



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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September 8, 2015

Elizabeth Lynch
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- absent
Charles Stowe, R1 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Lorie Vaccaro, R2 - present
Denice Hunt, D3 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Anthony DeLucia, D4 - absent

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

President Tripp declared a quorum of 10 present, 4 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

**Regular Meeting of July 14, 2015
Special Meeting of July 30, 2015**

SECONDED by Alderman DeLibero. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Public Session

Ralph Villers, 33 Upland Terrace - Ansonia Cultural Commission

I just brought some posters for the Harvest Festival that we're working on now. We do have a mascot, I think he's a colorful and good-looking guy. I left a few on the desk so people can take a look at it.

The Harvest Festival will be held from 10-4 on Saturday, October 3rd on Main Street. I hope to see you there.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I brought up last week at the Police Commissioners meeting about having a Police substation up at the North End. There is one building that's empty, and the other building, I know the landlords, East Side Greenhouse. It would be the perfect spot for a substation up there.

Another thing, get a federal grant and do a buy back on guns.

Molto Bene, I called last week and they responded okay. I'm still hearing the noise.

Derek Raslan 76 Garden Street

I'm here just to introduce to the Board and to the public Friends of Gatison Park. We're a community organization that's been dedicated to beautifying, developing and celebrating the space at Gatison Park, which is Fourth Street and Liberty for those who are not familiar – it's in the North End.

Our goal is to work together with local organizations, partnering with Ansonia Nature Center, partnering with the Police Department, partnering with Public Works, to see what we can do as a community to come together and use this space as a vehicle to establish community among residents, help the City stretch their dollar as much as they can when it comes to making improvements. I look forward to working together. These are some of the 11 members, volunteer residents of the organization, and we're just getting started so I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the City and make some improvements.

President Tripp asked, what assistance might you be looking for?

Mr. Raslan replied, at this time, we're looking, we don't have anything particularly scheduled – we're looking out to private organizations in terms of what kind of donations we're able to solicit from there. We look for materials, and if there's grant money available – we're not a registered 501c3 right now but that's something we are looking to establish at some point, and then at that point we'll be able to solicit donations of a larger magnitude. Right now we're keeping it pretty small, very grassroots type of effort, and the reception has been very good. Mayor Cassetti was able to come down and see some of the things we've been working on. So far it's a good success and something that could potentially spread to other parks in the City, in the other neighborhoods.

Just a little bit about me, I come to Ansonia as a real estate developer. One of the things that I think are a unique asset for the town is the walkability of the town. The small pocket parks that exist in each neighborhood I think are a real asset.

Mr. Novak stated, I'd like to weigh in. I met Derek a couple months back with Sheila O'Malley and I must give him a lot of praise for what they're doing at Gatison Park.

We've worked together already. He's asked for some materials to repair the benches at Gatison. We've got three or four of them done now. We supplied them with some wood to take care of some more benches. They've painted the basketball backboards and all the goals for the basketball nets. They've put up new nets. They've been litter picking in Gatison Park probably once a week, which takes a lot off of my crews because I can't spend the time or the manpower there. I'd like to give him and his group kudos for what they are doing and I think they deserve a round of applause.

President Tripp thanked the group for its efforts.

Millie Rios, 121 Great Hill Road

I'm here for two concerns. The City of Ansonia now has acquired the road to the Fountain Lake Development and has contracted, D'Ambrosio...

Mayor Cassetti interjected, Guerrera Construction.

Ms. Rios continued, that's not what this letter says.

Mayor Cassetti explained, D'Ambrosio is the blaster.

Ms. Rios continued, okay, so today the surveyor came to my home to take pictures inside and outside of the home. I wasn't home. We were not even notified but that's okay. My concern is, this company is going to be blasting this public road, this private Fountain Lake Development. To my knowledge, the current blasting company, MD Drilling and Blasting that the Scintos have, are still going to be blasting. In fact, they blasted today. They always call. I said to the lady, there's another blasting company that's going to be blasting. She has no knowledge of that. I need verification today, is this going to be two separate blasting companies blasting?

Mayor Cassetti stated, the blasting company Scinto hired to blast for the building. Now, the utilities that are going to go in the road, I believe, Guerrera may have hired D'Ambrosio to drill and blast.

Ms. Rios stated, okay so we're going to have a lot of blasting, kind of simultaneously?

Mayor Cassetti replied, I don't think it's going to be simultaneously. It's controlled by the feds, certain ways you can blast.

Ms. Rios continued, number two, it's something that's very sad to mention but again, I need clarification. As the City rallied around the sad loss of our two little angels here in Ansonia, the City did great in terms of raising funds and stepping up and helping these families. I do have one concern because I went to both wakes.

As you know Mayor Cassetti you were at the one as well for Nyah in Stratford, that one, because it was in Stratford obviously there couldn't be a lot of City residents there to attend it. So it was small. Here is my concern. On that particular Thursday you had mentioned that the Rock the Valley had raised \$7,000 to help the families, and then on that very Thursday, August 22nd, the City was also hosting the ziti dinner raising funds, and then on that Saturday, we were going to have the balloons, which I went to help a little. Here is my question so you can verify how the whole process goes. On that Thursday when I went to the wake, I was there early and I ended up meeting some of the family members of this little girl Nyah. I asked where was she was going to be buried. They said they were going to cremate her. I asked why, and they said it was because they did not have any funds. So, I couldn't understand and I mentioned that the City of Ansonia held these fundraisers. Maybe we need to clarify, at least for my own peace of mind, what happens. I don't understand why this family had to have somebody in Bridgeport doing a fundraiser to help them, and on this morning of this wake they're saying that they had no money to do a proper burial for this child. I just need to know, how is all that coordinated? Were the monies given to the funeral home?

Mayor Cassetti replied, the money went to the Valley United Way and they will distribute it to the families. We've reached out to Nyah's family several times to no avail. They went ahead and proceeded with the funeral arrangements at Adzima down in Stratford, and that's how it got all mixed up. We have reached out to them and told them, whatever help you need, we'll take care of it. It's in the Valley United Way's hands right now.

Ms. Rios stated, okay. I just needed clarification. I didn't understand how something like that could happen. Thank 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

I would like to ask for a moment of silence for the two little girls, Nyah and Leah who lost their lives. Thank you.

We all want the best for Ansonia. As public officials, we make it our job to safeguard the City's finances, improve its infrastructure, and most importantly, protect and care for its residents. We take pain in research issues, plan for the future and keep projects on track and on schedule. That's why it's difficult to accept that certain things are beyond anyone's control. Last month our community faced tragedies that it could not be prepared for, much less understood. Suddenly projects and schedules were put into perspective as our community rallied to give support and comfort to those in need. We were reminded about what really matters – our family,

our friends and our neighbors. Sometimes we forget that when all else fails, we still have each other. I am so proud of how our City pulled together and want to give thanks to the efforts of the Ansonia Board of Education and Rock the Valley Committee. Seeing Ansonia go blue was a touching tribute to both families. It was also a reminder that we live in a very special and very caring community. Ansonia has a big heart and like all of you I am proud to call this City my home. There will always be situations beyond our control as public officials, but remember, what is truly important is how we deal with those situations. A wise man once said, "It ain't about how hard you hit, it's about how you could get hit and keep moving forward." Make no mistake; we are Ansonia and we will keep charging forward.

With that in mind, I would like to update you on the progress being made all across our City. The future is very bright for Ansonia, and I believe these initiatives are crucial to the growth of our community.

First I would like to talk about the **Revitalization of Olson Drive**. My staff and I have met with the USDA representatives and members of the Congressional delegation to discuss our funding application for a public safety facility at Olson Drive. We are proceeding with an RFQ for a feasibility study on our proposed new public safety facility. The RFQ will be out this week. The feasibility study will give us clear numbers for our funding application and will determine the exact location of the proposed building.

Next, an update on the **ATP and Palmer Buildings**. My staff and I have worked with the developers on a Due Diligence Agreement and will be presenting that to you very shortly for your approval. The Agreement will outline a timeline of special conditions regarding the redevelopment of the ATP and Palmer Buildings, paving the way for 90 residential units and retail space in two buildings that have sat vacant in our downtown for many years.

I know there has been a lot of interest in the **Rebuilding of Wakelee Avenue**. Final design is almost complete, and discussions will be commencing with our departments and the public regarding the project. The \$3.5 million initiative will provide a badly-needed facelift for the West Side of our City with new sidewalks, full-depth reconstruction and other amenities. I hope to have a design unveiled within the next three months.

Now, turning to **Fountain Lake** and the future of the **Farrel Corporation**. As you know, we received \$1 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and funding from the State of Connecticut for the construction of an 1,100-foot road and utilities at Fountain Lake. I am pleased to announce that the contractor has been issued a notice to proceed, which means construction activities have commenced. I want to make it perfectly clear that this Board was critical in keeping the Farrel Corporation and its jobs in Ansonia. What is more, your actions will bring even more investment dollars and jobs into Ansonia by opening up additional site pads.

Let me also mention **Ansonia Copper and Brass**. They will be entering the second phase of demolition. We have secured \$200,000 in funding for the hazardous building materials assessment that is needed before demolition activities. This phase, combined with the 10-12 acres of already demolished buildings will now open up almost 25 acres of redevelopment space. The Ansonia Copper & Brass site has remained vacant and contaminated for the past eight years. This demolition will create another new space for redevelopment.

Next, let's talk about the phase of **The Riverwalk**. We have secured an additional \$400,000 grant for the completion of Segment 8 of the initiative, which was stalled for funding. At this point we are waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers to provide us with permits, which we anticipate in the next few months.

Finally, I want to update you on all the progress of our **Bonding Projects**. I'm going to defer that to the Economic Development Director and the Comptroller for questions immediately following my presentation.

I can't conclude my remarks tonight without recognizing two individuals, both of whom have made significant, positive difference in our community. Scott Thompson must be commended for his heroic efforts just recently in helping our own former Town and City Clerk Madeline Bottone. We all benefit from his 33 years of commendable service in the Ansonia Fire Department. I would now like to read the Certificate of Commendation, if he would please come forward.

**City of Ansonia, Connecticut
Certificate of Appreciation**

This evidence of Commendation and Appreciation is hereby bestowed upon Scott Thompson for his heroic efforts on Friday, July 31, 2015 whereby he rushed into a burning structure fire and guided his neighbor to safety.

His services have been held in high regard and it is our wish on behalf of all the residents of our City that he receive this certificate and token of our appreciation for his many contributions to the safety and well-being of the citizens of this community for his 33 years as a member of the Ansonia Fire Department. Scott joined Eagle Hose, Hook & Ladder Company #6 on August 2, 1982 and is a second generation firefighter whose family roots in the Fire Department date back to 1963. We wish to extend to you our sincere appreciation for your outstanding performance and duty. In recognition of these services rendered, this Certificate is presented this 8th day of August, 2015.

Scott, congratulations. [Applause rang throughout the forum].

I also want to recognize Anne Miller Lynch who will be honored at Griffin Hospital's Annual "Women Making a Difference in the Valley" tribute luncheon and breast

cancer fundraiser on October 1st at the Villa Bianca. We thank Anne for all she has done for women's health initiatives in our community. [Applause rang throughout the forum.]

Thank you, and please stand by for an announcement on my annual State of the City address. We have so much good news to share with Ansonia. Thank you and good evening.

I would now like Sheila and Bill to talk about the bonding projects.

Economic Development Director Sheila O'Malley

I want to give this Board and the members here tonight an **Update on the Referendum Projects.**

The HVAC and ARMS roof replacement is complete. The HVAC upgrade is – thanks to Doug for providing this information and overseeing the projects. The HVAC upgrade is 85% complete and there are a couple of reasons for that. One is because the dollar amount for that project wasn't engineered – the scope was not engineered - so the dollar amount rose. The second reason is that you put in new control systems into an antiquated building, so it's going to require additional funding to get that project completed. You'll hear more about that from Doug when we talk about reallocation.

With the **Police Station**, the windows have been completed, the generator is installed, new blinds were put in, sprinkler and fire alarm installation is complete.

Library, the HVAC and hot water heater are to be completed soon and the window installation is complete.

The **Roof on City Hall** is going back out to bid for a more competitive price.

The **Roof at Eagle Hose** is complete.

The **Armory Roof and Garage Roof** are completed, however the Armory roof again, not having been engineered, there is a small amount of additional funded needed to replace the parapet, wall, caps, and flashing.

School Security from the Board of Education is 100% complete – I believe all of their items, they administered that project.

The **Police Land Purchase** we are considering the Olson Drive site and would like to put the new Police Station there.

The **Ansonia Nature Center Pond Dredging** and the **Ansonia Nature Center Parking Lot** – that's in the design phase. No money was allocated for that design phase so

we did move some money around for professional services. It will be completed with their design in about three months and then construction will begin, hopefully on the parking lot and the dredging.

Nolan Field Improvements have been completed. Nolan Field Parking Lot paved, scoreboard installed, and according to Doug, the showers will be installed sometime this winter.

Riverwalk Segment 8 – as the Mayor mentioned, we are waiting for several permits – one being the Army Corps of Engineer permits – and we're almost finished with that. We ran into a snag because there wasn't enough money for Segment 8, and we did end up securing \$400,000 in additional funding. We are anticipating construction to begin hopefully this Fall or Spring.

Armory Elevator – Again, no engineering studies, no feasibility study to determine the highest and best use of this building. So we recommend not moving forward with an elevator until an end use is determined.

Peck School Demolition – it is a privately-owned parcel. You cannot use public funds for a private parcel.

Vac Truck has been purchased.

Transfer Station – the contract has been awarded and the notice to proceed was for today, September 8, 2015 and they are out there on the site.

Library – the underground storage tank removal has been completed.

Hilltop Hose Driveway has been completed.

Woodbridge Avenue Extension and Beech Street – to be completed.

West Main Street is completed, both east and west sides of West Main using both grant funds and bond funds.

Olson Drive Purchase – cannot purchase land from HUD for anything but low- to moderate-income housing.

That about concludes my report on the referendum projects. Are there any questions?

Alderman Radin asked, on the bonding, when we signed on the election last year or whenever we did it, there was money put out supposedly for the new, for purchasing the land at Olson Drive. My understanding is the federal government is not selling. So what happens to that \$320,000?

Ms. O'Malley replied, we've been – Bill is going to talk more, it's a good segway into Bill Nimons' presentation because we've been shifting money to projects that were underfunded, and Bill can talk more about it.

Alderman Radin asked, can you take that money from what the people voted for use it for something else? I didn't think you could do that.

Ms. O'Malley explained, you can use referendum money around as long as it's for projects that were voted on. You can't go outside of that list.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we talked to Bond Counsel and that's correct, it needs to be allocated to other bond projects. You can't use it for any other purpose, but the other important thing is, it has to be approved by this Board, which is why the last time we did a rearrangement, we went through the Board of Aldermen to get that approval.

Ms. O'Malley stated, and thank you Doug Novak for helping to move those projects forward.

Alderman Vaccaro asked, Sheila, could you give me an example or two of, when we don't do engineering studies on projects such as the Armory or ARMS, the snafus that we fall into?

Ms. O'Malley replied, it's always good to get an engineering scope and fee because you stay within that guideline. When you don't do that, your number becomes inflated, you're always seeking additional funds, especially with projects on older facilities that haven't been maintained. It's always important to get an engineering study, a scope and fee before moving forward with the project. We're kind of working backward, but we're working on the priority projects.

Comptroller Bill Nimons

To answer Alderman Radin's question, in March of this year the Board of Aldermen moved some funds around based on Attorney Fasi's legal opinion that we could do that, as long as we stayed within the projects and stayed within our \$5.1 or \$5.2 million.

Alderman Radin thanked Mr. Nimons.

He continued, so far we are there. Tonight we have to reallocate some more money, and we'll have to see about Resolution #7 on your agenda. We're going to be moving \$152,000 from Peck School demolition. We don't own that. It's private property. I have no idea how it ended up being put on a referendum when it's private property. We're taking \$10,000 from the Olson Drive Project. We're going to move Energy Conservation \$12,000 to the roofs at the Armory so we can finish paying those off. We're going to move \$150,000 to the ARMS building. We have a

lot of problems with the ARMS building from when it was built. We have an engineer's report, I think you have it Doug; Jared has seen it. Basically it was not completed to spec. Nobody was inspecting it. Here we are trying to fix it after we've already spent \$300,000 to \$400,000. This is a case where, as Sheila has indicated, you have to do your homework first, then ask for the money. In the case of the referendums, they asked for the money and never did the homework. We're still trying to stretch that \$5.1 million.

I have a spreadsheet; anybody can get it. We're going to try to do this every month so everybody knows where the projects are. Some are a little over; some are a little under. We are trying to balance it.

Corporation Counsel John Marini

We had some new hires in the City, some positions filled, two which are existing employees who moved on to new spots and one is a brand, new face in City Hall. Michelle Bradshaw moved from the Tax Office to Finance. Christine Scott moved from the Building Department; she's now the Assistant Tax Collector, she took Michelle's place. Our new employee altogether is Rhonda Perini; she's the new part-time Land Use Clerk down in the Building Department. She comes to us from Plymouth, CT with 27 years of municipal experience and 15 years of land use experience. We want to welcome everybody to their new positions and to Rhonda especially, welcome to Ansonia.

On the topic of personnel, the date has been set for Tuesday, September 22nd for a meeting of the Salary and Personnel Committee to review the draft of the new Personnel Rules and Procedures for the City. All department heads have been invited to this meeting as well to share the thoughts and comments with the Board of Aldermen subcommittee before it goes to us in October. Residents are also encouraged to take a look at the copy of the policy, which has been posted online and also in the Clerk's Office, and are free to attend and share their feelings as well.

As the Mayor has indicated in his update, right now we are reviewing the due diligence agreement with Copper City Development regarding the transfer and redevelopment/revitalization of the ATP and Palmer Buildings on Main Street. We are hoping to have a draft of that agreement for this Board in October.

Additionally, I want to share some good news with the Tax Office. We've been going in a different direction with tax collection in certain respects. One is, we got Bercham, Moses and Devlin involved with some delinquent property tax collection at no extra cost to the City – the result of that over the last two months has been over \$50,000 in delinquent taxes collected. Another change involves TaxServe – that's the organization that specializes in collecting motor vehicle delinquent taxes. This Board two months ago authorized us to enter into an agreement with TaxServe, that's going to begin October 1st.

Union negotiations are still under way with both the City Hall Union and the Public Works Union.

Finally, I need two items added for Executive Session that were simply typographically left off of your agenda. Typically we like to have these on beforehand. I would like you to add the following:

39 Bassett Street – request for waiver of a blight lien
Holly House v. Ansonia – request for reimbursement for a pothole claim

Aldermen Jeanette MOVED to add 39 Bassett Street request for blight lien waiver and Holly House v. Ansonia request for reimbursement of a pothole claim to the Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Chief Kevin Hale – Ansonia Police Department

It's been a busy and challenging summer for our City and Police Department.

I'd like to thank and commend the residents, up in the Hilltop area especially. We asked them for information, we asked them to pay attention, we asked them to look out their windows because nobody knows their neighborhoods better than they do; nobody knows your neighborhoods better than you do. We got a lot of calls and a lot of cooperation. I'd also like to commend the officers because they don't hear it enough. I'm the face of the department and I often get the thanks at these meetings and the big meeting we had two weeks ago – I get the thanks and it's really the officers that are out there day and night. I think they did a great job through all of this; they worked a lot of hours. We spent a lot of overtime but you still have to work those hours – they worked 16 hour shifts day after day and they did a great job. In a tough situation we knew that people were very upset, very anxious, very scared, as they should have been in this situation. Somebody was entering occupied homes in the middle of the night. Can't think of much worse than that. So they responded, and I was confident at some point we would resolve that, and we did. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

We're nearing the end of a hiring process – we'll have two openings for Police Officers.

Alderman Stowe asked, how is the dog doing?

Chief Hale replied, the dog is well. K-9 Kane and Officer Paul Smith graduated two weeks ago. They're on the shift now working 3-11. We're glad to have him; I'll have them pop in one of these meeting and we will welcome him formally. They've been through a lot of intensive training throughout the summer and did very well.

City Treasurer Judy Nicolari

I would just like to say that I was hoping to have an end of the year Treasurer's Report for this meeting, but Comptroller Bill Nimons and I are working on a report; we should have it ready for next month's meeting. Thank you.

Board of Education Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mike Wilson

As you've heard we started the year out on a sad note. To echo the Mayor's sentiments, the one bright, if you can say anything was bright, that was how everyone came together in the community from the Mayor's Office, the Police, the Fire Department, and the whole Board of Education all were really working together as one unit to make sure that all were on the same page in regard to doing what was right in terms of for the both families and dealing with those tragic losses. Our schools had counselors in place to help with the transition, and the openings of school.

The opening of school went very smoothly from both the bus standpoint as well as from communication out to parents as well as just from the start of school. As you know we've now had three days of heat wave and everyone's been broadcasting, schools canceling and closing, we are fortunate to have the air conditioning working in all buildings, so we did not have to go that route as other schools did. We are moving right along. We are still actively working on pursuing grants. We are currently researching the possibility of a mathematics and science grant that just came out a week ago, and another grant for building maintenance. We are working hard at Central Office as well as within all of the buildings.

Public Works Director Doug Novak

The Transfer Station construction started today [applause]. We have a completion date of some time in May of 2016.

I would like to expound a little bit about the ARMS project and what happened and what fell through the cracks. As Sheila said, professional services are very important at the beginning of the project to bring to the table what actually needed to be done. We found out at the end of the project that the money that we spent for the controls for the HVAC system weren't compatible with the old antiquated air conditioning system in the building. Jared has had many problems; one of the biggest problems was if you look at the fusers in the ceiling, he has water coming out of the fusers. We kind of pinned it down with the engineer and the HVAC company. Their answer is the system is so old it cannot handle all the new controls, which should have been engineered properly by the first engineering company that was hired by the City. They overlooked that. So unfortunately here we are

coming to the Board and asking for referendum money to be moved, which has to be done, so we can complete the project.

We are finding mold growing in the ceilings in some locations that we already eradicated three months ago. It's come back because of the water issue. We will aggressively attack that as soon as we get these answers back that we need from the engineer and the HVAC contractor. We will get that 100% and it will be operating properly and efficiently within the next couple of months.

The Mayor has appointed me as the Interim Blight Officer some months back. I am trying to keep up the challenge that David Blackwell did so well when he was the Zoning and Blight Officer. I can tell you, it's amazing, every street you drive now, if you don't see blight it's amazing. I don't care if it's the Hilltop, the West Side, the North End, you run into blight all over. People who are causing these issues, the majority are renters that really don't care. But the owners who we found to be in violation of the blight ordinance, some of the answers that we receive at blight hearings are just unimaginable. One of the answers from one of the hearings was, "It's been like that for 25 years, what are you bothering me for?" I think the answer I gave the person at the time was, "This City is fed up with blight; this City wants to move on and make it more aesthetically pleasing to the taxpayers." We're going to keep that challenge moving forward. Once the Mayor and his staff hires a new Blight Officer and I turn the reins over to that person, I'm sure they're going to be of the same opinion that David was and that I am, that it's a hard-fought battle; it's not going to end overnight. We're going to do our best to keep moving and get the City cleaner every day.

We cleaned up that house across the street from you, Mr. President, I went by there today. They painted the inside and the outside. They removed the vines off the garage. All the abandoned cars are gone. That is just an example of working with an owner. That gentleman is in Reno, Nevada, and he called me numerous times and promised me that he would get that property cleaned in 10 days, and he did. I would like to see that done with a lot of the other absentee owners, but it's not going to happen. We try and try, and we're going to keep trying.

President Tripp thanked the contractors as they were leaving today. My neighbors and my family appreciate your efforts. Thank you very much.

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 10-0.

ARMS Committee – Alderman Joan Radin

ARMS responded to a gunshot victim in the North End and transported to the Trauma Center. Responded to a structure fire on Hilltop, transported two priority patients to trauma centers. Responded to the tragedy on Ford Street. Members worked through the trying time by supporting each other as well as fundraisers and attending memorial services. Responded to a structure fire in Derby and provided scene EMS coverage as well as town coverage in both towns. Responded to a bus accident on Route 8, transported to trauma center.

Crews also provided multiple public service standbys including Holy Rosary Festival, EMS and lighting details, concerts at Veterans' Park, Rock the Valley, and the vehicles are currently undergoing annual service and repairs.

ARMS responded to 298 calls in August, that is approximately 10 calls a day. The ambulances are taking a lot of abuse. They are out there; I hear them on my scanner all the time. I'm hoping that we can get our new ARMS ambulances in the very near future. We had a lot of mutual aid, and they helped us too. I really think we need to look into the ambulances, it's very, very important.

WPCA Committee – Alderman Charles Stowe

The WPCA is doing fine. I'm looking forward to moving in the right direction this year. We're already thinking about the areas where we might be able to save some money, not only for people but for the plant.

Fire Committee - Alderman Joseph Jeanette

For the month of August, we had 52 calls, and for July we had 41. There were a couple structure fires – I was very proud of ARMS, and the Police and Fire Departments the way they handled them, and when they handled going over to Derby to help them. They all did a great job, thank you very much.

Economic Development – Alderman Charles Stowe

I'd like to ask the Economic Development Director, are we having a business forum on the 24th?

Ms. O'Malley replied, I don't think we're going to have it on the 24th because we haven't met in July and August. We may have to push that out.

Ansonia Housing Committee – Alderman Joan Radin

Ansonia Housing has been very active. We're meeting at the Ortoli Center. They've got some of the residents of the place to come out. They're getting some activity over there. Vicki is doing a beautiful job – she's writing a report each month. I

believe this month I'm going to work with her on getting all the residents of the Ansonia Housing to get a record of all of their information on the refrigerator so that when ARMS comes, or when the Fire Department comes to get a person or a person is passed out, the information will be there. They won't have to go look anywhere else. We're going to work on that this month. They're doing a wonderful job.

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

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to approve the Board of Apportionment and Taxation recommendations as well as the Comptroller allocations; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Tax Collector Report and Request for Refunds

Alderman Edo MOVED to accept the reports of the Tax Collector and pay the refunds in the amount of \$1,447.23 for August and \$10,214.16 for September if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Delibero. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Accidents and Claims

07-15-870 Scott Cruciani v. City of Ansonia
07-15-871 Wu Yi Wong v. City of Ansonia
07-15-871 See claim
09-15-872 Mary Sheldon v. City of Ansonia

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communications

Alderman Vaccaro 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 Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication # 1

From: Inland-Wetlands Commission Chairman Timothy Holman
Re: Waiving Fees for Inland-Wetlands Permits

President Tripp explained, the drainage system will be installed by the State to resolve the flooding and drainage from Emmett O'Brien property through to Kiely Lane and Berkshire Road. Public Works Superintendent Novak will be the permittee.

Alderman Henri MOVED, per the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission, to waive the fees for the Inland-Wetlands Commission permit issued to the City of Ansonia Public Works Department on behalf of the State of Connecticut/Emmett O'Brien Technical School for the proposed installation of a drainage system; SECONDED by Alderman Edo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #2

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Re: Cogent Livescan

Chief Hale explained, we have been using this system since 2009. With any technology they get to a point where they are no longer operational. We could purchase a maintenance contract to keep this one going but soon the technology will have gone well beyond what this system can handle. We're looking to purchase a new one with funding from our Asset Forfeiture Account, and then sign a contract for maintenance for \$2,800/year, which we have incorporated into our budget. This allows us to fingerprint people electronically. It's an inkless system. Instead of waiting for weeks for a response back from the FBI or State Police, we get them back in generally under a half hour. It does help investigations quite a bit. We had ours since 2009 and the next system is that much better. This is under State Contract pricing, and the \$23,080 will come from Asset Forfeiture account.

Alderman Edo MOVED to authorize the purchase of a new Cogent Livescan system at a cost of \$23,087; and further, authorize Chief Kevin Hale to enter into a contract with Cogent Systems for the annual maintenance costs; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Communication #3

From: Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

Re: Body Cameras

See Resolution #3

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Pole Attachment Agreements

Resolution #4

Communication #5

From: Corporation Counsel John Marini

Re: Allocation Spreadsheet History

This document was created by Finance.

No action.

Resignations

None presented.

Appointments

None presented.

[Unidentified speaker from the audience] Excuse me, sir, we're on the agenda and we were not addressed to be able to speak, and now you're telling me, no public speaking. Claim #4 for Mary Sheldon.

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, I think it's just a misunderstanding on the process. The way, when the claims come in, our Town and City Clerk adds it to the agenda right at the beginning, and that's the very first time that the Board sees the claim. I either get the information right at the same time or a little bit after. So it's typically not until the next meeting, until it's put on for Executive Session. At that time the Board actually reviews the claim and gets to talk about it. I don't think it would be improper if, toward the end of the meeting, you could open a public session so these folks don't waste their time. The claim itself was never prepared for actual review tonight, it's just a process that all new claims start there.

[Unidentified male speaker from audience] I think it's consideration is the doctor that she saw when she fell down at the Public Works Department won't see her again until he has a claim number.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we could talk personally after as well.

President Tripp apologized and explained, usually we don't discuss legal matters in an open forum because there are legal sensitivities which Corporation Counsel can expand upon. If you like Corporation Counsel Marini could speak with you. I apologize for the misunderstanding but due to the sensitive nature of legal matters, we don't discuss in an open forum because it really is your private business, and that's why we even discuss it in Executive Session, just the Aldermen. The sensitivity and private matter of it we don't discuss it publicly. Corporation Counsel Marini is more than happy to speak with you right now if you have the time.

[Corporation Counsel Marini and the parties left the room at this point]

Resolutions

Resolution #1
RE: ICE Grant

RESOLUTION #1 – CITY OF ANSONIA

The Legislative Body, (the Board of Aldermen of the City of Ansonia) has authorized David S. Cassetti, Mayor of the City of Ansonia to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive (ICE) Grant Program.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Edo.

Alderman Vaccaro explained, this is regarding the food service truck between the City of Ansonia and the City of Derby.

Alderman Radin stated, I don't know what it is.

Ms. O'Malley explained, it's a regional grant application that we put together between Derby and Ansonia's Boards of Education. The idea behind it was to share a food service truck, which I believe they need and don't have at this time that could transport and refrigerate the meals. Since we share food services with Derby, I thought it might make a good application for an inter-town capital equipment. OPM awarded the grant, but it's been quite some time since the grant was awarded and they've changed some of the requirements. There is different wording on the resolution that will simply allow the two cities to share this truck with the grant funds.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resolution #2
RE: Land Use Secretary Salary

**RESOLUTION #2
SALARY – LAND USE SECRETARY**

Aldermen Blackwell, Vaccaro, DeLucia, Jeanette and Hunt of the Salary Committee introduced the following Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT, This salary be adopted effective August 25, 2015 as specified:

Building Department Land Use Secretary

Current Salary \$15.38 hourly
New Salary \$23.00 hourly
Cost: \$7.62

[** this was amended after discussion**]

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

Alderman Radin stated, I'd like to discuss it.

Ms. O'Malley stated, I can talk a little bit about it.

Alderman Radin stated, I would just like to discuss, ask some questions about it. I'm asking questions. I'm looking at a rate increase of 50 percent. You're going from \$15.38 to \$23. I don't know of anybody that gets a 50 percent raise. I want to know, is there a salary range from \$15.38 to \$23? Has the job changed? I went to City Hall to Personnel and there is no new job description. So the job description is for \$15.38 and we're going to be paying somebody \$23 which to me is a 50 percent raise, that's a lot of money. If the new person was to take the job after this person leaves, does the rate go back to \$15.38 or does that person automatically get \$23? Does she have the same qualifications that this new person had? I'm not saying she's not worth it but I cannot see just adopting to give somebody a 50% raise. There's got to be more information on that. I would really like to see some of the other things, and the job description change.

President Tripp stated, it did go through the Salary Committee. Maybe Mr. Jeanette or Mr. Vaccaro could explain what they discussed in Salary Committee.

Alderman Jeanette stated, we voted that you go by your qualifications when you come in, if you're not as qualified you start off at the lower range.

Alderman Radin stated, it doesn't say that. What this says is the salary is to be adopted effective August 25, 2015. It's going from \$15.38 to \$23. So if the person is qualified... I went down this morning and got the qualifications. That last was updated August in 2012. I'm not saying it isn't... it's a very important job and everything else, but if you're still going by those qualifications, she may be very qualified and she probably will do a very good job, but I don't know anybody that gets a 50 percent raise and I think it needs to be worded differently.

President Tripp stated, it's not the same person getting a 50 percent pay raise.

Alderman Radin stated, I understand that. But you're going by the exact same qualifications, Personnel Department, like I said, I have a copy of the Personnel. It hasn't changed since 2012 and you're giving a 50 percent raise. It has nothing to do with the qualifications of the person. It has to do with what is on the City

information there, and the information there, the raise, was January this year we okayed a raise, 2 percent, it went up to \$15.38. My question to you people is, are we going to do this, just automatically raise rates without giving any other information because all it says is that you're going to give them a raise.

President Tripp stated, from what I understand from the Salary Committee, and I have spoken with several of them, basically the previous individual was a secretary with a certain skill set. The new individual has a much stronger resume and a lot more qualifications which enables that person to do a lot more productive work for the City of Ansonia in that position, which is commensurate with the pay rate that they attached to the job she'll be doing.

Alderman Radin stated, but it doesn't say that. It doesn't say any of that. All it says, maybe I'm reading it wrong but all it says here is \$23 is to be effective August 25th. There is no new information about what the job requires and no new information about what her qualifications are.

President Tripp stated, I would like a clarification from Corporation Counsel Marini.

Alderman Stowe stated, the subcommittee chairman isn't here tonight. Who is the next in line? David isn't here, who is the co-chairman. I have asked for this before, and before this administration I asked for this. This wasn't the description that was given when the Salary Committee voted on this, right?

Alderman Vaccaro stated, we didn't have this piece of paper.

Alderman Stowe asked, you had a description of what this person did and what this person was going to do?

Alderman Vaccaro replied, yes, we did.

Alderman Stowe stated, okay, I asked for this before and I'm going to ask for it again tonight. All of the Aldermen should, before they're asked to vote for somebody's pay increase which is recorded in the minutes, I assume, should be a little more informed so that somebody like Mrs. Radin doesn't have to ask that question. In our packet there is a building department superintendent coming up for hire. I would personally like to know, I don't know everything, what does a building department superintendent do? Next month I'm going to be here asked to vote for this person and their pay, and I don't want to just see this. I'd like to see what this person actually does, so that when I vote clear conscience for the taxpayers, and I think that's all Mrs. Radin is really concerned about, she wants to make sure that this person is going to earn this money. What is this person doing differently that would help say why she is earning this money so that the taxpayers know.

Alderman Radin stated, that's part of it, but my information, and I do have a copy of the Personnel. If this lady stays with us five or 10 years and then she leaves, or she retires, the next person coming in might not be as qualified as she is and will be getting the \$23 an hour. I think that's wrong.

Ms. O'Malley stated, that's a good point, but the Salary Committee voted on a range so the next person coming in could be hired at a lower salary if she doesn't have the...

Alderman Radin stated, Sheila, it doesn't say that. It doesn't say a range, all it says is they're going to adopt it for August 25th. To my way of thinking when you put something down and you put a price down, that goes on to the top of this report which I have which is the Personnel, what her job is, so the next person coming in will automatically get \$23 qualified or otherwise. That is my only question.

Ms. O'Malley stated, I understand.

Alderman Vaccaro AMENDED his MOTION to adopt Resolution #2 which will reflect a range of \$15.38 an hour to \$23 an hour; and further, the rate of \$23 an hour for Ronda Porini based on her qualifications, 27 years of municipal experience and 15 years in the Building Department, and the fact that she has her Zoning Enforcement Officer certification.

Ms. O'Malley stated, she can actually sign off on Zoning Enforcement permits. She's not just doing secretarial work as the person before was doing. She is also doing Zoning Enforcement Officer work.

Alderman Radin stated, we're still saying that even if she's here for five years or if she decides to retire next year, the next person coming in may not have those qualifications.

Alderman Henri asked, if this person leaves the position and the spot becomes open, we advertise it with the range commensurate to the applicant's qualification?

Ms. O'Malley replied, yes.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, it starts over.

President Tripp stated, that was Alderman Vaccaro's amendment.

Alderman Stowe stated, I had to call the Comptroller to figure out what was going on with this and I'm pretty sure all of the Aldermen don't find out a month ahead of time or look into it a month ahead of time, because I'm not on the Salary Committee. I did look, I always watch what the Committees are doing, which is my job, and because of the... Please, to the Salary Committee, please when you do a

person's raise could you please explain a little bit why so that the rest of us can know so that we can vote for it? I'm going to vote for it anyway because I found out what was going on weeks ago, because I couldn't understand and then I heard about the qualifications, able to give out permits, so on and so forth. I would like that to be on here so that we don't have to go through this rhetoric with each other back and forth. That is what I would like. Thank you.

A roll call vote on the MOTION AS AMENDED was taken as follows:

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski			
Stowe	X		
Vaccaro	X		
Hunt	X		
Jeanette	X		
DeLucia			
Kaslaitis	X		
Cassetti			
Radin		X	
Edo	X		
Henri	X		
Blackwell			
DeLibero	X		
Tripp	X		
TOTALS:	9	1	

The MOTION PASSED and the RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED by a vote of 9 Yes, 1 No (Radin).

Resolution #3
 RE: TASER Corporation

**RESOLUTION #3
 TASER CORPORATION**

Resolved, that the Ansonia Board of Aldermen has authorized David S. Cassetti, Mayor of the City of Ansonia, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to the proposal to enter into a binding agreement with TASER Corporation according to the terms of the Purchase Agreement.

**Alderman Henri MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #3; SECONDED by Alderman DeLibero
 A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

Resolution #4

RE: Frontier Communications NW, Inc.

Resolved, that the Ansonia Board of Aldermen has authorized David S. Casseti, Mayor of the City of Ansonia, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to the proposal to enter into a binding agreement with Frontier Communications NW, Inc. according to the terms of the Pole Attachment Agreement.

Alderman Edo MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #4; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro.

President Tripp explained, we basically have permission to use their poles for fiber optics, and this pertains to Resolution #5 as well.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Resolution #5

RE: The United Illuminating Company

Alderman Edo MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #5; SECONDED by Alderman DeLibero. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Jeanette).

Resolved, that the Ansonia Board of Aldermen has authorized David S. Casseti, Mayor of the City of Ansonia, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to the proposal to enter into a binding agreement with The United Illuminating Company according to the terms of the Pole Attachment Agreement.

Resolution #6

RE: Salary of the Town and City Clerk

Resolved, that the current salary of the Town and City Clerk, which was adopted on December 19, 2013, be increased at the rate of 2% annually effective January 1, 2016 and continue with each additional year of service. This resolution was approved by the Salary Committee at a meeting held on August 25, 2015.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #6; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.

Alderman Henri asked, what do we do about the Mayor's salary? Is that a Charter thing or is that a Salary Committee who gets a percentage every term? Does anyone know?

Alderman Radin stated, if you look in the Charter, there is a resolution that the Mayor gets a raise every year and it goes up to \$99,000 or something like that.

Alderman Henri asked, how about the City Treasurer? Same thing?

Alderman Radin stated, I don't think so.

Alderman Stowe stated, now, what is the level of this job's pay from the first year?

Alderman Vaccaro replied, I believe it's \$72,000, but I could be mistaken.

Alderman Stowe stated, okay, and then you have two percent annually. I don't have a problem with voting for this increase now, but for somebody to be able to start at \$72,000 and then get two percent annually every year, I think that eventually, there should be some kind of a cap on this. Is there some way this could go back for discussion to the Salary Committee for after so much time a cap or every other year?

President Tripp stated, we have this resolution, and after next year it could go back to Salary.

Alderman Stowe stated, I recommend that next year or whatever this gets discussed sometime. I don't want to sound like somebody's trying to tell somebody they shouldn't get paid, however \$72,000 to start that job and then get a two percent raise every year after I think is a bit much. That is my opinion. I would like to see it looked into. If there are any other employees that can stay a long time and make more money than the Mayor makes, I want to make sure that they're doing a similar type of job that the Mayor is. That's all.

Alderman Henri stated, to tack on to Charlie's point, it is possible that some day in the future, this salary is set at \$72,000, we could get someone in who is totally and completely unqualified for this job, and on top of it we're going to give them a raise every year. It's a good point for future discussion.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, the salary was set by the Salary Committee of this Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Radin asked, this two percent raise every year, don't the non-union City Employees get a two percent raise every year?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, there really is no schedule. Every once in a while, the Board traditionally over the last five to 10 years tries to do a cost of living

increase every year, but there have been times where it's been postponed. We've seen an attempt from our administration and the last administration, we tried to keep cost of living increases going whenever possible.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Henri), 0 Abstentions.

Resolution #7

RE: LOCIP Allocations 2013-2014

RESOLUTION MAKING ALLOCATIONS AMONG THE CITY OF ANSONIA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2013-2014 PROGRAM

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby finds and determines that to accomplish as many projects as possible, to achieve the most efficient use of the bond authorization, and in the order of project priority, the resources among the Capital Improvement Plan 2013-2014 Program are reallocated as follows:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AUTHORIZATION AVAILABLE</u>
<u>Public Safety:</u>	
1. Peck School Demolition	\$152,000
2. Olson Drive Land Purchase	<u>\$10,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$162,000

Section 2. Pursuant to Section One of the Bond Resolution, the Board of Aldermen hereby appropriates through reallocation the above-referenced authorizations for the following purposes:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PROCEEDS</u>
<u>Energy Conservation:</u>	
1. Roofs (Armory)	\$12,000
2. HVAC Ansonia Rescue and Medical Services	<u>\$150,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$162,000

Alderman Henri MOVED to ADOPT Resolution #7; SECONDED by Alderman Edo.

Alderman Stowe stated, it's a difficult job sitting here and being an Alderman at some points. There are jobs, services, employees that are constantly trying to eat up the revenue that the taxpayers send to this City. I want people to know that I think

we did due diligence to try not to spend or waste money in any way, shape or form. These projects that were initially voted on by the taxpayers, I wish I could know, maybe the Comptroller does, what the actual percentage of, when we went to do these projects, how much they went over the budget, percentage-wise, I'd be curious.

Mr. Nimons stated, I don't have that report but I can get it for you.

Alderman Stowe stated, if it was 20 percent, 30 percent... this is not an easy task.

Mr. Nimons stated, some of them were more than that.

President Tripp stated, Sheila O'Malley did cover the how and why on that with the absence of engineering surveys and things of that nature, just for the public record.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Ordinances

None presented.

New Business

Alderman Henri stated, I would like to call for Alderman Edo to hold an Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss keeping the so-called military/vet organizations from soliciting from our people. There was someone down at Stop & Shop this weekend, no credibility, I looked some stuff up on them, I never heard of these people, the guy was lying to my face, he didn't know what he was talking about. I just can't stand that, I don't want it, I don't want them in the City and I want to put an end to it. Thank you.

Another thing is, I've been getting a lot of calls for months, six months, nine months – Emmett O'Brien, huge construction projects – the sports complex and the school itself. I've been doing a lot of liaison between the state and the residents, which I'm happy to do. We're going to start dialing up Linda Gentile now, I've talked to her a couple times. It is a state project. I'm just a lowly Alderman. She's going to need to step in on some of this stuff, that's just an FYI.

Also, Ordinance, if we could, before year's end, get the Riverwalk okayed for dogs on a permanent basis so we can take down that fine, New England hand-crafted sign that's out front there before it falls apart.

Rock the Valley was an awesome event. The fireworks were great. I think we're really honing in on this event and what it should be. We're getting closer to it. I think everyone had a good time.

The Block Watch turned out and thank you to the Police Department again for doing that – it was fantastic. Thanks again to the Police for all these extra hours they've been working.

Old Business

Executive Session

At approximately 8:30 p.m., Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to enter Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss the following:

**39 Bassett Street – request for waiver of a blight lien
Holly House v. Ansonia – request for reimbursement for a pothole claim**

The Mayor, Corporation Counsel, Economic Development Director and Attorney JoAnn Sensale of Bendett & McHugh, P.C. for the matter regarding 39 Bassett Street; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslalfis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 9:10 p.m., Alderman Jeanette MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman DeLibero. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Items from Executive Session

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to reduce the blight lien on 39 Bassett Street from \$100,000 to \$10,000; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslalfis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Adjournment

Alderman DeLibero MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Hunt. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen