk and provide the cover page only to the Board of Aldermen; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.**

Alderman Radin noted that the WPCA no longer puts the amounts on our things and now there is no way of checking anything. Is there any way that can be put on?

Alderman Stowe asked Alderman Radin to send him an e-mail of exactly what she is looking for and he can look into it at the next WPCA meeting.

Alderman Charles Stowe – Public Works Committee

Doug is here if he wishes to give a report or if I leave anything out. They are functioning all right and they'll be able to handle the next snowstorm. My request is I've had some concerns in the first ward and Doug is at every Public Works meeting, I give him a list and he checks the issues. I would appreciate if the rest of the Wards could do the same and e-mail me any list of issues, potholes, etc. and I will pass them on to Doug. He's doing a good job so far.

Alderman Charles Stowe - Economic Development Committee

We are moving forward, there are a lot of new businesses moving in. We had a think tank meeting – there was some mention about why wasn't the public notified. It wasn't really an EDC meeting or any committee meeting; it was just a few people, we were discussing the Palmer Building and some other minor things about occupying buildings, what buildings we'd like to see done something with first, what would make the biggest impact. It was a very good meeting and it wasn't meant to offend anybody.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

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 13-0.

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 $2,398.58 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Claims

Alderman Henri MOVED to forward any claims to the Claims Committee and Corporation Counsel; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Communications

Alderman Cassetti MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Communication #1
From: Edward Morse, Vice President, Ansonia Gridiron Club
Re: Request for Funding – Championship Football Banquet

Alderman Henri MOVED TO TABLE; SECONDED by Alderman Edo.

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Stowe	X		
Vaccaro	X		
Hunt	X		
Jeanette			
DeLucia		X	
Fainer	X		
Cassetti	X		
Radin		X	
Edo	X		
Henri	X		
Blackwell	X		
Evans		X	
Tripp	X		
TOTALS:	10	3	

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10 Yes, 3 No.

Communication #2
From: Chairman Bartholomew Flaherty, Planning & Zoning Commission
Re: 8-24 Referral for Capital Improvements

For information only – no action required. This is a favorable referral from the Planning & Zoning Commission in order to move the process forward. All of these projects have had bonding approved by the voting public already.

Alderman Stowe stated, Peck School Demolition – the school is owned by Beacon Builders, who have not fulfilled their agreement with the City. It seems to me it was 10 years ago and I'm wondering why they even have their name on the deed any more. How will we get the back taxes and get the building back.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, that is an issue larger than the bonding project. Just because the project is on this list does not mean in fact that we will move ahead with the project. It essentially sets us up so we can move ahead with these projects. In meeting with our Land Use Committee, we are talking with various departments on how to enforce and crack down on delinquent taxpayers. There are a lot of things involved.

Resignations

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the resignation of Nancy Hunt from the Ansonia Cultural Commission, and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Appointments

Cultural Commission

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Janet Waugh (R) of 83 Prospect Street; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Melissa Torres (R) of 8 Sharyl Drive; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to appoint Ralph Villers (R) of 33 Upland Terrace; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to appoint Judy Larkin-Nicolari (R) of 167 Pulaski Highway; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to appoint Christine Collicelli (D) of 10 Lindgren Terrace; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

COST CUTTING COMMISSION

Alderman Edo MOVED to approve the appointment of Susanna Kurus (R) of 144 Pulaski Highway; term to expire 1-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint Margaret Sullivan (D) of 98 Brook Street; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Henri MOVED to reappoint Marcia Dobrowski (D) of 9 Arlene Drive; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to reappoint Karen Phipps (D) of 27 Johnson Street; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint Robert Martino (U) of 28 LaRovera Terrace; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to appoint Frank DeLibero, Jr. (U) of 31 Martin Terrace, Kichar replacement, term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to appoint Paul N. Velardi (U) of 16 Hoinsky Way, Lynch replacement, term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint Alfonso Smith (D) of One Hunter's Lane; term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Henri MOVED to reappoint Michael Cratty (D) of 10 Bruns Road; term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to reappoint Anne Lynch (D) of 15 Birchwood Drive; term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

COMMISSION FOR ELDERLY SERVICES

Alderman Henri MOVED to reappoint James Hubbard (D) of 10 Harris Road; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint Sue Behun (D) of 22 Prindle Avenue; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint Pauline Sampieri (D) of 54 Finney Street; term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Resolutions

None presented.

Unfinished Business

Alderman DeLucia asked Corporation Counsel Marini to clarify his earlier statement about the bond projects that might not be done.

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, the Mayor's Office and the Board of Aldermen have discretion as to which projects we want to act on and which ones we don't. We are looking at a priority list – which ones to do first, second, etc. Just because something has passed does not mean that there's a green light to go ahead and do it right now. The people voted to give us permission to bond. It did not commit us however to bond every single project. Even more, it doesn't commit us to go to bond on every single project all at once. It should be a guiding principle; the voters approved all of them and so we should look at how to do it. We have to be reasonable and responsible at the same time. We need to be smart about the timing.

As far as legal entanglements with Peck School demolition, there are things we need to clear up. We want to make sure of what we're getting into with the school. Clarify in terms of ownership, responsibility. We don't want to give anyone a get out of jail free card.

New Business

Alderman Stowe asked that Corporation Counsel Marini explain what Executive Session really means.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the Freedom of Information allow a Board or Commission to go into Executive Session for limited reasons. Those reasons are actually spelled out in the Freedom of Information laws. The idea of Executive Session is pretty important. It is to protect the City's interests and protect the publics and the employees' in certain circumstances. Going into it is not something that should be taken lightly; it should only be gone into for the right reasons. And what is said in Executive Session – it's really important that it remains in Executive Session.

Alderman Stowe stated, there was an incident at one of the commission meetings where we had an Executive Session and it wasn't very long after that the information that was at that session was out in the public. I don't want to talk about who, what or where, but I wonder what kind of action should be taken when something like that happens in a commission or committee in the future. I take this very seriously and I've even told my wife, "you can't know about this." I don't expect to be at a meeting and then two hours later be getting a phone call from

one of the attendees saying that they're hearing back from a person that wasn't even at the meeting they're hearing back item for item what happened at the meeting. I don't want to see that.

Alderman Henri noted that he would like to increase the fine for violation of the parking ban up to a $50 towable offense. He also asked about the rules for clearing of sidewalks after a snowstorm.

Chief Hale stated, if you get a complaint about sidewalks, call the Police Department. It is six hours after the end of a snowstorm. We do try to be reasonable about it because often we find it's an elderly homeowner that lives alone that can't shovel and doesn't have the means to pay somebody.

Alderman Henri stated, we have a lot of multi-family homes and a lot of absentee landlords. Going along with the blight thing, if somebody doesn't live in the home, it's not going to be kept up. Generally speaking, there are exceptions. I'd like to look into an absentee landlord business license so that if you don't live in that property, there is some kind of fee, you get inspected, it doesn't meet blight or other regulations, then you don't rent. I think this will help with the blight. If you live in a one family home, the services you require are for one family. But if it's a two or three or four family home, you have the potential of that many more uses of City services, not to mention the schools. We need to get away from the trend of having absentee rental properties. It's a good way to go to supplement the City income to help pay for the City services that these places utilize. I appreciate and want to hear any type of opinions, for or against, what the problems may be, whatever. I seriously want to look at doing this.

Alderman Henri MOVED to refer both items – the increase in the fine for violation of the parking ban, as well as the multi-family home business license, up to the Ordinance Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Stowe MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen