



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes**

RECEIVED FOR FILE

15 JUL 31 AM 10:01

July 14, 2015

Elizabeth Dym
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

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 – absent
Joan Radin, R5 – present
Matthew Edo, R6 – present
Patrick Henri, R6 – present
David Blackwell, Jr., R7 – present
Frank DeLibero, R7 – absent

President Tripp declared a quorum of 12 present, 2 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

- Regular Meeting of June 9, 2015**
- Special Meeting of June 9, 2015**
- Special Meeting of June 16, 2015**

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

Public Session

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

Ashley Rose Crute, 17 North Street

I'm from Prendergast Elementary School and I'm entering Grade 5. Why do you have to cut our music and art programs? Also, why do you have to give the Middle School art and not to elementary schools? Are we not as important as the higher grades? It also makes a ton of students and parents super-mad. For example, my

best friend and I are super mad for you doing this to us. By cutting our music and art you are taking a piece of us as children; taking away our creativity in art and how we express our creativity in plays, band and holiday concerts in music. We won't even have art for at least half of the school year. So can you pretty please let our art and music teacher back full-time? Please tell us students of both elementary schools why you did this. Is it because of all the common core testing that we have to do? Due to the testing we no longer have social studies except for a few lucky kids that joined the after-school social studies program. If it wasn't for the technology teacher, we wouldn't know about our surroundings in the world due to the testing of only reading and math. Because of this everyone is really concerned.

President Tripp thanked Miss Crute and stated, we will pass this on to the Board of Education.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I just want you to know that I am completely against the common core and I'm working with the Board of Education to make sure that we put this back into place for you guys. We're working real hard on that.

Diana Miller, 11 Martin Terrace

I'm here about the situation at 9 Martin Terrace. Carl Williams, the owner of Max the Chimney Sweep company, purchased that property in about 2007. Before that he was dumping his chimney sweep vacs on my property. Then he bulldozed the property and built what he called a private office, but has since then been renting that out to another person and his son and the girlfriend comes and stays occasionally, and then he runs his chimney sweep business out of the garage and the deck that was not also approved for that building. They've come there at all hours of the morning, and the afternoon. They're banging their stuff. I have pictures of semis – the Zoning Officer is aware; he has over 850 pictures that I have taken of semis delivering stuff to the property – the trucks and the vans coming and going. The man has been extremely rude to me, verbally abusive, threatening me and my children. I've been living there for 13 years; I'm raising my two children as a single parent. I want what he is doing to stop; it is illegal.

Millie Rios, 121 Great Hill Road

As you all know, I am the one that is literally affected by the Fountain Lake Development. This is going on obviously right behind my back yard. So I just wanted to know – last year they said that as of September 1st of this year that something will be really happening. It is the middle of July and besides trucks going back and forth and getting rid of all the debris there I don't see anything. So I want to know from the Mayor, Attorney, Sheila, and all of you, if somebody can answer the question as to what is the progress of the development. Question number two, did the City ever get approval for the grant money to build the road? I am curious to see if they ever got that approval.

Ms. O'Malley explained, the Fountain Lake access road went out to bid and it will be out for four weeks. We did receive preliminary approval for a grant for the access road. That project is under way; we're not going to start construction until we're given the go-ahead, the final approval, by EDA. It is out to bid and we have plans and specs in the Town Clerk's office. We have had contractors pick up the plans and specs.

Ms. Rios stated, okay, that answers my first question – there is really nothing that will happen as far as the September 1st date that was set back in November that this was going to be...

Ms. O'Malley interjected, the construction of the road should be underway by that time because the tenant needs to be in by this winter. The road has to be constructed before the winter.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I got told to come in here and ask questions. JRBs went to the Police Commissioners' meeting and they were getting people who were coming in there and having dinner were getting tickets. I said to John, maybe they should come up with parking meters. They were in there having dinner, coming out having parking tickets on their cars, they were in there for an hour, hour and a half.

Another thing I got, how come when there are meetings some of the Aldermen don't get notified. I went and notified [inaudible] myself to an Alderman that there was a meeting going on about Castle Lane, and it was pushed under the rug, they didn't know anything about it. If I didn't verbally tell them about it they wouldn't have known about that meeting about Castle Lane. Castle Lane was walked that was postponed the meeting for Thursday that's postponed until the 17th of next month but they didn't notify a couple Aldermen, they just pushed them away. Why was that?

Ms. O'Malley stated, there was a legal notice published in the paper; it's on the City calendar, and the Planning & Zoning Commission was notified as well. And tonight we'll be making an announcement again.

Mr. Musante stated, the Aldermen that night I went to and I spoke to them at the firehouse. They did not know of that meeting or a walk through. They were not aware. There was a meeting coming up the 16th the walkthrough was last Saturday, that was canceled.

Ms. O'Malley stated, both were canceled.

Mr. Musante stated, but the Aldermen, I'm asking why weren't the Aldermen in that area notified, because if I didn't verbally tell this Alderman, they wouldn't have

known nothing about it. Why was that pushed under the rug? They didn't know nothing about the walk through or that meeting.

Ms. O'Malley stated, they were canceled.

Mr. Musante stated, yeah, but they didn't know about this meeting before it was canceled.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, every meeting was properly noticed above 24 hours prior to the meeting. All the notices were stamped into the Clerk's Office. Actually, what you're referring to is the Planning & Zoning Commission had set a date for a Public Hearing for Castle Lane. Unfortunately the date had to be pushed back further, in part to give the residents more notice to be able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Musante stated, an Alderman wasn't notified. I was going down, I stopped at the firehouse, there was going to be a walk through this past Saturday. I said, there's going to be a meeting this coming Thursday. He said "really, I didn't know about it." He is an Alderman. How come that was pushed under the rug?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, it wasn't pushed under the rug; the Alderman simply didn't check the City calendar online where it was published, and didn't check with the Clerk's Office, and didn't attend the Planning & Zoning meeting where it was done, and didn't read the notice that scheduled that meeting. That's all.

Alderman Adamowski stated, can I just comment on that; that was about me. I believe Charlie Stowe was aware of that meeting. I didn't realize that was our job – there is a lot of communication that I know how to check – City calendars. I figured maybe somebody would communicate with me because I know this was a big issue in the past administration – communication through the President of the Board of Aldermen to the 14 members.

Ms. O'Malley asked, was it a big issue for you, Ed? Were you at the Planning & Zoning meeting... [inaudible, multiple speakers]

Alderman Adamowski continued, I didn't know anything about either one of these meetings, my point being, Charlie as a 1st Ward Alderman as I am, we both should be informed of these meetings through you, through City Hall, that they're going on. That is all I'm asking. If we want an open line of communication we should be involved with what's going on. That's all I'm saying. I'm not putting blame on anybody. Just saying, let's get a better line of communication from City Hall to the 14 Aldermen that are sitting here. I think somebody actually put a piece on that in the Valley Indy last week.

Loretta Zeitz, 11 Hotchkiss Terrace

I'm here to speak about the issue at the Molto Bene Restaurant and the noise from band. For years now we've made several complaints before when Mayor Della Volpe was in charge. Nothing was done. We have contacted the Mayor's Office and the Police Department several times to no avail, wasting precious time to the departments. The Police have told us that they have a permit for this band to be playing, but the noise is so loud, we can't hear our TVs, we have to close our windows; it can be heard blocks away from behind the ravine where we live. Mayor Della Volpe never did anything, but he did say to me personally he could hear it from his house when he was in charge. What is the noise ordinance level and what is the time limit for these venues in the City of Ansonia because they've gone past midnight to almost 2 a.m. blasting loud, and it's Thursday through Sunday nights, in a residential area. I don't understand where the speakers are facing but it's coming right across the ravine. If it was facing the audience they'd be blasted out of the venue. If we could put a sound barrier; I can't understand how the residents right across from Molto Bene can handle the noise factor that's coming at them when I'm across the ravine and it's coming at me, and even past here people can still hear them late at night. Could they put the band inside the establishment, or on another piece of the property where it's not facing the public, or if they don't turn it down, we can shut it down with a petition, because we have plenty in our neighborhood that want this – we have seniors who are going to sleep at 8 or 9 p.m. and the music is blasting past midnight. We don't want to close the business; we don't want to harm Molto Bene in any way, but it is this Friday/Saturday night band that's outside – it's been going on for too long and nothing's been done in years – I'd say this has been going on about 5 years.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we'll check in with the Police Department to make sure those ordinances are being properly followed. Obviously everybody has a right to enjoy the property but not to the detriment of their neighbors and other property owners. We definitely take it very seriously; we'll have a meeting on it and reach out to you to let you know what we can do to help.

Alderman DeLucia stated, I think at last months meeting Chief Hale said he was going to meet with somebody at Molto Bene.

Mayor Cassetti stated yes, we were both going to go up to talk with them.

Alderman Stowe stated, for the record I had a complaint from another woman. I think the Mayor talked to the same lady. There are frustrated people and we're going to have to figure something out.

Tara Kolakowski, 14 Farrell Drive

I have a couple of questions regarding the bond issue, the bonds, and the status of the projects. I know we've brought it up in June and in May, but I have yet to see anything either through the website or, if I've been remiss, I haven't seen anything in the Valley Indy. But, just the status of each project, where the projects are, kind of a detailed financial statement as to what money is being spent on each project. I think the voters, regardless of who is in office, voted on those bond issues individually. We deserve to know and we have a right to know also. Is there a bond commission that meets monthly or quarterly that can give the residents, maybe post it on the website, a monthly project detailed financial statement that says, okay, here's the Police Station for example. This is the monies that were allowed and voted upon, this is what's been spent, this is what it's been spent on. Just so there is a full understanding of what we the residents voted on to go forward. If we could get those, we're going to need your technology – it's 2015 – I'm sure there are people in this room who could bring up financial statements for the City on their phones and have those immediately available. So if we could get that in the next 24-48 hours, maybe have that posted in the next 7 days, just so we, the residents, know exactly. I'm not sure if any one of the Aldermen knows exactly where the monies, what bond projects, what was put on the back burner, which ones are going forward, why they were put on the back burner, why they were chosen the ones that were chosen to go forward, where the monies were taken from other bond projects to have something else go forward. Because you 14 were elected and the Mayor, 15, to have this done. Is it a handful of Aldermen and the Mayor? Is it no one that was elected that's making these decisions? It's part of our responsibility as residents, everyone behind me, everyone in this room who voted, where are the projects, where are they going, why are they being funded the way they are, who is making the decisions, and a monthly financial statement that just tells the residents where is the money. Is that something you can have in the next 24 to 48 hours?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I can talk to the Finance Department; but the Finance Department keeps very good track of the projects. Also, this Board has voted on any changes to the bonding projects and has been informed quite regularly about how a lot of the projects have been going. I think it's a good idea to be able to talk and kind of wrap it up. That was definitely one of the things the Mayor wanted to make known in the State of the City address as to where we were with the bonding two years afterward. I think it's something we can get Finance to work on right away.

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. My highest priority for the taxpayers of the City of Ansonia has been and will continue to be reduction of taxes. For far too long the taxpayers have had to shoulder a heavy and unnecessary burden. Toward that effort, our Water Pollution Control Authority has again reduced the sewer use rate by 5.5 percent, lowering fees for thousands of Ansonia residents. It is imperative that we lower taxes in order to expand our business base, and I cannot stress enough that without lowering taxes, economic development would be stifled.

As you know there is a lot happening on the Economic Development front. We are working on the final design and the total road reconstruction of Wakelee Avenue, and hope to have construction underway in the next six months.

We are negotiating the sale of our two City-owned buildings which have sat fallow since the 1980s and 1990s. The sale and purchase of these buildings will result in residents living, shopping, working in downtown Ansonia. The new residents and the foot traffic that this project will bring will result in a renewed interest in our downtown and will help to drive the retail and restaurant tenants. The proposed redevelopment will also include it's own restaurant and retail space.

As you know, we are securing grant funds for the construction of 1,100 lineal foot road which will open up Fountain Lake to preserve the Farrell Corporation and attract additional tenants into the park. This was an industrial park that was stalled for years until we came up with a solution that resolved a tenant/owner impasse.

We continue to work with the owners of Ansonia Copper & Brass Company to demolish the additional 10 acres of dilapidated buildings, freeing up a total of almost 20 acres of land for future redevelopment. This is another parcel of land that has sat fallow and vacant in the heart of our downtown for years.

Today, our Grant Office received word that the Department of Economic and Community Development will be awarding the City of Ansonia \$146,000 of additional funding for the investigation of our downtown properties.

New businesses are opening up on Main Street, including Creative Minds Academy, which just opened up yesterday, and a full-service daycare center, which is a day, evening and weekend childcare facility.

This Wednesday evening, a new addition to our family restaurants on Main Street will open - Copper City Bar & Grille will be serving light American fare. I encourage everyone to check out this new dining experience.

We are working diligently on the floor at the Webster Hose Firehouse so that those repairs can be made in a timely fashion and things can get back to normal. Thank you to Chief Kenny Mitchell and the Webster Hose volunteer firefighters for helping with this urgent repair. Thank you to Jared Heon and ARMS for housing the engines while work is being done. We hope to hire an engineering firm to give us a design and scope of services, and we will get underway with our repairs shortly. This will be somewhat of an inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience.

We are experiencing a lot of activity in our downtown. The Bernadettes are coming back and this is an event you do not want to miss. Thank you to Ralph Villers and the Cultural Commission for their efforts.

Please remember to visit the Farmers' Market each Wednesday and enjoy live music, arts and crafts. At long last our downtown is experiencing a rebirth. On Wednesday afternoon we will be unveiling a new banner to signify the resurgence of our great downtown. I hope everyone will enjoy the banner and visit downtown. See you on Wednesday. Thank you, and good evening.

Corporation Counsel John Marini

First I want to touch on the draft personnel policy that you have before you tonight. It is the first time since 1983 that we're actually going to update and revise the Personnel Policy for the City of Ansonia. In 1983 I was 3 years old and Return of the Jedi was going to be in movie theaters. Seeing that we're going to get the sequel pretty soon it's a good time to revise. There are substantial revisions that I've been able to incorporate, including new sections on Conflict of Interest, Nepotism, Social Media Policy, Use of Computers, and a lot more in terms of complying with federal and state guidelines. What you see before you tonight is a draft and we do want your input on that. We also want to get information and input from the Department Heads. I am requesting that this Board refer the Draft Policy, after you've had a chance to look at it and make comment, to your Personnel and Salaries Committee, and have that Committee invite the various Department Heads to make comment through the months of July and August with potential adoption aiming for early September.

Also on the personnel front, we are completing hires right now for the Tax Collector's Assistant and also the Payroll Accountant. We'll most likely be making new hire announcements shortly as things go forward, and the same will be true for the Library Director – that's also in the hiring process right now.

I wanted to give an alert before this meeting started about the Public Hearing on Castle Lane – obviously that's a development that affects a lot of people in the lower Wards and as Aldermen obviously you care a great amount about what's going to happen with the development of the City. That hearing has been rescheduled to a later date to afford more time for notice to the residents surrounding, and to the rest of the City. That is going to be held at 7 p.m. August 17th

at City Hall. That is actually going to be the first time that the Castle Lane developers are going to make an official presentation about what they've submitted to the town, and it will be the first time that the public will be able to comment on the proposal. It is not of course the end of the process, it's only the beginning, and we could look forward to additional hearings afterward, additional meetings to discuss the development, and also a site walk that will likely be scheduled afterward.

We've been working with Planning & Zoning to hire a new City Planner. The RFP has gone out and interviews will be taking place shortly. The goal is to not only get a new planner but also to start to revise the Zoning regulations for the City of Ansonia, making sure they are up to date and user friendly.

I'd like to give the Zoning and Blight arena thanks to David Blackwell Sr. who has recently stepped down from his position as Blight Enforcement Officer. In that position Dave Blackwell has done a tremendous amount of work for the City. He has picked up the charge enforcing our new Blight laws and made a very substantial difference, eliminating a lot of issues, some which have been very obvious and have been a problem for a long time. He's improved things that sometimes have gone without notice. In fact some of the cleanup he's done, sometimes it's so much that it slips by.

Tonight I wanted to share one of my favorite improvements – I notified Dave about this problem many, many times and he'd been working diligently to try to get something done. This is the old Gulf gas station sign at 97 Central Street. It was a huge, hulking mass that you'd see every time driving down the hill toward Big Y. He came to me about a month ago and asked me if I liked what he'd done. And I asked, what have you done? And he said, well didn't you see it? And I said I didn't notice anything at all. Sure enough, for a couple of weeks, that sign was gone; entirely removed. Just as a reminder that it existed I wanted to share with the Board a picture which you can find on Goggle Maps of 97 Central Street and the Gulf sign, which is entirely removed thanks to Dave Blackwell, Sr. and the new Blight program. We are definitely going to miss him as Blight Officer and I'd like to give him a huge thanks. Right now that position of Blight Enforcement Officer/Zoning Enforcement Officer is out to hire right now, the posting is out.

The Union negotiations for Public Works are under negotiation and hopefully we'll have more updates as the months progress.

Alderman Henri stated, I noticed the sign gone; I was happy to see it gone before I had a chance to ask for it to be gone. I really appreciate that.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, as always, the Blight process is ongoing so as Aldermen, really, we do rely on you to report issues as you find them. You can report them to myself, to our building official, zoning official, we want to continue the

process in making Ansonia clean. We believe we can do a lot of good with our new laws.

Director of Economic Development Sheila O'Malley

The Mayor did touch on a number of Economic Development items and Grant items as well. I'll recap a little bit.

We have a draft Memorandum of Understanding that we have sent to the proposed developers for our two City-owned buildings. They're still working it up and haven't gotten anything back to us yet. When they do, we'll be coming back to this Board.

We are waiting on final approval on the \$1 million grant for the Fountain Lake Industrial Park, and seeking an additional \$500,000 from the State of Connecticut toward that effort as well.

The Mayor mentioned the \$146,000 Assessment Grant. That's the second round that we've been successful with. We previously got \$200,000 in Assessment money for Ansonia Copper & Brass, so we're two-for-two with that, which is pretty good.

We're working on the Vibrant Communities Initiative Grant which is a \$50,000 grant that the City was awarded for working on a Master Development Plan and working in conjunction with Corporation Counsel and his firm on the revamping of the Zoning Regulations.

Alderman Stowe stated, as far as the Palmer and ATP buildings - the Senior Center - I know that we're going to do this, I just want the public to know that we know. As the negotiations continue, we will communicate with the seniors so that they know what we're planning ahead, right?

Mayor Casseti stated, absolutely. That's part of the negotiation.

Alderman Stowe stated, we're going to try to have a business forum in September, right?

Ms. O'Malley replied, yes, we're having a business forum in September - we're planning it.

Alderman Radin stated, maybe I misread it, but I thought the road was supposed to be finished by September 1st. If it wasn't, Mr. Scinto's construction company was going to be taking it over. Did I misread it?

Ms. O'Malley stated, I'm not sure where the September 1 - I know it was mentioned previously but I know that the tenants - the Farrell Corporation has to be in by December 1 because they don't want to be in the old facility in the wintertime and

the road has to be constructed. You have to begin construction in September because it will be too cold to complete the roadway.

Alderman Radin asked, how much of the grant have we gotten so far toward the \$1 million?

Ms. O'Malley replied, we have preliminary approval of the \$1 million from the federal government.

Alderman Radin asked, can we please be notified when we get it so we can celebrate?

Ms. O'Malley replied, absolutely and rightfully so.

Lieutenant Wayne Williams – Ansonia Police Department

I just want to update you, especially regarding the concerns raised about the north end of town over the earlier part of the year. You should have been noticing a larger Police presence up there; they've been working on the parks, working with Mr. Novak from Public Works about getting the parks cleaned up. We've heard from some of the residents who have been talking with the Officers, thanking them for being up there. I think that should help alleviate some of the issues.

We are in the middle of a hiring process. Our application process closes on the 17th of this month – we have one opening that we're trying to fill, we're hoping to have an Academy seat in October. We're going to speed that process up once the application process closes.

As you've been reading over the last couple of weeks, there were some high-profile cases and tragedies in town. We're finishing up those investigations.

July 4th came and went, thankfully, without any major incidents or injuries. We did have our normal volume of calls for fireworks and loud noise and parties, but nothing major occurred.

The ladies that talked about Molto Bene tonight – can I just see you after the meeting so I can get some information from you? Thank you.

Public Works Director Doug Novak

The repairs at Eagle Hose have been completed to the satisfaction of the City.

The City recently received from one of our vendors a new mower for Nolan Field. We bought a 108" cutting swath rotary mower. We've cut down the time for the football field alone to 15 minutes. We should be able to cut all of Nolan Field within 45 minutes to an hour.

The majority of the Public Works employees – I think minus four – have attended and are certified in CPR and First Aid training. We've installed an AED monitor at Public Works. The one we bought was on the recommendation of Jared Heon; it's very simple – it talks to you. When we went through the training with PMA all of the employees at Public Works were surprised at the technology being so far advanced – it's simple to use.

Alderman Radin asked, did they fix the potholes on Church Street?

Mr. Novak replied, they were working on potholes today.

Alderman Radin continued, thank you for fixing the graffiti, it's still not done. I mean, they did it, thank God they haven't gotten back with the graffiti, but give them time. It looks beautiful; thank you.

Alderman Stowe stated, we didn't have a meeting because we didn't have a quorum last month. How is the Transfer Station proceeding?

Mr. Novak replied, we have received the bids back. Two vendors that are vying for the position to do the work at the Transfer Station – I have to sit down with the Mayor and Sheila sometime before the end of the week, and John, so we can go over them and see who we're going to consider for the job.

Alderman Stowe continued, and the Nature Center? I believe there is an engineering firm that was picked and you're working on that now?

Mr. Novak replied, yes, and we have completed painting the outside of the Ansonia Nature Center building. We finished it the other day.

Board of Education

Alderman Stowe stated, if the Board of Education isn't here and the Mayor doesn't feel like doing it, I just, Ashley, please bring your Mom and Dad to the next Board of Education meeting which is the first Wednesday of the month. We have actually written a letter requesting our Governor to help us out because our special needs funding and our ECS, you know, Education Cost Sharing that the State is supposed to give us, there's a formula – we're not getting that money. I want you to know that my fellow Aldermen sitting here, and the Mayor, we have been working diligently to try to get more funding for our schools. So don't worry, and please show up at that next meeting because they'll want to see you there. The first Wednesday of the month at 6 o'clock, here.

Ansonia Events in August

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, in August – last year we did Summerfest, which was our first time out doing an event of that nature. We're going to be having a second version of Summerfest - this year it is going to be called "Rock the Valley". The idea is to have a series of concerts, capped off by fireworks. Rich DeCarlo of the Valley Arts Council has been teaming up with our Cultural Commission to put this event together. He's the same person that's also been helping the Cultural Commission with the new restructured Valley Marketplace that's been going on ever Wednesday and the concert series there. We're very excited about this event; we hope it's going to be a good night. It's going to be August 22nd.

Mayor Cassetti added, August 19th is going to be the 60th anniversary of the Flood of 1955 that devastated the City of Ansonia along with the whole Naugatuck Valley. I'm going to be holding a ceremony at 4 p.m. August 19th at Vartelas Park where it was ravaged by the floods.

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 12-0.

ARMS Committee – Alderman David Blackwell

In June ARMS responded to a total of 223 calls for service. Of the 223, 11 were mutual aid to Derby; 2 were mutual aid to Seymour. ARMS only required 2 mutual aid calls for the month; those came on the 2nd call to service during the overnight hours when we only have one shift running. Transports were 95 to Griffin Hospital, 23 to Yale-New Haven – that is unusually high for the month given that Griffin was on diversion more than they usually are. Six calls went to Bridgeport Hospital, 5 to St. Vincent's, 5 to Yale Children's Hospital, 7 to Yale-St. Raphael's campus, 1 to the VA West Haven, 1 to St. Mary's Waterbury, and 1 to Waterbury Hospital. The total billing revenue for the month came to \$47,998.93. We collected zero so far from hard collections.

A volunteer update from Assistant Chief Hokanson – for the month of June, ARMS volunteers have covered 39 shifts, equaling 232 hours of coverage. This coverage equates to \$3,737.52 of salary that is being saved over our traditional part-time staffing. Fiscal year to date, the volunteers have contributed time of 3,485 hours for \$56,143.35 worth of salaries saved to the citizens of Ansonia.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

WPCA Committee – Alderman Charles Stowe

You pretty much covered that, but I'll reiterate 5.5% reduction in fee. I can't flatter that commission any more – it was a bipartisan commission that worked very well together, and diligently, and saved the taxpayers money.

Fire Committee - Alderman Joseph Jeanette

The Fire Department responded to a total of 59 calls. The breakdown is as follows: 10 motor vehicle accident assist; 4 CO investigations; 9 smoke/odor investigations; 2 vehicle fires; one structure fire; 4 natural/propane gas leaks; one fuel spill; 17 false alarms; 6 electrical hazards; and 5 public service/good intent calls.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Ansonia Housing Committee – Alderman Joan Radin

They are now putting out a beautiful little letter for the people. They made a trip up to the trolley museum last month, there are pictures of it and there are articles. They give this out to the people in there; it kind of keeps them in communication with each other.

There's going to be a public hearing at the office on Main Street on July 16 at 5 p.m. They're going to be doing a review of their program. The public hearing is open to the people – it's down at the end of Main Street near the Maple Street bridge.

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

President Tripp explained that the Board of A&T did not meet in the last 30 days, therefore all the Board has before is a report regarding transfers from the Board of A&T – an all-inclusive document that covers what would have been Board of A&T recommendations and Comptroller approvals. Because of the absence of the Board of A&T participation, the Mayor's Office by Charter did do the approvals on it.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the document; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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 \$3,164.30 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

Claims 06-15-853 through 16-14-867, Zanella, Boath & Associates, LLC v. City of Ansonia

Claim 06-15-868 Sheehy & Dillon v. City of Ansonia

Claim 06-15-869 Lynch, Traub, Keefe & Errante v. City of Ansonia

Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

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

Communication #1

From: Board of Police Commissioners President Ann Pitney

Re: Detective Rafalowski

President Tripp explained, this is in regard to Detective Rafalowski who has served the Police Department with honor and distinction. It is a request to extend his employment for three months. It requires Aldermanic approval. He has been a dedicated public servant for many years.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve a 3-month extension; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #2

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Master Lease-Purchase Agreement

See Resolution #1

Communication #3

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Updated Personnel Rules and Policies

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to refer Communication #3 to the Personnel and Salaries Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Agreement with TaxServ Capital Service, LLC

See Resolution #3

President Tripp stated, this is the only company with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Motor Vehicles, which makes them very effective in finding out where vehicles are so these individuals can be contacted in order to encourage them to pay their taxes to the City of Ansonia. We can raise our collection rate and lower the burden somewhat of the other taxpayers.

Resignations

Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the resignations of Frank DeLibero from the Recreation Commission and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Appointments

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to appoint Wilson Lopez (U) of 59 Church Street, term to expire 12-31-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Kenneth Belardinelli (R) of 36 Highland Avenue (Robert Ramadel replacement), term to expire 12-31-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaffis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission appointments were taken up later in the meeting – see Page 19.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

RE: Master Lease Purchase Agreement with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC for new Triple Combo Pumper for Fire Department

Alderman Edo MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Henri. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

[The full text of Resolution #3 is on file in the Office of the Town and City Clerk]

Resolution #2

RE: Initiation of Charter Revision and Creation of a Charter Revision Commission

Alderman Edo MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

RESOLUTION #2 INITIATION OF CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

WHEREFORE, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen recognizes the importance of reviewing the City Charter for the purpose of modernizing City government and achieving cost saving efficiencies, encouraging sound financial planning and promoting financial transparency;

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 7-188 and 7-190, the process of Charter Revision be initiated and a Charter Revision Commission be appointed.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Ansonia Board of Aldermen recommends the Charter Revision Commission to consider the following revisions to the Charter:

1. Creation of permanent and secure savings accounts for Worker's Compensation Settlements, Employee Retirement Accruals and Post Employment Benefits Program (GASB45);
2. Elimination of the position of City Treasurer and allocation of Treasurer's salary to the City's general fund;
3. Require an annual contribution be made to City pension funds;
4. Require an itemized record of all City and Board of Education expenditures to be available on the City website and posted online.

Appointments

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Alderman Radin stated, I looked at the names on this; they are very nice people but I believe it's a conflict of interest. I do not believe that people on the Board of Aldermen should be voting or should be making the Charter Revision and then voting on it. To me, having the two people that are Aldermen, having the man who is the head of the Planning & Zoning, is a conflict of interest. There is only five people. There are no people – one person I don't recognize – from the City of Ansonia. I think we should have seven people on the Board. We should have some voters from the City of Ansonia on it. It's not just our job to do it, the people should be able to get up and talk about it. I do not believe that these should be the people that should be appointed to the commission. I don't know how anybody else feels but I've looked through the things and I've talked to people about it and everybody I've talked to thinks it's a conflict of interest, having both positions.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I'd like to talk about your options. In terms of Aldermen on a Charter Revision Commission, it definitely is permitted. It can't be all Aldermen – that's actually very specific – it can't be 100 percent Aldermen but it is permitted. It has been done in the past by both administrations to have Aldermen on the Board. It has to be at least five, which means there can be more added as the process goes on. At your next meeting you do have the ability if the Mayor does propose to put additional people on, and certainly they can be people that are residents, or they could be officials.

Alderman Henri stated, a point of fact, the Fire Commission has three Aldermen on it and vote there, and then we bring the vote here. ARMS has two Aldermen on it.

Alderman Radin stated, that's in the Charter. That is stated in the Charter. This is not stated in the Charter; that is – there has to be so many Aldermen on those.

Alderman Stowe stated, unlike a lot of Charter Revisions that go on, this is well outlined with their mission and tasks to be done. I don't see how this could possibly be a conflict of interest being that they already have this laid out.

Alderman Adamowski stated, as a suggestion, if the Aldermen are going to be on there, you could at least pick one from each party.

President Tripp stated, as Corporation Counsel Marini said, there is an opportunity to add.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I do agree with Joan, I think we should have more of the public's input on it.

President Tripp stated, the Mayor's Office is taking under advisement; we can't put it on right now because it has to be filed with the Clerk and has to be stamped in, but I'm sure it can be adjusted in the future.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, I was introduced to politics by being put on. I was on the Charter Revision two years ago, and then again last year, and my name is proposed to be on this Charter Revision Commission. I am a member of the legislative body. I feel Aldermen have been on in the past and I see no reason to change it.

Alderman Blackwell MOVED to appoint Lorie Vaccaro (R) of 515 Beaver Street; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Vaccaro).

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to appoint Joseph Cassetti (D) of 72 Root Avenue; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint David Blackwell, Jr. (R) of PO Box 276, Ansonia, Board of Aldermen Representative; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Blackwell).

Alderman Edo MOVED to appoint Joseph Jaumann (U) of 183 Wakelee Avenue; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to appoint Michael D'Alessio (D) of 168 Prospect Street; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Resolution #3

RE: Agreement with TaxServ Capital Services, LLC for the collection of delinquent Motor Vehicle Taxes

Alderman Blackwell MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED

RESOLUTION #3
AGREEMENT WITH TAXSERV CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC

WHEREFORE, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen recognizes the importance of increasing the City's motor vehicle tax collection rate to lower the overall tax burden for Ansonia taxpayers;

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is given authority to execute an Agreement for Professional Services with Taxserv Capital Services, LLC for the purpose of collection of delinquent motor vehicle tax bills.

New Business

Alderman Henri stated, this week I became eligible, and I went down and joined the Senior Center.

Old Business

None presented.

Executive Session

At approximately 8:05 p.m., Alderman Edo MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the matter of James Hoover v. City of Ansonia, and invited Corporation Counsel Marini, Mayor Cassetti, and Ms. O'Malley to remain in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:21 p.m., Alderman Adamowski MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Items from Executive Session

Alderman Edo MOVED to authorize Mayor Cassetti to execute the settlement agreement for the Workers Compensation claim of James Hooker; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen