



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President 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 – present
Philip Tripp, R2 – present
Lorie Vaccaro, R2 – present
Denice Hunt, D3 – present
Joseph Jeanette, D3– present
Anthony DeLucia, D4 – present

Richard Kaslaitis, III R4 – present
Anthony Cassetti, R5 – present
Joan Radin, R5 – present
Matthew Edo, R6– present
Patrick Henri, R6 – present
David Blackwell, Jr., R7 – present
Frank DeLibero, R7 – present

President Tripp declared a quorum of 14 present, 0 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2015; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Public Session

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

Randolph Carroll, 40 Fourth Street

There has been a lot of activity in the North End, especially on Fourth Street. There's been a stabbing in Gatison Park, a break-in of a unit in my complex, a fight in the park. It seems the escalation of hanging out at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets – there are 20-30 people there. The Police have been coming through the neighborhood, and walking the property. But it is quite intimidating when going to the Daily Mart and there is all this activity - it shouldn't be. The park is supposed to be closed at sunset. I do appreciate that you have sent patrols but I think the neighborhood needs more Police activity. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

Last week I had to call the Police Department because of the noise from Boland's all the way up to Castle Lane. I called at 11:45 and at 12:30 the girl was on the mike so loud it was like it was in my back yard. This past Saturday I didn't even bother calling on the noise.

I understand that you're trying to move the firehouses. I think it's wrong to move the firehouses. Leave them right where they are, and if you want to move them, you should have the people vote on it. Either keep Eagle Hose there or move it down to Healey Ford but not over the bridges to the West Side.

Back to the noise, there was a problem with Oakdale and the State jumped in and ruled on it. They should do the same thing here. This has been going on, I can hear it all the way up to Castle Lane from the other side of the river. I called and told them, send up the Police car to sit here and hear the noise.

Peter Marcinko, 18 Kathy Lane

I know you're doing a lot of work on Wakelee Avenue in regard to sidewalks and roads. I'm noticing that when construction happens with anything that has to go in the street, a lot of times they cut up the sidewalk and put in asphalt. I'd like to know if there is an ordinance that says that if you cut through a concrete sidewalk, you put concrete back. If you cut into asphalt, you replace the asphalt. You spend \$3.5 million to redo this place and in two years there will be little asphalt patches all over the place.

Another thing, is there an ordinance about putting signs on telephone poles? They are going up fast and they are everywhere. Some of them are posted up 10, 12, 15, 20 feet high so that people can't take them down. I've taken down a few here and there because they get to be crazy.

With regard to the Webster firehouse, I saw the article that the Mayor said we'll probably go out to bond for that because it will be an extensive job. I'm curious because when I came to the Board of A&T meeting, Sheila O'Malley said that \$350,000 is the percentage the City had to contribute for the Wakelee Avenue project. They said they would take some of the money from the \$9 million they have in the contingency fund. At what point, what number do we go out to bond, and what number do we take out of the Contingency fund? Why go out to bond for \$60,000 or \$80,000 or \$100,000 when we took out \$350,000 without going to bond. Is there a number that's set somewhere? I'm curious if we're going to pay interest on \$80,000 to \$100,000.

President Tripp explained, that \$350,000 was our 10 percent of a \$3.5 million project to totally re-do Wakelee Avenue from the Derby line all the way over to Nolan Field. We were getting 10 percent down payment – I'll do that all day long.

Mr. Marcinko stated, whatever you call it, it's still \$3.5 million of our money whether we're getting it from our federal tax money, or state tax money, or town tax money. I read that we were going to bond a small amount, but for \$350,000 we'll just take it out of the \$9 million contingency.

President Tripp stated, the people from the Board of A&T are not here right now, but we will try and get that answer for you.

President Tripp asked three times if any other person wished to speak. Being none, he declared the Public Session closed.

Public Official Session

Mayor David Cassetti

Good evening. Summer is almost here and that means vacation for a lot of us. I want to assure you that we will be hard at work improving your City during the summer months.

We are continuing our aggressive blight efforts, ensuring that properties are maintained and taking enforcement action when they aren't.

Our street paving program will begin this summer and we are already working with the milling and paving companies on a schedule. We will begin with Smith Street, Hunters Lane, and Ford Street, with more to follow.

As always, I continue to make the City of Ansonia's infrastructure a priority. We want to send a signal to all those that visit our great city that we are proud of the way it looks.

The Public Works Department is continuing its successful summertime help program with workers already out improving the look of our parks and streets.

Tonight we will be discussing the negotiations of the sale of our City-owned buildings. These properties have laid fallow for almost 30 years. The sale and eventual redevelopment will be a milestone for the city and will turn our downtown around. You will hear about this later in the evening. I encourage you to support the next step in this process.

You have several ordinances on the agenda, one of which is our Sexually-Oriented Business ordinance which will help protect our residents and ensure that we have a healthy and inviting business climate. I encourage your support of all of the ordinances before you tonight.

The Summer Camp will be ramping up July 8th. Jeff Coppola, our Parks and Recreation Director, will be spearheading this effort. I encourage parents and children ages 6-13 years to make sure that your children take advantage of this opportunity to participate in sports, arts, crafts and various other activities.

I want to recognize three of our Aldermen who have taken a prominent role in the area of Recreation. Alderman Matthew Edo, Dave Blackwell, Jr., and our new Alderman, Frank DeLibero – we are proud of the hard work and effort they devote to sports and recreation. This city has a proud history of rising to the top in athletics, and the spotlight needs to continue to be on Recreation. Sports and recreation are vital to the health and welfare of our City.

While we are recognizing individuals who stand out with distinction, I must recognize Carol Forcier who has been a friend to the City and to the Economic and Community Development in her role as Economic Development Specialist. Carol always has a pleasant smile and a caring attitude. She is a diligent employee who has dedicated over two decades to the residents of the City of Ansonia. When we say that Ansonia is open for business, Carol played a major role in that effort. Please help me thank Carol, who will be retiring June 30th, with a round of applause. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

Dr. TC Nanavati will be recognized for his dedication and service to our pets and even those animals that are not fortunate enough to have homes. I thank him for the help and hard work, if he would kindly come up with his family. [Dr. Nanavati and family approached the podium]. Dr. Nanavati, on behalf of a grateful City, I'd like to give you this plaque in recognition of 35 years of service to the City of Ansonia. 1980-2015. Congratulations.

Finally, a reminder that our Equality Commission will meet July 16th at 6 p.m.

I will leave you with a favorite quote of mine from Ronald Reagan that gives me inspiration on a daily basis, "There are no great limits to growth." I firmly believe that there are no great limits to growth and prosperity for our great city. Thank you very much.

Alderman Radin asked, could we possibly have some of these things that are presentations to us, like you have one tonight on the gold building, that we can get them much earlier than 3 days before the meeting? There's a lot of reading there. I did read it. I spent time on it. I wanted to look into other things on it; I did not have time because I do have a business. I think it's unfair to us to vote on these things if we don't have the chance to read them, especially if it's any kind of a thing like that. It's very important.

Mayor Casseti stated, you're not going to be voting; tonight you will just be voting to go into negotiations with them. You're not voting to do this; you're entering into negotiations.

Alderman Radin continued, there is a lot of information in there that, if people haven't had a chance to read it, they don't understand it. I did speak to a lawyer about some of it. Like I said, I would like to discuss it with the people. I think as a Board of Aldermen we should be able to get some of these things earlier. I know that I spent my whole weekend reading the papers. Not just these. Every month. Anything that requires a lot of reading.

Mayor Cassetti stated, okay, I will look into it.

Corporation Counsel John Marini

I've been hard at work for the last couple of weeks with our Ordinance Committee, in particular the Chairman Matthew Edo, Lorie Vaccaro, Pat Henri, Phil Tripp and Joe Jeanette. There's been a lot of talk about different ordinances, trying to improve the laws and regulations of the City, to improve the quality of life for residents and to keep our citizens safe. Tonight there are five of those ordinances on the table. One of them that has been talked about in some detail has been the Sexual Oriented Business regulations – beefing up those that are already on the books, expanding prohibited zones and also creating a new licensing system in those areas where they can actually open.

You'll also see ordinances creating a scrap policy for the City, clarifying Finance procedures, creating savings accounts, and also trying to enact some business-friendly procedures.

There are other Ordinances on the way. We've been talking about expanded regulations for panhandlers and for solicitation. And, believe it or not, to address Mr. Marcinko's comments earlier, there's been a lot of talk about what can be done about all of the signs being stapled over the telephone poles throughout the city, that actually originated from Economic Development Commissioner Bill Luneski about a month and a half ago – he had noticed it. The idea is not only to be able to remove them, which we could certainly do through our blight program, but also to impose fines. There are some questions as to how we could find the people that posted the signs, and it was suggested that we call the number on the signs.

Personnel – we have two job postings going out, first internally to the Union employees and then if needed, externally. They're going to be posted tomorrow. The positions are Accountant in Finance, and also Grants Specialist – that is Carol Forcier's current position. I'm also working with the Board of Library Directors to prepare a posting for Library Director – that's also a Union position and that posting should be done sometime in the next two weeks.

We have ongoing negotiations with the Public Works Union and the City Hall Union. That work is in progress.

A new Personnel Policy draft will be issued to the Board of Aldermen as soon as possible within this month. The new policy will clarify everything that we had on the books and add new components, for example, a section on conflicts of interest, a section on employees with disabilities, a section on usage of City computers.

We are working to set new policies from the legal side with the Senior Center - in terms of concerns for our elderly and any health issues that they have there. As we know, our senior center is not equipped to handle the medical issues that some other senior centers are. We don't have a doctor or nurses on staff. We're working to create new policies and procedures to keep our guests safe and our employees as well.

Finally, we talked a little about the repairs to the Firehouses. Eagle Hose – the deductible was only \$700 for both the wall and the truck. It turns out one of those deductibles is going to be waived, so we're only paying a single deductible and it shouldn't be more than \$500 for everything that needs to be done.

For Webster Hose, we have an insurance claims investigator out conducting a structural analysis of the facility right now. We're going to get a determination soon as to whether or not we can get coverage for this.

Director of Economic Development Sheila O'Malley

As you heard the Mayor mention, the ATP and Palmer buildings – we'll be talking about that in Executive Session. Those bids are pretty straightforward bids; fairly simple to understand. I will be laying out one of the two proposals that we received.

Wakelee Avenue – the Engineers are working on the design and are taking boring samples right now. Doug Novak and I will meet with the engineers for the Ansonia Nature Center so work is going to begin on the parking lot and the dredging hopefully by the fall.

Grants – Corporation Counsel John Marini just mentioned the Grants Specialist position that we're posting tomorrow. That is an important position because it will be the first time ever that the City ever had an actual Grants Management position, which a lot of the federal and state agencies are requiring. That person will be in charge of reporting requirements and making sure we are in compliance with our grants. We do a little bit of that now but we're expanding on that job. That is an important job and that person will work closely with Finance.

We're working on grants for assessment and remediation of some of our Brownfields sites here in the City.

An RFP will be going out for the revamping our Zoning regulations.

Alderman Stowe stated, the money on Wakelee Avenue, we're not borrowing that money.

Ms. O'Malley stated, we're not borrowing; that's a grant.

Alderman Stowe stated, we had to invest a small amount to receive...

Ms. O'Malley stated, if you had to fix Wakelee Avenue it would cost you about \$3.5 million. Now it's costing us \$350,000. It's a grant.

Alderman Stowe continued, I, too – Mrs. Radin mentioned about how much information the two buildings are in the process of negotiation – I would have loved to have seen that earlier but in all honesty this has been discussed for months. I have faith in the team that we've picked. I was a strong proponent to having you here and I can't say enough about the work you've done in almost two years you've been here. We'll have to try to keep up with you; you're moving too fast. Thank you.

Comptroller Bill Nimons

We are starting our audit for the fiscal year ending June 30. All the departments will be notified on the reports that are going to be required. We are hoping that all the Aldermen that are on those committees encourage everybody's cooperation so that we can get our audit done quickly and accurately this year. We are still fine-tuning a lot of items on the books. We are setting up sub-accounts. We're moving all of the grants off of our budget; they're going to be separate. That will be done for June 30th as we move forward. Anyone who has any questions can stop at the office or give me a call. Some people have done it and I'm open for discussions on anything. The other item we have on the agenda tonight is about the fire truck. We'll be doing a search now and figure out how we're going to finance it.

Chief of Police Kevin Hale

As you may have read in the paper we had a pretty significant double dog bite on the West Side. Without saying too much, I can tell you that we believe there is not a danger to the public at this point.

As Mr. Carroll had mentioned, we have increased our presence in the North End to go along with the increased use of the park and the people that are out, usually during the night. We've shuffled around our patrol sectors a little bit so we do have quite a bit more presence up there. We actually had a member of the public come in this morning, first thing, that noticed and thanked the officers for the presence, because he had seen a difference up there. There are people out; it is a park. There are rules pertaining to the park. The officers have been instructed to enforce those rules. I talked to Mr. Novak today; we spent quite a bit of time up

there. There are some signs that need to go back up, some parking signs, clearing of some trees to brighten the place up a little bit. We will continue working on that.

We also have a new establishment open on East Main Street – it's been the past couple of weeks. We have an increased presence on Main Street and the Main Street area at night and especially on the weekends. There are a lot of people down there. We want to make sure that everybody enjoys themselves but they move on when it's time to move on.

I see that Dr. Nanavati has left – I'd like to offer him my personal thanks for many years of service – he's been wonderful and he still is and I hope he continues to be wonderful to work with. We have enjoyed working with him; he is always available and he's done a great job for a very long time.

The process to purchase and utilize body cameras is moving along. I believe we are down to a final vendor. Sheila and I have talked about this a little bit. A grant will pay a good portion of this program – the big effort here is to come down to a policy; what is going to drive the usage.

We have opened up the hiring process. We are looking for at least one police officer. Interested candidates can go to www.policeapp.com – and they'll see a link to the Ansonia Police Department. They apply for the job there. We'll start the testing process through that as well. That posting closes July 17th so people do have five or six weeks. Hopefully if they're interested, they've been working out, they should come to us – surprise, we do get phone calls – what kind of shape do I have to be in. Well you have to be in enough shape to pass the test that's on the police app, so make sure you're in that kind of shape. Hopefully people have been working out if they are in fact interested. We encourage you if you know people who might be interested or are interested please go to the website, click the Ansonia Police link and then follow that through. We should hopefully have a name in the early fall.

Alderman Radin stated, I've had a couple of people call me, also Mr. Musante, about Molto Bene. Up until 11 or 11:30 p.m. it's fine, but they've been going on, and it's been very loud after that. Someone called the police station and they told them that there is no noise ordinance. I don't know who did that. Ed has told me about his place. There is also another problem there at Molto Bene. The cars that are coming off there are parking on the off ramp and on the street. I think it would be a good idea to tell them that they can't park there; that they could park in the first parking lot. It is very dangerous when people try to come off the highway they tell me it's been a problem. I would appreciate it if you could talk to the people at Molto Bene and ask them to have their patrons park where it would be safe for them and safe for the people that are coming off of the highway.

Chief Hale stated, we did get a complaint over the weekend. Maybe the Mayor and I, we can sit and meet with them. I think the call was around midnight. This has

been a problem in the past – the sound reverberates across the water. We get the complaints from the North end, not from the West side. We will meet with them and ask them to tone it down or shut it down after a certain point. We tell them that people park at their own risk. If people park in violation we will enforce it.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Blackwell offered Chief Hale the use of a noise meter.

Alderman Blackwell stated, when I worked at the Police Department, when Snookers held an outdoor event, the neighbors would complain. As I recall there is something within the zoning of where that business was that allowed them to do certain things, like music to a certain hour. We may have curtailed it at one point. I understand that there is a problem with noise at Molto Bene but I can't see penalizing that particular business at this particular time if they are zoned for that type of use. If in the event they do go out of business then we should look at rezoning that area to prevent something more from coming in. But to penalize a current business owner who is in business with that intent in mind, to now say you can't do this, I don't think is fair.

Chief Hale stated, there are certain businesses, such as garages, that can operate up to a certain hour. I think we need to find a balance there - they close at 2 so they can play until 2. I understand in fairness to the business, but where is the fairness to the people that have to listen to it who aren't there? We're getting the phone calls at midnight, 1 a.m. – it's another discussion we need to have to make sure we're on firm ground there. We need to find a balance.

Board of Education

Graduation next week, weather permitting it will be outside. We encourage everyone to come and share in a great moment for our high school seniors. Right now at last count we'll be graduating 152 students. We invite all of you to come if the weather is nice, next Thursday evening at 6 p.m. at Nolan Field. If it is indoors, I'll retract the invitation. We are closing down the year and getting ready to move onto the next with grant writing and things of that nature.

Public Works Director Doug Novak

The CT Department of Transportation project on Route 8 is ongoing. The Mayor and I have attended a few meetings and we've selected the color of the wall they'll be using to block the sight and sound to the residents on Westfield Avenue.

The Library window project is ongoing. It should be done within a week or so.

Sidewalk repairs are monitored by the City Engineer's office with assistance from the Department of Public Works. When we see something that should be repaired according to what was there prior, we report that back to the City Engineer. We are trying to work with the City Engineer to make these repairs expeditiously.

Signs on poles - there is a State Statute. Alderman Jeanette probably would know this also. AT&T, SNET, UI, CL&P years ago went to the State legislature to get a statute passed for the safety of the pole climbers. The statute basically says, do not put anything on the poles because you are impeding their safety to get on the poles. We can call Frontier, call UI, to report it. The response won't be a quick as you would expect or hope it to be. They will take the complaint and they will come out and check the poles for safety.

Alderman Stowe asked, how are the fields holding up so far? I know they will be under tremendous stress because of the work being done at Emmett O'Brien.

Mr. Novak replied, so far they are holding up. We've had meetings with the Board of Education, Emmett O'Brien, trying to work it all out. They will take a beating. We would like to try to re-establish the fields at the Ansonia Nature Center next year. We've talked to Allison about it. To get into a full growth – you probably won't be able to use the field, especially the soccer field, for at least a year. We're still in the infancy of trying to figure out how we're going to make it all work. The fields at Emmett O'Brien won't be done until next fall. We've been lucky so far; we haven't had a lot of damage because of the leagues playing on the fields.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Alderman Lorie Vaccaro

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

ARMS Committee – Alderman David Blackwell

ARMS had a total of 280 responses last month; it was a very busy month for us. 181 went to Griffin, 11 to Yale-New Haven, 8 to Yale-New Haven Pediatrics, 6 to Bridgeport Hospital, 2 to Yale-St Raphael's Campus, 1 to St. Vincent's and 1 to the VA West Haven Hospital.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

WPCA Committee – Alderman Charles Stowe

Next month, July 1st, the first Wednesday in July, there is a public meeting at 6:45. If anybody wants to have anything to say – we're going to assess whether we have to raise or lower the fees and we're not sure yet but there's a public meeting before that meeting at 6:45 in the Erlingheuser room.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Fire Committee - Alderman Joseph Jeanette

It was a busy month with 8 Motor vehicle accident assists; 2 CO investigations; 4 Smoke/Odor investigations; 2 trash; 2 vehicle fires; 7 grass/brush; 2 structure; 5 natural gas/propane leaks; 2 fuel spills; 14 false alarms; 2 mutual aid calls; 1 electrical hazard and 4 public service/good intent calls, for a total of 55 calls.

Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I've been reading in the paper lately about boot drives and that people are so concerned about the firemen making money on boot drives. Unless these people know where that money goes, they should do some homework and some research. It goes to fund a lot of good things in the community and a lot of people that are in need of money. Don't just think that the firemen are going out and making all this money and spending it on all kinds of things for themselves. They are drastically wrong. I'm tired of people putting the firemen down; they work hard for the community and they risk their lives. They put a lot of time and effort into their profession that is voluntary. When people start putting things in the paper about all this garbage about what they're making on boot drives and what they're doing at picnics, it's volunteer. When they're getting up in the middle of the night and everybody is sleeping in their bed and they're jumping into fire trucks running around town making everybody safe - think twice, please. If anything they should say prayers for these guys and their families.

Alderman Henri stated, Webster had a boot drive this weekend – on the back of their receipts they list the things they donate the money for, which is a great idea. I'd encourage all the firehouses that have boot drives to do the same thing so the public knows where the money is going. I'd like to thank the Fire Department for showing up in force at the parade. Great showing; kids love it. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Ordinance Committee – Alderman Matthew Edo

We've worked very hard over the last three weeks to get these five ordinances cleaned up and ready for your approval tonight. We will meet again to work on a couple more.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Ansonia Housing Committee – Alderman Joan Radin

They are having a barbecue. They've had the dinners for Christmas. The last thing of the season in June is going to be a barbecue for them. The citizens love it; they're getting to socialize. I've seen a lot of improvements. I've been going to the meetings and seeing all the things they've been doing down there. The meetings this summer will be at the Ortol Center at Woodlawn Avenue.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Municipal Reports, Board of Apportionment & Taxation Recommendations and Comptroller Approvals

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept all municipal reports and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the Board of Apportionment and Taxation Recommendations and the Comptroller Approvals; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13 Yes , 0 No, 1 Abstention (Deliberato).

Tax Collector Report and Request for Refunds

Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the report of the Tax Collector and pay the refunds in the amount of \$4,506.22 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslajtis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Radin stated, I have questions for the Tax Collector. That report, that 97.61, is that to date for the year or for the month of May?

Mrs. Blackwell replied, that was for May.

Alderman Radin stated, actually it should be 100 percent. I also looked at the list we got of the suspensions. I did a little research on a couple of the names that were in there. One of the construction companies owes a considerable amount of money; just that one thing alone is \$10,000. I went online; the place is still in business. It's still listed at Riverview. Do we have a lien against that property?

Mrs. Blackwell replied, we have liens against the property. What this is, it doesn't stop collection. We still go on collecting. This is for accounting purposes only. What it does is put the account on suspense that I exhausted everything, but I'm still going after, it's not stopping anything.

Alderman Radin asked, are you calling any of these people? I've had people mention that they've gotten a tax bill and they don't understand it and they're not too anxious to call the tax department. Why can't someone in your office call some of these people who owe small amounts to tell them why they owe?

Mrs. Blackwell explained, it's not my job to call people. I mail out the billing. I have a collection agency that does that.

Alderman Radin stated, but that's not fair. It's not fair asking a person who owes \$132 to pay a sheriff.

President Tripp stated, Joan, I'm going to have to call a point of order. I let it go a little bit.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, in terms of tax collection that's actually one big issue that I've been looking into along with Tammy and also Bill Nimons. We've been exploring what other communities have done to get their tax collection rates up and to deal exactly with the situation Alderman Radin is concerned about. We are looking to rely a little less on the Marshal process than we have in the past and actually go to a collection system that's not unlike what Alderman Radin is describing - focused letters being sent, and then your basic line-in-the-sand foreclosure process being drawn, especially with long overdue accounts. That is something that Bertram, Moses & Devlin has been helping us formulate and we're putting into action within this month.

In addition to that, Tammy has brought to the table a company called Tax Serve. They are a collection company that has a very distinguished edge over their competition - they have a special agreement with the CT DMV that allows them to track down individuals and obtain information to locate them that no other tax collection service has. Their resources enable them to really get collection rates that beat out all of their competitors. The City, hopefully by the next meeting, will be asking this board to entertain an arrangement with them to go after these delinquent accounts. Really it has been all hands on deck to be able to improve our collections rate and do it in a way that is fair and clear to the residents.

Alderman Radin stated, I went on that list and I looked through that and I see quite a few people that have died, people that are in jail...

Mrs. Blackwell stated, there are deaths, bankruptcies. There are a variety of things on the list. This is for accounting purposes. I have to submit it to you. I carry it on to collect. The other ones that are deceased I can't collect on them. That's why they are on the suspense list. This is for accounting purposes.

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, the suspense list for accounting purposes basically says, okay, it's highly unlikely that the City is going to collect those accounts. So for the purpose of calculating our tax rate and our grand list, they're

essentially put in a special category. We don't really count them as receivables in the same way we would the rest of our taxes. But that doesn't mean at all that collection activity stops. It just means that whatever we do collect is really over and above what we would have anticipated to get. It's different from our normal – what we expect to get.

Alderman Stowe stated, it was a lot of work to have this list. However is this list at some point going to be reviewed to identify possible collectable accounts – to say these accounts are collectable and these are not? At WPCA that's how it is. We collect.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, that is the reporting that Tammy has to do for the suspense list – if they meet certain criteria they have to be reported on that list. As our collection agency goes through it, will they parse out the ones that are 100 percent uncollectable? That typically is done. The priority is to collect on as many accounts as possible. They're not being put in a special place where we're not going to try. For accounting reasons we have to recognize them as much less likely – very unlikely – to collect. That way we don't expect them to be receivables to us when we're calculating what our tax rate will be.

Alderman Stowe stated, something that worked for us at WPCA is what I would call "found high value targets". People that owed money that obviously just didn't want to pay. Believe it or not, when we went ahead and did whatever collection method we decided to do, we had people pay that we didn't even go after because there was a psychological value there – "gee they made so-and-so pay and I know he never pays his bill so we better pay up..." It was amazing how fast that happens, like in a 90-day period.

Alderman Blackwell asked, are the majority of these things property taxes or motor vehicle taxes?

Mr. Nimons replied, motor vehicle.

Alderman Blackwell stated, so that is different than a WPCA which doesn't have property attached to it. It's a lot different than trying to collect motor vehicle taxes of people that we don't know where they are or where the vehicles are, or even if they're in the same state or region.

Mr. Nimons stated, motor vehicle and personal property are two of the hardest things to collect.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, that is a reason Tax Serve becomes a very important element to this. They can get the information from the DMV that the City cannot legally access, nor can other collection agencies. Something like Tax Serve actually does have a relationship with DMV to get that information.

Accidents and Claims

11-13-817 and
11-13-818 Eddie Ortiz v. City of Ansonia

Alderman Edo MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communications

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept all communications, dispense with the reading unless an Alderman wants one read, and take them up in their order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #1

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department
Re: Police Vehicles

The Police Department has been funded \$85,000 for 2 vehicles. This is the normal procedure we go through every year. We have been dealing with a company in Bristol for many years now. We would like to trade in two Crown Victorias with high miles and are out of warranty. That value will come off the price of the two vehicles. That will leave us with two more Crown Victorias, and next year if all goes according to plan that will be the end of that.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve the bid waiver; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #2

From: Fire Commissioner Joseph Jeanette
Re: New Pumper for Eagle Hose Company #6

Alderman Jeanette explained, this is a Class A pumper to replace Engine 6 which is overdue to be replaced according to safety standards. I think it's a good thing for the City; it's needed.

Alderman Delucia MOVED to approve the new fire truck for Eagle Hose Company at a cost of \$590,134; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #3

From: Public Works Director Doug Novak
Re: Eagle Hose Station Repairs

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, these are the estimates to repair the wall. By

Charter the job does not meet the bid threshold so estimates have to be obtained. Typically the Board of Public Works would just select the lowest estimate. In this case we had an issue where several of the bidders, including the lowest bidder, owe City taxes. The issue is that in order to do work that requires a bond or permit, under Ordinance, you need to be without taxes, without liens, without any fees owed to the City. So the lowest bid is here tonight for a waiver of the requirements of the ordinance. I will also note that we do have the ordinance to clarify the policy, and I'll say that there is a State Statute that allows the City in all situations including this one to be able to take up to 100 percent of payment due to a contractor in the situation where taxes, fees of any sort, are due.

Alderman Edo MOVED to waive the requirements of the ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti.

Alderman Radin asked, is this going to set a precedent now?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we'll talk a little bit more about the ordinance later tonight, but the idea is – there is a big issue where you have local contractors that happen to owe taxes. They put bids on jobs. They won't be qualified if they owe taxes or if they owe any sort of fees to the City. On the same hand, we have a lot of situations where we will then have contractors outside of the City that owe taxes in their towns, whether it be Derby, Seymour, Shelton, and they'll actually be perfectly qualified. There is also a priority that we want to be able to collect taxes; we want to be able to recover these balances. The Ordinance Committee after thinking about it for some time decided, what about the option of waiving that requirement on a permanent basis, allowing them to take out permits of bonds for a business that's doing work for the City, with the provision that State Statute already allows the City to take up to 100 percent of the payment. So it satisfies a couple of concerns – it gets City taxes paid and at the same time it is providing an incentive for local businesses to be business friendly in our town.

Alderman Radin asked, who determines what they pay or what they take?

Corporation Counsel Marini replied, it's really the Tax Collector's Office that has the say. The Statute empowers the Tax Collector's Office to take that. That's general. In our ordinance it specifies the City of Ansonia, so it's possible we could adopt our own internal procedure.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Police Department Contract with Behavioral Health Consultants

Chief Hale explained, the EAP is the Employee Assistance Program. It provides confidential services to employees and their families whether stress related or family

issues. We've had the same company for quite a long time now. They've been bought by a national outfit so we don't have that local flavor any more. They started out a very small company and we had direct contact with the owners. We don't have that any more. This is a company out of Hamden. They are local, they provide excellent service and we'd actually save \$600 – we're talking about a bill of about \$1,500. We would like to start that on July 1st.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve as written; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslatis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #6

From: Economic Development Director Sheila O'Malley

Re: RFP for Main Street and East Main Street Properties

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Appointments

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reappoint William Urban (R) of 264 North State Street, term to expire 6-12-2019; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

CULTURAL COMMISSION

Alderman Cassetti MOVED to appoint Crystal White (U) of 183 Wakelee Avenue, term to expire 12-31-2019; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint Rich DeCarlo (R) of 325 Olivia Street, Derby, CT, term to expire 12-31-2019; SECONDED by Alderman Edo.

Alderman Radin asked, why are we appointing someone from Derby?

Corporation Counsel Marini replied, the rationale is similar to Gregg Seccombe who serves on Economic Development – Gregg is actually not a resident of the City of Ansonia but has a City business.

Mayor Cassetti stated, Mr. DeCarlo is a member of the Valley Arts Council that has had involvement in Ansonia and is an ongoing contributor to our own cultural and recreational items. He was very helpful with the parade this year.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint Steven Martin of 2 Elm Street; term to expire 6-4-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Blackwell MOVED to appoint John Izzo (R) of 12 Shortell Drive, term to expire 6-4-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Resolutions

Ordinances

Ordinance #1

Re: Worker's Compensation

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, we worked with the Ordinance Committee and Bill Nimons on this. The idea is to create savings accounts for two items that tend to be costly and will be incurred frequently. One is Workers Compensation when there are settlements of claims or stipulations there needs to be a payout. The City contributes regularly to the PMA accounts each year. The thought is that if we can establish a specific savings account for Workers Compensation settlements then we could cut down on the yearly amount that's given into the PMA account each year. We will have that money on hand when the need arises. As you probably know, we really don't settle workers comp cases too often, simply because of the nature of workers comp – it just keeps on going unless there really is an incentive for the City and the employee to settle.

We want to establish a savings account where the money can go in, but it can't go out. That way, years down the road, not only are we paying less on an annual basis but we have the money available to us.

Also, it's the creation of the savings account for Vacation and Sick Day accruals. When an employee retires, they cash out sick and vacation time. Of course there needs to be a savings set aside so it really doesn't impact in a real harsh way the City budget. If there's a savings account we can plan better for that so when an employee retires there isn't that much of a strain on the City budget.

The whole idea is that these accounts will be blocked so that when the funds come in they can't be taken out for other purposes.

Alderman Radin asked, where does the money come from that go into this account?

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, the Board of Aldermen will fund it through the budget. They will put a little bit aside every year.

Alderman Stowe stated, in the past we'd have to come up with it all in one shot, and now we won't have to do that.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve the Ordinance as written; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Ordinance #2
Re: Scrap Policy

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, scrapping is essentially the sale of old equipment – whether it be Public Works equipment or computers – it's a way for the City to generate money by selling small property that has no use any more. We want to establish a clear procedure for selling it. The Scrap Policy would require estimates from three different scrapping outfits, to report the scrapping to the Board of Aldermen, to get the Aldermanic approval if items are in excess of \$1,000. That way there is a clear process for any department that would like to scrap property whether it be vehicle, equipment, computers, otherwise.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Ordinance #3
Re: Sexually Oriented Businesses

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, we have a law on the books – the idea was to bolster it and make it more likely to withstand legal challenge. We talked a lot to the town of Berlin that adopted an ordinance very close to this. Berlin's ordinance was very successful not only in dealing with their sexually-oriented business problem but also withstanding legal challenges in court from businesses looking to move into the town. This is as close to bulletproof as you're going to get. It expands the prohibited zones - areas where these businesses simply cannot locate. If there are areas where these businesses could operate that are outside of those prohibited zones, it creates for the first time a regulation and licensing scheme that would arrange for annual inspections, getting a license, safety measures. This is all based on the research of the Ordinance Committee that these businesses carry with them harmful secondary effect - increase of crime, increase of illicit behavior whether it be drug use, drug sales, prostitution, violent crime. There are a broad range of studies, many of them in Connecticut, that show that these businesses could be harmful, particularly to those areas identified as defined prohibited zones – where children or families congregate.

Alderman Radin MOVED to approve the Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Ordinance #4

Re: Business Entity Exception to Section 25A-2

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, there are two priorities – we want to collect taxes and we want to give incentives to our Ansonia businesses.

Alderman Radin stated, in Section D it says pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-146b the City of Ansonia may withhold payment. I would like to see that changed "shall withhold payment". I think "may" is kind of a wishy-washy word.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the "may" just allows flexibility – it does say it "may" withhold. The reason it says "may" in part or in whole, is actually what the statute says. My thought was give maximum flexibility to the City, but it is the Board's pleasure.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, it's the State Statute and we can't change it.

Alderman Blackwell stated, it's State Statute, no matter what we put here, State Statute prevails. However, I do agree with Mr. Marini that we should be flexible. In the economic times that everybody across the country is facing, businesses have been hit very hard. They are trying to do what they can do to stay afloat. If there is a way that they can pay down their taxes and get work I think we should be flexible with them as far as payment. I don't mean that we should always take 100 percent; sometimes we should be able to be lenient with materials – at least with materials that they're putting out some funds for. This way it's still a win-win for the City – the City is getting work done, the taxes are being paid down, the business owner is allowed to operate and still knock down his taxes without taking 100 percent of his profit. At least give him enough or have another alternative where the City may provide the materials for that contractor.

In response to a question from Alderman Stowe, Corporation Counsel Marini explained that the Statute gives the City the ability to take either up to 100% or nothing.

Alderman Stowe stated, if you start picking out contractors and saying, this one I'm going to let pay 25 percent and this one I'm going to let pay 50 percent and this one I'm going to let pay 75 percent, you're going to have a lawsuit. I don't care if it's materials or not.

I was in my own business. I went out of business. I owed back taxes. I decided that I was having a hard time paying my bills. So I'm going to go to Woodbridge Town Hall and I explained that I needed a payment plan and they allowed it and then they sent a nasty letter every month, and what is it, 18 or 19 percent. In today's economy that you just mentioned, you can borrow money at 3 percent if you are a

credible business. So I immediately borrowed money for 3 percent. My opinion is, if you no longer have the strength to borrow money you're in trouble; you're in big trouble. Maybe you should have already gone out of business.

I personally believe to avoid a lawsuit for the City and to be fair, because if I owed back taxes, rather than paying 19 percent, if I could afford to pay the whole thing and get my taxes off interest free, I'd hustle and put out the extra hours to pay my back taxes. I personally do not want to see this ordinance passed and then see a lawsuit. The business world is a tough place and when people are under pressure they do all kinds of stuff. If you have one that pays 50 percent and another that pays 100 you will be going to court. That is my opinion.

Alderman Blackwell stated, I'm not saying that one person pays 25 percent and the other pays 50%. I'm saying if they do a job, if there are materials that the contractor is going to incur a cost, we're going to have to figure something out where they get paid for the materials and/or the contractor provides a list to the City – this way there's not lawsuit. It's just materials. If they go bankrupt the City doesn't get anything. Let's work with these people.

Alderman Henri MOVED to accept the Ordinance as written; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Ordinance #5

Re: Funds from Donations and Scrap Sales

President Tripp stated, the way this was explained to me, if somebody wanted to donate \$50 to the Animal Shelter for dog food, up until now there's been a very cumbersome process for that money to find it's way to the Animal Shelter. This makes it a lot more streamlined.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, when we get funds that come in from the outside either from the sale of scrap or donations, they can't be made out to individual departments – it goes to the General Fund. So right now if someone made a \$50 donation to the Shelter, it goes to the General Fund, and she has to make a request to the Board of A&T to have it transferred from the General Fund to her account. Then it has to come in front of us. It's a lot of red tape. We could just have it go through the Mayor's designee, the Comptroller, like a lot of other inter-department transfers. The same with scrap.

Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

New Business

Alderman Radin stated, if anybody went to the Memorial Day Parade they saw me riding in the 1952 Civil Defense Jeep. ARMS fixed it up. It was fun. We are having a referendum for our five-year plan for ARMS to get a new ambulance. I would appreciate it and hope the people would think about ARMS, think about me riding that old car, and vote for it so we are able to go for our new ambulance.

Alderman Henri asked, are we any closer to getting money from the State or Federal government for our education funding?

Mr. Nimons stated, they're still working on it up at the State. I'm not optimistic right now that we will receive the money.

Alderman Henri stated, I'm tempted to invite our State Reps and Rosa DeLauro here to negate any rumors going around and give us the truth and facts of what is happening.

Alderman Stowe stated, I can understand your frustration. For now I would like to have patience. We will try to get CCM to work with us and try to form a coalition to battle the State on these issues. The portables with the Special Ed students – in all reality that is supposed to be funded by the federal government so the State can easily just take a sidestep on that one. Where they really owe us the money is the Education Cost Sharing. We are planning on going through CCM.

Mr. Nimons stated, the lawsuit starts September 19th – the federal lawsuit on ECS.

Old Business

Executive Session

At approximately 8:26 p.m., Alderman Henri MOVED to enter Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss the following items:

- 1. James Hooker v. City of Ansonia**
- 2. Sale of City Property**
 - a. Response to RFP on ATP Palmer Building/Potential Sale and Negotiations**
- 3. Tammy Blackwell Claim for Reimbursement of Vehicle Damage during employment**

and invited Corporation Counsel Marini, Mayor Cassetti, and Ms. O'Malley to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 9 p.m., Alderman Henri MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Items from Executive Session

Alderman Edo MOVED to have Corporation Counsel Marini draft settlement documents for view at our next meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Edo MOVED to authorize staff to begin negotiations with Copper City Development. SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Cassetti MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman DeLucia. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen