



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes**

March 8, 2016

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.

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Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Randolph Carroll, R1 – present
Charles Stowe, R1 – present
Philip Tripp, R2 – present
Lorie Vaccaro, R2 – present
Denice Hunt, D3 – absent
Joseph Jeanette, D3 – present
Richard Kaslaitis, III R4 – present

Ashley Rogers, R4 – present
Anthony Cassetti, R5 – present
Joan Radin, R5 – absent
Matthew Edo, R6 – present
Patrick Henri, R6 – present
David Blackwell, Jr., R7 – present
Frank DeLibero, R7 – present

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

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Alderman Carroll MOVED to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2016; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Moment of Silence

The assembly observed a moment of silence in honor and memory of the passing of former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Public Session

Ashley Rose Crute, 17 North Street

You might remember me. I am Ashley Crute, I live at 17 North Street, I go to Prendergast Elementary School. Although I am an honor roll student, I am seriously concerned about what's going on for my fellow students and my education. Everything that I have been reading in the newspaper makes me really worry. I thought that the Mayor was fighting to keep our education and reinstate what was already taken away from us. Why is he trying to take away the few teachers that

care and are trying to teach us the common core that the State put into place? How is this going to prepare us for the higher grades and the real world? I thought back on July 14th when I went in front of the Aldermen that the Mayor promised he was going to do everything he could to get the Art, Music, History, and Social Studies reinstated. I don't know about my fellow students, but the only way I get any history lessons is watching the History Channel. Do you think that all students watch educational TV shows? I don't think so. Some kids aren't allowed to watch TV for any length of time. Also, do you know the teachers that you might take away from us students can affect our education? Do you want us to end up with no education, which will lead us to no jobs, no money and no life? If you take away any part of our education now, when we get to high school and college we're not going to have the basic knowledge of our world and surroundings to do any kind of problem-solving abilities that we will need come that time. It all starts in grammar school and is carried all through our life. In high school and college we need to know the basic things to keep up our grades and in order to do sports, like football, in which you won't take any funding away from. But then again, why would you take away funding from our school sports activities like football that puts us on the town map for the media? We need our education to get into college and the sports are just a bonus. Once again, I am an honor student, so don't think this is about me. I really think by making educational cuts it would make it more difficult for any student or myself to be the best that we can be.

Sakini Depina, 29 Lester Street

Good evening. I'm here to speak again on behalf of the football organization. There was a lot of things going on in the football organization now, there's a Board of Rec meeting going on now involving it. I'm not going to take more of your minutes, but you guys need to, we need to stay subject on what we were here for previous, and the Mayor said and agreed to, that we were focused on volunteers and the main focus was the kids' safety – not an adult's safety. I mean obviously adult safety, it's in the by-laws, if somebody reads it or if somebody comes up there to help us, we would appreciate it. I am the secretary on the board and I was the secretary last year. You may want to look into the financials and how they're being handled, because there's a lot of mish-mosh with that as well, there's a lot of discrepancies that we all know is happening, which we're trying to pass. I'm here to represent football, and I think that when we make our choices we need to make the right choices, and know who's here, because I work a full-time job, I work a part-time job, I have two kids, and they're both in sports. And I'm there, and I'm a volunteer, and it's a lot of time. And when the season is in, guess what? We don't have dinner. We eat out. And you know, anybody on this board willing to volunteer, bring it. Thank you.

Lisa Arnold, 8 Cook Street

I am speaking on behalf of Keith Maynard and football. I want to let everybody know this is his third year in the program. His first year he was a coach, second year

he was VP, and this upcoming season he is to be president. He has spent countless hours into this program for football and our children. Everybody in football loves Keith; he has a backing. My kids love him. The reason I'm standing here tonight is because there has been a sneaky, rewritten policy after the Mayor has already addressed this issue last month. This is once again a political power move, I believe, by an Alderman and his friend, and the harassment has been endless to my boyfriend with unethical, biased meetings, nasty calls, e-mails. I am fed up, I am angry, and I'm considering filing a CHRO complaint against this. This is simply because Keith questioned them about written off accounts which we just proved in the Board of Rec meeting, illegal spending without Board approval, and because Keith was not their puppet, they are yet discriminating against his credibility. I e-mailed him, the Alderman, on 1/20, that is what I passed around, and I'm still waiting a response. It just shows that he is one side, and that's his friend's side. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I brought up in December at the Police Commissioners meeting about 22 Woodbridge Avenue. Nothing has been done yet. No parking signs or nothing. There already was one accident over there. The other night I was going up and and oil truck and I almost collided.

I understand that they want to put on a Lieutenant. I think they need an ambulance more than a lieutenant right now.

I brought up to the Mayor that the Chinese place down the North End - there are barrels of grease somebody told me about. Somebody's going to end up knocking them over right there outside the place.

Griselle Ocasio, 26 Holbrook Street

I'm just here to support Keith Maynard and the rest of the coaches for the Ansonia Football team.

Keith Maynard, 8 Cook Street

Last month, Mayor Cassetti said that as far as the background checks it will be child-related charges. After going to the Ordinance Committee meeting the other night / Recreation Committee meeting, it seems like the Ordinance has now been reworded to "all human beings," which is clearly against what the Mayor had suggested at last month's meeting. As far as the background checks, no one's background – that's just what it is, it's a background. Recently in the media there have been a few instances which I'm sure no one here would even question the character of some of these people. One guy, he actually was a volunteer, a New York City attorney, he flipped out a little bit, he beat up his family, dead. Another one is the State Trooper dispatcher – Troop I in Bethany - clean background. You

would never think based off his job that he would do what he did – child porn – last week in the media. Another one - could be a treasurer for anywhere - the priest up in Seymour. Backgrounds – they just had another one today – a corrections officer up in Hartford – sexual assault. Backgrounds – it's just that - it doesn't make the person, it just tells you about his past. All these people who are not going to pass the background checks – look at them as a human being. We need to look at these people as human beings. I'm going to speak for myself. Just because I messed up in the past it doesn't mean I didn't correct myself. It's only a background check. These crimes against children – I agree 150 percent – Lorie, at the meeting, you brought up a very good example. A child is innocent. Most of the time if a child is attacked in some way by a predator it's in an isolated area. It's not at Nolan Field or at a school or anything like that. Also, it was in the Hartford Courant yesterday and I have copies of it if anyone wants, Connecticut is looking to limit hiring of suspected sex predator teachers. In Connecticut you could actually be a sexual predator teacher but yet, someone who has an assault charge can't be a volunteer with the youth. It's not a crime against youth. I don't see where that board is going with that. What really brings this whole background check full circle is the fact I was vice president for the youth football program this year. I questioned some financial purchases and dealings. I just got done next door talking about it. It all comes back to being targeted by certain individuals because I questioned what certain individuals had done, whether right, wrong or indifferent. I never got an acceptable answer as to why things were done. It just comes back to friends going to friends going to friends. If I complained to Mr. Stowe, he's going to go to Mr. Carroll over here, "Hey, can you help me out here, blah, blah, blah" and that's what ended up happening with this – this whole thing comes back to financials and the way I present myself, and so on and so forth. Because I have a felony crime that I'm not proud of, I look myself in the mirror every day and I'm not proud of it - that is their scapegoat to keep me out of volunteering for the children of Ansonia.

Betsy Martinez, 17 Winter Street

I'm just here to support Keith Maynard. He's been in the program for three years. My husband is a coach, my son plays and he's got many years left in the program. Keith has been a great asset to the program.

Honey Figueroa, 179 North Main Street

I sat in a Board of Education meeting a couple of nights ago and normally I'm there and I'm ranting because of something [inaudible] that's not being taken care of for my children. Tonight I come in a different capacity; taking a different position. While we know that we are in financial distress and we're hurting for money, I actually sat and I witnessed our Superintendent say that there were 40 pink slips given for teachers, which, if the budget is approved, we may or may not have to let them go. If it isn't they'll have to go. But it still puts us in a bad situation. I want the Board of Aldermen and the City of Ansonia, the Mayor and anybody that is in a position to make decisions, Mr. Nimons, anybody, to consider what's already

happening with our children. When I say "consider what's happening with our children," as our Superintendent, a Board member asked, when she said that, so, we give out 40 pink slips. You have administrators who are at \$130,000 a year. Cut one of those and you can keep three teachers. I'm not saying that because it's not my position to say that for the public record, and I don't want anybody to feel slighted, or that I'm targeting them. But I think that it is really something to consider, because what happens is, while we're in this position, the Superintendent's response emphatically was, and on the minutes, "Well, you know what? We're hurting for money, the State is cutting money, they don't want to approve a budget and so guess what? The kids are going to be the ones to suffer." And there was no empathy. Not even as if it mattered. So I felt like, when I left there as a parent, I was like, "Oh my God, this is a district that is really just worried about their own." "Their own" not being our students and our children. If a superintendent can just break out and say "the kids are going to suffer". Our children are already suffering and having multiple children, in situations like that, the children that get the brunt of that are the children who are low-income families, who do live below poverty level, who are single-parent families, who just struggle for whatever reason they were born into struggle. Children didn't ask to be poor. It's not their fault. So what happens is, because we have these cuts and we're laying off teachers and we've got to cram them into a classroom, then you get more referrals for special education Mr. Mayor, and Mr. Chairperson. You get more special ed referrals. Where these children are not learning disabled, they don't have a deficit, they have behaviors. And we don't have the resources to teach them or keep them occupied for that matter. So I think that is something we need to consider.

Second, the football ordinance. I sat in the Board of Aldermen the last time. The Mayor said as long as he's around this would be directly related to pedophiles and sex offenders. However, I'm looking at a document right now where the wording is clever. I think that it's great for every attorney who went to law school and other people that can be creative. But the way it's written is a back door, Mr. Mayor, and I'd like to ask that you and the Aldermen take it into consideration where you have specifically listed that this is about sex offenders or any child predators or any offenses geared toward children. But three lines down, it's saying that the City of Ansonia can just use their discretion, at will. My fear with the City of Ansonia being able to use their discretion is that they're not always the men in this room using their discretion. There are some characters that are pretty much questionable. But they're using their discretion. I've asked for the Board of Rec, what's policy? The chairperson here explained, "We're running on Robert's Rules of Order, this is what it looks like, this is how we'll carry on." And then itself, we asked for policies there from them, "How do we carry on? What's protocol?" and we still don't have any.

Sandra James, Walkers Court

I back up Keith Maynard 100 percent. I think it should stay the way it is. Sex offender? No. But I mean, everybody makes mistakes, so why not give someone a

second chance for something they did when they were probably 15 or 16 so, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Christine Hemenway, 23 Glen Drive

I'm saying the same thing. I think the football season and the football program offer a lot to the community, and I think Keith has done a fantastic job with it.

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

Alderman Frank DeLibero

For the record, the proposed budget includes \$750,000 for education. Plus there's at least an additional \$300,000 savings. This is a total of over \$1 million toward education. The Mayor's budget isn't cutting education; we are funding it more – almost as much as we did last year – and this Administration has funded education more in the last three years than has been done in the last 10 years. I think this is a very fair offer, budget for education, and I totally support the Mayor's budget on education. Thank you.

Alderman Randolph Carroll

Ashley, I applaud you coming before the Board of Aldermen. I remember when I was in my 30s, I came before the Board of Aldermen and I used to shake like a leaf. We need more young people like you to come to the Board of Aldermen and view their concerns.

I am on the Ordinance Committee. At every meeting I've gone to I've said that there are people that have made mistakes in their life, that I don't care how old they were, they have cleaned up their life, and this could be a blacklist.

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 President Tripp, members of the Board of Aldermen and residents of the great City of Ansonia. Tonight you have before you a Board of A&T approved budget. I want to thank Chairman King and the members of the Board of A&T for all the hard work and efforts during budget negotiations. I must tell you that my budget proposes a tax decrease and I insist that we approve this decrease. I have been emphatic that I am not in favor of any tax increase for our residents. They have shouldered the burden for far too long and can no longer afford to shoulder

it. No one said this budget process would be easy. I have done my best over the last two years to give the Board of Education increases and also ensure that our Public Safety departments, including ARMS, Fire and Police, have gotten what they need along with other City departments so that all services are maintained for our residents. As I said in my last address, I have worked hard with my Comptroller, Bill Nimons, and my Finance Team to craft a City budget which is both responsible to taxpayers while still managing to maintain, and even enhance, vital City services. First and foremost, my plan once again prioritizes the Ansonia taxpayer by calling for Ansonia's third straight mill rate reduction. Please understand that I represent every resident of the City of Ansonia. I have to keep in mind every resident's well being. We need to put the taxpayers first, and my budget has done that. To that end, I want to be very clear that there will be no tax increase this year. If taxes go up, residents leave, businesses will vacate and no one will be left to support the City services that we provide. It is critical that we stick to our principles and continue to fight for our taxpayers. I have no doubt that this board will stand with me and vote for a tax decrease.

Crafting a budget for a small community like Ansonia that have run out of clean, developable land is extremely challenging. Each year becomes more and more of a challenge. That is why I am strongly encouraging that we take advantage of the opportunity of regionalization. Our Economic Development Director is my appointee on the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. This board looks at ways to participate in municipally-shared services such as municipal streetlight maintenance, household hazardous waste, regional paving. We are at the table because I do not want us to miss out on any opportunity to reduce fees for our taxpayers. Many communities have regionalized services and are way ahead of the game. I don't want us to miss out.

You have a resolution before you tonight that provides an opportunity for our WPCA to study its sewer system and to look at ways that we could to possibly save our taxpayers money. I hope you will not allow us to miss this opportunity by examining the feasibility of regionalization. Not only will regionalization save taxpayers money, increase the amount of funding we can secure, but it will improve the services.

We are focusing our efforts on Economic Development, and have and will see development in every major parcel of land left in our downtown. You will hear more from Sheila O'Malley about some of the projects. This is an exciting time for Ansonia. Our downtown is booming with activity. We will soon see new restaurants and retail stores opening up. All of this will be more positive news for our taxpayers.

I want to remind everyone again tonight and re-emphasize the importance of our Capital Improvement Plan. With this plan the City of Ansonia will look to improve its infrastructure, roads, bridges, schools, parks, public safety and its fields, and other needs. This is a way for the City to make necessary improvements incrementally –

and over time. This plan will not increase taxes for our residents. I ask again that you consider supporting the plan. It makes good fiscal sense.

We will also be looking to make some structural changes within the City. I have appointed Mike D'Alessio as Superintendent and Kevin Cegelka as Foreman on a permanent basis March 1st. I want to welcome Tracy DeLiberio to City Hall. Tracy will be working with the WPCA office assisting Rita St. Jacques. I want to take a minute and recognize two unsung heroes. Ronda Porini is making positive changes in our Building Department. Ronda's knowledge and expertise have been a welcomed addition. I also want to recognize Darlene Zawisa in Public Works. Darlene not only holds the fort down at Public Works keeping everything in order and everyone in line, but Darlene also hosts the City's website and monitors our Facebook page. She is a tremendous asset to the City and we thank her for her service.

I want to thank Alderman Randy Carroll for his efforts in security \$5,000 which will go toward the purchase of park benches in Fountain Lake. Randy was able to get this funding to help with a donation from the Farrell Corporation and Rob Scinto. Thank you for that, Randy.

I want to recognize and distinguish Ansonia's resident - graduate of Emmett O'Brien Technical School. We are so proud of Sean Coyle and his accomplishments. I would like to present him and his family with this proclamation:

WHEREAS, Sean Coyle is an Ansonia Native who will graduate with a 4.0 from Emmett O'Brien Technical School in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Sean was previously recognized for his exemplary community service, helping to provide food for veterans in need; and

WHEREAS, Sean has distinguished himself as an academic life and class president in athletics and captain of both the soccer and track teams at Emmett O'Brien; and

WHEREAS, Sean has received a full U.S. Army scholarship to Norwich Military Academy and Embry-Riddle Space and Aviation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Sean Coyle was notified by Congress that he is being appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a full scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Sean was recognized for his leadership abilities and dedication to the community, family and friends, his hard work and diligence and for his outstanding academic performance; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and honor Sean as one of Ansonia's brightest and best citizens,

NOW THEREFORE I, David S. Cassetti, Mayor of the City of Ansonia, on behalf of the citizens of our City, extend deep appreciation to Sean Coyle for his outstanding achievement and wish him success in future endeavors.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Alderman Joseph Jeanette asked, a month or two ago we voted on the position of land use administrator, for \$55,000. I was against it. I wasn't here that night and it went for \$55,000 and we would re-address it in six months. If she went to meetings at night and did her job, she'd get a \$5,000 increase. I was told she got the \$5,000 increase before six months. If we're trying to cut taxes, why are we giving raises out like this?

Mayor Cassetti replied, this is a very valuable department. It is now open all the time. She is doing a tremendous job.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I know people where I work who do a tremendous job but they don't get a raise after 3 months. I want to know why this person got a \$5,000 raise in less than six months. I voted for \$50,000, they gave her \$55,000. Why do we need our Aldermen here if you're just going to give raises without even consulting us?

Mayor Cassetti stated, I don't want to lose the person. She is very valuable. So I gave her a \$5,000 raise effective March 1st.

Alderman Jeanette stated, she doesn't go to meetings at night. She's supposed to. That's within her job right now; she was supposed to. I want to know why we didn't wait six months to give this raise. I am very upset about this. They didn't consult us; we were supposed to vote on this in six months and we didn't vote on it. You just gave \$5,000 to the person. Why?

Mayor Cassetti replied, I do not want to lose the person.

Alderman Jeanette stated, there are a lot of people in the world that are probably just as qualified to have that job.

Mayor Cassetti stated, this person is special. This person, believe me when I tell you, does her job. This building department has not run so good, Joe.

Alderman Jeanette asked, so you don't this is Aldermanic body to vote on these raises when we say we'll adjust in six months? You can just say, I'm just going to do it?

Mayor Cassetti stated, you voted on \$55,000 with a \$5,000 raise. I thought it would be better if we give her a raise now to retain her.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'm on the Salary Committee also. I'm sure there was a little bit of oversight or a mistake made. I, personally, if we deviate from something, we had the meeting, we made a decision of \$50,000, we came back and six months before an increase. We came to this Board of Aldermen meeting with the Salary Committee's suggestion, and we upped it to \$55,000 and the arrangement was that in six months if she was doing what she's supposed to – Inland-Wetlands, ZBA, Planning & Zoning, that she would get a \$5,000 increase in 6 months. I believe she is as good as you say Mayor, and I support your decision, however I do understand what Joe Jeanette is talking about. We are a committee and it should have been brought to our attention. I think we should have had a simple meeting and discussed it. I understand, I'm a little upset too, I think that government has different steps and levels and sometimes we all need to work together. It's so busy and you're trying to do so many good things that sometimes things slip through the cracks.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, I was on Salary but I got taken off. In that meeting for Salary, the proposal from our Mayor and our Administration was for a salary to be set at \$60,000. This woman brings a ton of experience to this City. She had prior experience in the City of Plymouth. She travels a distance every day and the salary was supposed to be \$60,000. The Mayor is the Executive of this City. He knows how to run the City. His team knows how to run the City. But there are a certain few on the Salary Committee who thought that \$60,000 was too much. In fact she was penalized to go to \$50,000. It wasn't fair but I understand what happened. Her salary should be probably \$60,000 today, it is \$60,000. Let the Mayor run the City. The people voted for him. They gave him 79 percent plurality with the votes. Let the Mayor and his Administration run the City. Thank you.

Alderman Jeanette stated, we are the Administration and we do help run the City. That is why these people elect us. We should have a say in what goes on here. We have a committee to vote on the salary and we vote to come back in six months and address it, then that's the way it should be. We are not denying the person the \$60,000, but there is a probation or a guidance that we went to and we set and we voted on it to wait six months, and if she did her job she'd get her \$60,000. But they just said no, here, here's your money. And we're still going to lower taxes. I'm sorry. Mayor, you are doing some great things I've got to say, but this one, I'm sorry, I can't agree with you on this one. Why do you need us here if we're going to vote on things and then we're not going to do it? Why do we sit here?

Alderman Vaccaro stated, you're not here on a day-to-day basis. You don't run the City. The Mayor, right there, runs the City. He was elected to run the City. We're doing a hell of a job in the past two and half years. We are going to continue to move forward. To deny this woman a raise, however the workings were, so be it. She was already a part-time employee with the City. We knew what she could do. She proved her weight in gold already. Her first day on the job she came in and she tackled a major problem and she solved it – her first five minutes in the office. She is worth her weight in gold.

Alderman Jeanette stated, we're going to deny our children in school certain services so we can give raises to people at City Hall, is that fair to the kids? And we do run the City too. We got elected, just like the Mayor. Thank you.

Alderman Stowe asked, Mayor Cassetti, can we please next time have a little more interaction because I don't think anybody means any harm here? Thank you.

Corporation Counsel John Marini

As you know I work pretty closely with the Blight Office and I would like to at least assure Alderman Jeanette that the revenue in the Blight Office has already far surpassed the \$5,000 increase and you actually have the second-ever in the history of Ansonia, report tonight, from the land use office showing what their level of activity is, the money they're taking in, and of course it only takes some time to walk around town and see what's getting cleaned up, what's being made safe, because of the amazing team we have down there.

We have a full plate in terms of ordinances and in terms of policies. My own personal philosophy is you don't go around creating new laws and new policies unless they are absolutely necessary, which is why it's encouraging to see that each of these laws is geared at keeping residents safe and protecting children and really protecting the City. I'm very glad to report to the Board and to the crowd here that you have had a very democratic process drafting these ordinances. They went through Committee and in some cases, the Volunteer Policy for example, a combination of Committees. I'm glad to say we have appeals processes built in to all of them and there's been a lot of thought given to the amount of discretion a Board should have so that, for example with the Screening Policy, as we'll discuss later, people aren't disqualified just because of an offense in their past. I really have to thank the people that are here tonight that really impressed it upon the Board, you can't just take a look at one dark mark that happened in someone's history. You have to take a look at the whole constellation of that person's history, and actually the policy that you have before you tonight, it does, yes, prohibit automatically people that were involved in sex offenses and crimes with children, but it allows the City to use discretion to decide if people with other crimes will be prohibited. Of course I think we could all agree that a crime of murder is not against a child but we would not want someone convicted of a murder volunteering with the children. There are situations of course where it could be a combination of crimes that simply stand out and make someone unsuitable for the program. There's discretion, but there's also an appeals process so we can guarantee that it's not just going to be one person or one group of people making a decision that impacts someone's life. There is a process for appeal. It's got to be done, it's got to be fair, and so I really respect this Board for protecting the City and making it fair.

On the issue of vaping I think you heard some really good comments tonight. And of course this Board will take all comments into effect – the FDA hasn't ruled on that

yet. Until that time some people are saying, you know, hold off. I think we have some great things to go over tonight and we have a lot of Economic Development legal issues to discuss in Executive Session at the end.

Alderman Stowe stated, I personally believe that people that have made mistakes in their lives should not be stigmatized when they're trying to come back and make amends for themselves. I believe that people who have made mistakes could be more of an influence on a young person's life than someone who is lily white and never does anything wrong. I hear what the people here were saying. I don't know if finalizing this today is such a good idea. I think we should give this serious thought, have some more discussion with the people in this community. We don't want to have - raising your kids is a big deal, it doesn't matter if you're rich, poor, whatever. We all want the best for our kids. People are not here to volunteer all the time. People work hard and they're not always able to do what they'd like to do. This is a big deal and maybe we need to spend some more time on it.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the way the policy is drafted so there's no confusion, there are specific offenses that are automatic that they can't participate. The only offenses that those are involve children and sexual offenses. Those are the ones that are right out. If you're involved in a crime involving a child, or if it's a sex crime, you're out. Now, there is this other provision - if you are accused of any other crime that doesn't have to do with sex or children specifically, that if it comes up on the screening, it goes to the Rec Board. The Rec Board has the ability to take a look at those crimes in context - in context of the person's life. When was it committed, what were the circumstances, has the person been rehabilitated since. What is the community's take. And they're able to make a decision using discretion, which is an important part of self-governance. If the applicant is rejected, and if they feel they've been wronged because of any reason, they can appeal to the Board of Aldermen. That way there's a process that allows us to stop someone from volunteering who we believe is a danger to children or to others but at the same time allows people to get second chances. It allows those people that really want to redeem themselves and work toward the betterment of the community. It allows to keep them involved. The idea was don't prohibit them automatically, don't shut the door in their face. Give them the ability to make their case. That's what the Boys & Girls Club does, in fact the Boys & Girls Club is much stricter, much harsher. They lay out certain policies and crimes far broader than this policy that prohibit them entirely. You couldn't be a volunteer there. Same thing with the Town of Milford. They have a policy much more strict. Same thing with the National Parks & Rec. So we are trying to do our best. You don't want to take away, in my opinion, the ability to prevent someone from coming in that really isn't. But you have to be fair; you can't slam the door in peoples' faces just because they made one mistake. I agree.

Sheila O'Malley, Economic Development Director

We have three RFQs going out that I want to let this Board know about – one is for the demolition of a property on Jewett Street which is an unsafe housing condition that has been deemed unsafe by our building officials. We also have an RFQ that's going to go out to procure services for the cleanup activities in the Blight Office. If we are going in to remediate a property, we are looking for contractors to use on a rotating basis. We are going out to bid with that as well. You'll hear more from Zeke about the solar panels. We are going to hit the streets with that RFQ as well to procure services for someone to prepare an application for us at no cost. Those are the RFQs that are going out.

In terms of grants, we have a grant in for connectivity - which will allow, if we're successful, us to get money to repair our sidewalks downtown on Main Street. The Mayor is adamant about trying to repair those sidewalks. It will also give us a bike/pedi path if we are successful in that regard.

You have a resolution from the COG regarding \$1.2 million grant to look at regionalization. We are waiting back on the Fire Grant which Chief Tremblay and Eileen Eheman did a lot of work on. Our Open Space grant is also pending.

The Mayor mentioned that we have a lot going on with all of the available parcels for development in the town. You will hear about Ansonia Copper & Brass and the demolition proposal more in executive session. You will be hearing from the Mayor, he will be making the announcements – we are getting two new restaurants that will be coming on board once those leases are signed.

Healey Ford - the closing date is tomorrow. Mr. Saracino was kind enough, I want to thank him for providing City Hall with sandwiches and a large luncheon, unexpected but very nice, as a meet and greet.

Alderman Carroll asked for the address on the Jewett Street demolition. Ms. O'Malley replied, 147 Jewett Street.

Alderman Carroll continued, regarding Ansonia Copper & Brass, as you know it's in my back yard. I went to my dumpster yesterday and two trucks were in the parking lot putting scrap metal into their trucks. I called the Police. I was told that certain people have permission to take scrap metal out of the property. Why and who? Why are people taking scrap metal out when the City could be benefitting from what they're taking out?

Ms. O'Malley stated, I don't know who was taking the scrap metal out so I don't want to comment on that. The owners are probably taking the scrap metal out but we did extend the time period for that. The schedule is on for tonight in executive session. Only the owners are authorized to go on to that property.

Alderman Carroll stated, they were there yesterday, and I'm not going to say "pillaging" because I was told by the Police that they have permission.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, it could be the owner raising money for the demolition; for the next phase that we're going to be discussing.

Alderman Carroll stated, I'll discuss this in executive session because they're on the tax delinquent list again for over \$100,000. I want it on record that I was told that certain individuals have permission to go into Ansonia Copper & Brass. They had a crane in there a couple of weeks ago and were taking out huge pieces from the building.

Ms. O'Malley stated, there are some remediation efforts going on right now.

Alderman Carroll stated, as it is in my Ward, I would like to be informed when things are happening with that property. I do get phone calls.

Alderman Stowe stated, the property from Farrell's from Ansonia Copper & Brass to Main Street. I understand that is in foreclosure. What is the City's plan to deal with that property? SHW – that's owned by a private owner – is it under foreclosure? I'm thinking when Ansonia Copper & Brass is finally heading toward Farrell's, what are we going to do with the old Farrell's because it's an integrated mess over there.

Ms. O'Malley stated, the Finance Director, Corporation Counsel Marini and myself and another attorney have been meeting on a list of the top 75 scofflaws if you will, and we're working on a plan for foreclosure on most of those properties.

Alderman Stowe asked Ms. O'Malley to report on it with more detail at the next Economic Development meeting.

Richard Dziekan, Director of Constituent Services

The phone's been ringing a lot. I've been working with a lot of the citizens and the Aldermen solving a lot of the problems and working on issues. We started monthly meetings with department heads and the Mayor. We broke them up into smaller groups - each group is interconnected with each other. It's a quicker meeting and everybody's getting information back and forth to work smoother and get things done and have improved communication.

With the solar panels RFQ, I guess last year they were looking into solar panels for the landfill. Derby just had theirs done; I was looking at them over there. We're probably going out with the RFQ on Thursday or Friday. Basically it's going to be no charge to the City. We're trying to get the best and the most qualified solar panel company to come in. It sounds like we could possibly get the electricity going

toward the water treatment or public works building, which will be a savings for the City. Hopefully by next month's meeting we'll have a company for you to vote on.

I've been working with Ken for the WPCA – an informative pamphlet we're trying to send out as to what or what not to deposit into the sewer system.

This Saturday at 11 am there will be an Irish flag raising in the park next to City Hall.

Comptroller William Nimons

I'd like to pick up where Sheila left off on the foreclosures. We ordered 75 title searches and we will be starting some foreclosures probably next month on some properties in the City of Ansonia. We are being very careful on which ones, because some of them are contaminated and we have to make sure the land bank is in place because we don't want to take title to them. We also have to be careful with some of the residents that might have fallen on hard times. Right now if you look at the delinquent list, it's around 3-4 mills in real property taxes. All of us are paying higher taxes because they're not paying. A lot of them are over 10 years old; once they hit 15 they disappear off the tax rolls – you can't collect them. We decided that we have to start collections now. Hopefully once we start notifying these people that we're serious, some of them will come in and make the payment plans or come in with some money or sell their property.

As far as shared services, I received an invitation from the City of Derby's Shared Services Task Force. They invited the City of Ansonia and we will start talking about shared services which will include WPCA, school systems, and anything else we can join up on to save money for the taxpayers. This is a great step for us now to start working together with a smaller town. I'm hoping that everybody is just going to share in it, but the Mayor will be making the appointments and there will be more information on that.

As far as the Capital Improvement Plan, you all have it tonight and it will be going to public hearing, we will have to have a referendum on it. It is being submitted to the Board of Aldermen for their perusal. Look at the list; you have a priority list. You've got to remember, this thing is fluid, things can blow up tomorrow and we might have to change things. If you look at it, it's about \$35 million over six years that we'll have to spend on infrastructure. A lot of things had been let go in the City and this is the only way that we can get it going forward now in an orderly fashion.

As far as the budget is concerned, I know the Mayor is concerned about a tax cut, I gave him a new budget with additional revenue items that didn't get in to the Board of A&T for lack of having the information or not having the information from the State. So right now, I can honestly say to the Mayor that there is a tax cut in this budget based on the way it's going.

Alderman Blackwell stated, my question is to Alderman Jeanette - how did you come across that salary increase, because I'm unaware of it and it's not in the budget. I just want to know how you came across that.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I heard from a certain few individuals. I don't want to mention names at a public meeting.

Alderman Blackwell stated, that's fine, I just don't know where you found it because it's not here, and I was unaware of it and I just wanted to know how you came across it.

Alderman Jeanette stated, the Mayor admitted he did give it to her, so...

Alderman Blackwell stated, I know he did, I just don't know how you came across it, that's all.

Alderman Jeanette stated, I will talk to you after the meeting and I'll let you know how.

Alderman Blackwell continued, as Alderman Vaccaro stated Mr. Nimons, we are not here every day; we have full-time jobs, we have families. As I just addressed with Mr. Jeanette, apparently there is a \$60,000 salary that is being paid to our Land Use Administrator. However, in the budget that comes from your office and the Mayor's office, it's only approved for \$55,212. My question to you is, how true is this budget that we're being presented with?

Mr. Nimons replied, the budget is as true as the numbers that we had on the day it was prepared.

Alderman Blackwell noted that it was prepared on the 7th. Was that raise before the 7th?

Mr. Nimons replied yes, but it's not in this budget. I didn't know about it either.

Alderman Blackwell stated, wait a minute. You're the finance guy. I'm very lost here. Like I said, I'm not here every day. But as the Comptroller of the City of Ansonia, there's a \$5,000 increase that you're not aware of that's not in the budget that an Alderman is now aware of that... How does he find it and you didn't, is my question.

Mr. Nimons replied, I only found out because the thing came up to payroll. The budget will have to be adjusted.

Alderman Blackwell stated, my concern is, what else is not true here? That's my concern. And who is looking after it?

Mr. Nimons stated, some of these numbers will change as we move forward. Some of the income will change as the State of Connecticut does more cuts. We don't know where the State's going.

Alderman Blackwell stated, I understand that totally but this is something that should be known and should be controlled by your office. It just bewilders me how an Alderman is aware of it. It's not in any paperwork that I have. My fellow Aldermen are not aware of it, and you're not aware of it as the Comptroller who is in charge of all finances for the City. That is a concern for me and it should be for everybody.

Alderman Stowe stated, first of all, maybe the person who got the raise was dancing in the streets. I know if I got a \$5,000 pop in one day I'd be dancing all over town. Anyway, Mr. Nimons, you will attend with the Finance Committee please. I'm not sure how Lorie is going to set the schedule up, but we're going to be going over the plan and readjusting the budget with the revenues and trying to give the Mayor and the citizens the tax cut that they're trying to give. But you'll be available?

Mr. Nimons replied yes, I will be there. The Capital Plan we have to be careful of because we don't want to increase our bond indebtedness. We want to flat-line the bonding numbers, so we have to be careful how we prioritize.

Alderman Vaccaro asked Mr. Nimons, the Capital Improvement Plan is not going to raise taxes?

Mr. Nimons stated, the way it's set right now, unless you want to go out and do everything all at once, it will not raise taxes. That is the plan we have in place.

Chief Kevin Hale – Ansonia Police Department

Winter parking ends March 31st which means therefore winter ends.

We're going to increase parking tickets which we haven't done in 20 years. The tickets are ordered and we're expecting them shortly. For the residents, parking tickets are going up – so you're aware. The goal here is compliance, not revenue.

As a reminder – even though your car is in your driveway or in front of your house, make sure you lock your cars. Make sure you don't have belongings in it, valuables. We've had some sporadic incidents of cars being gone through. Cars are open. Change being taken, and other valuables. A car was stolen the other night; the keys were left in it. It only takes a minute – they can disappear.

Lastly, one of our goals for the Police Department for 2016 is to try very hard this year to run a citizens police academy. It's been very successful in other communities. We're looking at 15-20 tops over a 10 or 11-week period. We get residents in, once a week, a couple hours a week, to meet with officers and go through classes every

week, discussing various topics in law enforcement. It's very successful in other communities – Seymour has done it, East Haven has one going on right now. We are looking forward to that. I don't have any firm plans on that but are working toward that goal. These things take money and we are hoping the Asset Forfeiture issue is resolved with the federal government, we haven't heard anything on that yet. I may discuss this with Sheila O'Malley as well.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol Merlone

We are still waiting to hear about our modulars. Hopefully by the end of this month we'll hear. We began with SATs last week; the students were tested at the High School. We are preparing for our ASVAB tests now.

President Tripp stated, we will be discussing the modulars tonight, so that is proceeding.

Chairman Dan King, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

Tonight we have the final approved budget from the Board of A&T, which was voted on last night to be presented to the Board of Aldermen. I believe you all have copies. To highlight a few things that you're going to be looking at, our goal is no tax increase. The budget we passed showed a slight increase in the mill rate. The reason for that is, numbers change, even as we're working on the budget. Revenues, debt services, insurance; some things change. Where we paid our attention was funding the departments and making sure everyone had what they needed. Keeping with that, and with the numbers changing, we [inaudible] departments. Most departments are actually working with less than they did previously. The only increases you'll see are contractual pay increases. Everyone deserves a raise for good work – that's City-wide not just City Hall – Public Works, the Police Department, so forth. As Mr. Nimons stated, he did have sources of new revenue and we'll be able to include that. We voted on our budget that we worked on rather than include the projected numbers because we thought that was more honest and fair rather than at the last minute have our Board vote on something that we weren't fully vested in. You will have that information. If you'd like any input on the budget that we are handing to you, all you have to do is ask and myself or my Board members will be happy to assist you.

Public Works Director Mike D'Alessio

The Transfer Station is coming along pretty well. They starting framing out the scale house today. They're putting the new walls up, the electrical is done, the plumbing is done. It looks like about the next two months we should be up and running.

Webster Hose Firehouse – the floor is ripped out, they're putting the seal in. I'm hoping they'll be pouring the concrete in the next couple of weeks. That should be all done in about two months, about the same time.

I had the crews out doing catch basins, cutting shrubs, cleaning the streets. The weather's been great so we're catching up and getting ahead of schedule from last year. The bulk is being picked up. We put an ad out in the paper and all the bulk is being removed from the streets – probably 10-12 stops three days a week.

Also, our fuel system. We have a company coming in Thursday to train us on how to operate the fuel system. It was installed last year. That should be up and running in the next or two. That will track the amount of fuel being used by different City departments. Each vehicle will have a key to the gas pump, each driver will have their own code. When they pick up their fuel we'll know how many gallons each vehicle is using for the day or the week. You can print reports monthly – even daily.

Alderman Carroll – I went to your meeting and I believe myself and Alderman Tripp asked for the list of who has access to the gas tanks. That seems to be abused. Is that list available yet?

Mr. D'Alessio replied, we're working on that Thursday – a list that can be printed right from the computer of all the employees that drive the City vehicles, Fire Department, Police Department, City Officials, everybody that works for the City. I'll get you a printout of all the names.

Alderman Henri asked, have you looked into the second floor of Eagle Hose – the radiator isn't working.

Mr. D'Alessio replied no, I haven't heard about that. Last thing I knew was it was operating. I know there was a little problem with the water shut-off. We shut the furnace down to install a new water shut-off, but nothing about the radiator.

Alderman Henri stated, I understand that they've been losing sections of that heating on the second floor for years.

Ms. O'Malley stated, I would like to thank Public Works for renovating the bathrooms at the Armory. They needed to be repaired and Mike had his crew in there.

Mr. D'Alessio stated yes, they're finally all done – all new floors, foyer, so it looks really good. We put new toilets in, so no more rotted floors.

President Tripp stated, maybe we can get the American Legion back in there after all.

President Tripp also commended Public Works employee Judd Blaze for the installation of the magazine rack in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Alderman Lorie Vaccaro

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Carroll. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, we are going to be scheduling the Aldermanic Finance Committee meetings and everyone will be notified when the schedule is set.

ARMS Committee

Alderman Blackwell stated, due to a personal issue last night I was unable to attend the ARMS meeting. I'll have the information as well as next month's at next month's meeting.

WPCA Committee – Nunzio Parente

You have before you tonight a resolution. When we passed it through our committee we asked that you delay the vote. However, the people that were truly concerned about it had a meeting last night, which was Sheila O'Malley, myself, and Brian Capozzi, the Superintendent down at the WPCA. During the course of that meeting we got some information from Rick Dunne who is head of the Valley Council of Governments. We are satisfied with the information we received from him that the process that's going to be put in place is going to be satisfactory for us. In our opinions, you should go ahead and vote yes on it tonight.

Fire Committee - Alderman Joseph Jeanette

MVA assists 14
CO investigations 4
Smoke/Odor investigations 11
Trash fires 2
Grass 1
Propane/Natural Gas leaks 4
Fuel spills 3
False Alarms 9
Mutual Aid 5
Electrical Hazard 7
Public Service/Good Intent 5

The Ansonia Fire Department had a total of 65 calls for the month.

Ansonia Housing Authority – Alderman Randolph Carroll

The Director of the Ansonia Housing Authority has submitted his Resignation. The Acting Director is the gentleman that is up at the housing complex in the north end. He will be there under a 6-month tentative hire to decide whether he likes it and whether they like him.

Ansonia Nature Center

Alderman Henri stated, I attended the Ansonia Nature Center Maple Festival this weekend. It was a lot of fun, very educational and very tasty. If you get a chance, go next year.

In addition, Eagle Hose has a new equipment washer and dryer. Thanks to all who were involved.

Municipal Reports

- a. Board of Apportionment & Taxation Recommendations***
- b. Comptroller Approvals***
- c. Land Use Report***

Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to accept all three reports; SECONDED by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Tax Collector Report and Request for Refunds

Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to accept the Tax Collector's report and pay the Tax Refunds in the amount of \$488.31 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

Accidents and Claims

None presented.

Communications

Accept Kaslaitis MOVED to accept all communications, place them on file and take them up as needed; SECONDED by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

1. Economic Development Commission
Salary Increase for the Recording Secretary Carol Sardhina

Alderman Carroll MOVED TO TABLE; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

2. Spooner House
Requesting the Use of Ansonia Pavilion on Saturday, May 21, 2016

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

3. Bid Results
Architectural and Engineering Services for Portables

President Tripp explained, the City has gone through the bid process and have selected an architectural and engineering firm, Silver Petrucci Associates. They seem to have satisfied the requirements of the City.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis.

Alderman Vaccaro requested that the motion be AMENDED to include "pending approval of the modulars", stating, if we don't get approval of the modular, why should we spend \$87,000 on a study that we're not going to have the modulars for.

Ms. O'Malley stated, that is going to push out the design.

President Tripp stated, we're not tabling it. We are going to approve it with the caveat "pending approval of the modular being approved."

Ms. O'Malley stated, in all likelihood they will be approved. In order for those modulars to be ready, up and running we need them to be ready by September. We're trying to expedite this process. You're right, the cost will fall back to Board of Education or City on the engineering fees, but in order to prep for these modulars you have to begin the process now.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, the State is going to meet on March 24th for the Bond Commission meeting. I don't want the City to incur a bill if we're not going to get approval by the State.

Alderman Stowe agreed.

Alderman Jeanette WITHDREW the original motion.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to accept pending approval of the modulars; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe.

Alderman Henri stated, it seems that until we actually know they're coming, we don't want to spend the money, but there's got to be some kind of balance so that if we do get them we've started the process. Maybe we can talk a bit about where that balance point is.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, it's not just the portables, we had substantial amount of savings that the City will realize because of the portables. We don't want any delays that will knock out those savings. It's a good effort on the part of the Board of Education to capitalize on some serious savings that will go back, obviously, to the Board of Education.

Mr. Nimons stated, it will be approximately \$400,000 in savings annually. That prep work has to be done. The design has to be done. It has to be sent up to the State of Connecticut so they will approve the plan. Linda Gentile has been working very hard on this for us and she's assured me that we will know this month where the money is coming from. She says we're still safe, the money is still there.

Ms. O'Malley stated, I can't take credit for it because Alderman Henri has suggested this, but I think you can authorize a certain dollar amount – far less than \$87,400 – you could say we'll authorize the first \$10,000 up until the end of this month. Then once the portables are approved you can authorize the remaining funds. That will start the contract going. They can at least begin preliminary design work and we will have risked \$10,000 and not \$87,400. It's the start-up expenses.

Alderman Vaccaro WITHDREW his original motion.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to authorize up to \$10,000 for engineering costs for the modulares; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

4. Water Pollution Control Authority
Re: Resolution of Endorsement and Authorization Regional Performance Incentive Program

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

Alderman Stowe stated, approving this is approving the resolution. I also would like it to be on the record that you are going to have Brian Capozzi assist you in all of this. He knows all about the flows and capacities and everything so we will be prepared if we start talking about regionalization.

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

5. Capital Plan Timeline

Alderman Carroll MOVED to have a public hearing at 7 p.m. on March 29th; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

6. Alderman Joan Radin
Request to look at the five-year-old plan for ambulances in the City

President Tripp read Communication #6 aloud, as follows:

City of Ansonia, Board of Aldermen,

On February 25, 2016 I had an emergency call to Ansonia Rescue Medical Service. They arrived at once followed by EMS. I was taken out to the ambulance and the EMT gave me oxygen and all the necessary preparation. They went a mile away to Griffin Hospital. It's a good thing I was strapped to the stretcher because the ride to the hospital bruised my bones. I'm glad the trip wasn't to New Haven, Waterbury or Bridgeport. When we arrived at the hospital, the first thing I said was "Doesn't this ambulance have shocks. I've ridden in junk trucks that were better."

I have been trying for four years to get a new ambulance. All they keep telling me is that it is on the five-year plan, but not which five years. I don't know how or why it keeps being put off.

This is my "feasibility" study, at no cost or time to the City. It says we need it right now. Before we have major problems.

I would have more to say in person, but I doubt I'll be able to make the meeting this month. I will use every bit of effort to see that we take care of the "people of Ansonia."

Thank you, Joan Radin, 5th Ward Alderman

7. The Valley Arts Council
Proposal and Terms of the Proposal

Alderman Carroll MOVED TO TABLE; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

8. Renewal of Food/Ice Cream Truck License

President Tripp stated, you've got a license application by Dad's Food Truck and I understand there was the addition of Mr. Super Softee.

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

9. Recreation Volunteer Background Check Policy

President Tripp stated, this is the policy that was revised by joint meeting.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I should make it clear that we're not criminalizing people that want to volunteer for Ansonia Recreation - it's not an ordinance; it's a policy.

I talked a little bit at the beginning about exactly what the policy entails. I think the important thing to understand is that we've changed the policy since it was last presented to the Board. The substantial way it was changed is that we are not automatically eliminating folks from being able to volunteer on the broad range of different crimes that we had before. The automatic elimination is restricted to sex crimes and crimes against a minor. There seems to be a broad consensus that someone convicted of a crime of that nature has no place volunteering in our recreation system. So that's automatic and simple.

The other question was, what about other crimes, anything from felonies to misdemeanors - offenses that don't involve children but that could suggest that someone could be a danger to minors or to others around them. Essentially, people that may just not be a good fit for the system. We want to create a protocol where the City could evaluate and screen those individuals while at the same time allowing people to get second chances - to allow a broad range of discretion to evaluate, when did those crimes take place, what were the circumstances, what's happened since that crime, to get a real clear picture. It was also important to create a process for an appeal because we don't want anyone making arbitrary decisions and we don't want someone's fate resting in the hands of just one group of people, which is why we created a process where the recreation board would talk to the rec director about what came up in the screening. They would make a decision and if the prospective volunteer disagreed they could bring it to this Board and have their elected representatives take a look at what was done and either go with the elimination or undo it. Both the Ordinance and Recreation Committees worked on this and believe that they got to a good middle ground that gives you the discretion to prevent people who may be a danger to the children and others while at the same time opening up to evaluating someone's background and circumstances - the circumstances of their past so you don't slam the door on people just because of one black mark on their personal record.

That is the policy. It's administered by the Rec Director with the oversight of the Rec Commission and again, an important part of that is an appeals process to this Board so there is accountability. We are bringing it up now. Records show that in 2000, 2003, a much broader policy was actually talked about by the Rec Board and

by the Board of Aldermen and it was recommended to have a stringent policy that eliminated any felon or any person who committed a misdemeanor from participating. It seems like it went all the way to a drafting process and was never presented before the Board of Aldermen. It should also be noted that far harsher and stricter policies are passed in many other towns and cities across Connecticut and in fact if we look to the national record and also even the Boys and Girls Club, there is much harsher criteria for automatic elimination. We are trying to be fair and at the same time giving the City the tools necessary to keep kids safe and to protect the Recreation Department – credibility, integrity and safety of those in the Recreation Department.

Alderman Jeanette stated, some of these things like misdemeanors and stuff, if the person goes to the Rec Board and the Rec Board says “no, you can't be on it,” you're trying to say they can come to the Aldermen to make their case?

Corporation Counsel Marini replied, yes.

Alderman Jeanette asked, how do we know that politics won't play a role in this? Through the years people on the Board that might say, “hey, I don't like him because he's affiliated with this party or this club”, it could be very political.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I think the risk you take with self-governance is that you can never be sure if politics is going to play a part in it. I think that goes from top to bottom; every single thing we do. The importance of self-government is, the volunteers are putting themselves in these positions; they're not being paid. You're putting yourself there to make these decisions that a lot of other people want no part of. I think making those decisions is part of what makes everything work. Without the discretion all you can do is basically say, look, it's not a lot. And I hear from the public and I hear from our volunteers that they want better than that. They want an ability to look on a case-by-case basis to some of these issues. I would tend to say that I agree. There is nothing wrong with that discretion. It is a tough choice but it's the best of options. You have two other options. One is to eliminate everything, in which case you're going to be disqualifying people just because of something in their past. The other option is, allow everything, in which you're going to give a clear message that you do not care; anything goes and you're not stepping up to do your due diligence to make sure you are protecting the program. Between those two extremes seems to be the policy that you have in front of you – to evaluate on a case-by-case basis, given the circumstances of what happened and that person's life. Draw a clear line for sex offenses and for crimes against children saying that just period. Isn't going to be allowed.

There are leagues in Ansonia that have their own criteria. It is important to know that this policy is supposed to be the minimum. For example, the soccer league has the highest standard. It is actually no discretion at all. They send this out to a soccer league organization and that comes back from their insurance provider – pass or fail. The criteria is pretty stringent. So for something like that, our policy really

wouldn't affect what soccer is doing. Soccer is already stricter than what we are. We are establishing a floor – a minimum. There are some organizations that do checks already, they are screening, but there's just no policy that they're actually evaluating screening against. It is helpful to provide guidelines, that way if anything happens, if you have to eliminate someone because of a fear that you have, you don't want to be accused by that person of discriminating against them. You want to have protocol, procedure, as much as you can. That way when you're making your decision you're basing it off something that when you're called into question, you can say, look, we were trying the best we can to follow this policy. The policy was adopted with the public interest in mind.

This policy and any other ordinance, as a group, you've got to do everything possible to make sure you're doing it for one reason only - because it addresses a valid public interest. It's safety. You're not alone; many towns do this.

Alderman Stowe stated, a person came up earlier and said that there seemed to be some type of personal argument or disagreement. I would like to table this item and go back to negotiations and then come back to the Board of Aldermen and clear that up. I'm concerned that if it got heated and there was some personal feeling that you're being taken advantage of by a public official – that has to be cleared up.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, that can't be tolerated. That's why there's an appeals process and there are criteria. If someone believes that they have been targeted or that one group has made a decision that's not based on the policy, they have the ability to take an appeal and have it heard by another group. That is built in there. That was the purpose of the joint meeting between the Rec Board and the Ordinance Committee.

Alderman Stowe stated, I think this is the right thing to do and that the Mayor kept his word. If there is a problem with a public official in some way that's been volunteering, that needs to be cleared up. I don't know who, what, or whatever, but that needs to be cleared up. We can't have that.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, you've got to restrict it to the policy that's on paper.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to TABLE.

Alderman Carroll stated, we also have an Ethics Committee that they can bring their grievance up to, and they also have the Board of Aldermen. I'm on this commission.

Alderman Stowe stated, maybe there was just a simple misunderstanding but I don't want to see a public official and somebody from the public thinking that there's some kind of conspiracy against them. We can't have that.

There was no SECOND to the motion to table.

Alderman Henri MOVED to approve the policy as written; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell.

Alderman Blackwell stated, Mr. Marini, everybody, I believe, is in favor of this as we just saw. My only question is, can we keep this as an open work in progress? My other question is, does this include, and do we have any jurisdiction over referees and umpires? My question is more geared toward sex offenders where these guys may be certified by a referee or umpire agency, then they come in and get paid by us, and put themselves in close proximity to kids, does this or can this include them?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, this is for Recreation volunteers. You can tinker with the language and you can see how it actually works out, and you can make modifications. I would advise to do so along with the Recreation Department.

Alderman Blackwell stated, as long as we can keep an open dialogue, I think it's a great idea and I think it's needed. My concern is more toward sex crimes and referees that may come in. If a referee calls out sick and they replace him with this guy. Well wait a minute. We didn't screen this guy. We have no idea who he is, if he's standing behind the catcher or out there on the football field in the middle of a huddle...

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I think the leagues would consider anybody that's stepping on the field with the kids to be volunteers.

Alderman Carroll stated, Mr. Blackwell, that was brought up at one of our meetings; that was covered and that is included.

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

Appointments

Town and City Clerk Janet Waugh read aloud each of the appointments in its order, as follows.

Alderman Carroll stated, there are a couple of people that are being taken off of Boards and being replaced by others that are extremely knowledgeable in their certain fields. I am disappointed they are being taken off of these boards and I want to make that public.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint the following:

Joe Jaumann (U) of 183 Wakelee Avenue, Bartholomew Flaherty replacement
Lorie Vaccaro (R) of 515 Beaver Street, Sal Hanif replacement

Terms to expire 02-28-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Vaccaro).

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Alderman Henri MOVED to appoint Katherine Wilkins of 14 Hotchkiss Terrace, term to expire 11-30-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

RETIREMENT BOARD

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to appoint the following:

Gary Cassetti, Public Works Board, (D) of 102 Root Avenue, John Finnucan replacement
Denice Hunt, Alderman, (D) of 6 Myrtle Avenue, Joan Radin replacement
Judith Nicolari, Treasurer, (R) of 167 Pulaski Highway
Janet Vitarius Waugh, Town Clerk, (R) of 83 Prospect Street

Terms to expire 12-31-2017; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Edo).

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Program

[NOTE: the Resolution is on file and available for viewing in the Office of the City/Town Clerk, Ansonia City Hall, 253 Main Street, Ansonia, CT 06401]

[NOTE: Resolution adopted earlier in the meeting; See Communication #4 on Page 23 of these minutes]

Ordinances

[All ordinances can be viewed in their entirety in the Office of the Town and City Clerk, Ansonia City Hall, 253 Main Street, Ansonia, CT 06401]

1. City of Ansonia Child Protection Zone

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

2. Tobacco-Free Recreation

President Tripp asked Corporation Counsel Marini to provide an opinion regarding e-cigarettes and vaping.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, in favor of allowing the vaping there is the fact that the FDA has not opined on the health of these devices. Also, most of them don't use nicotine and there seem to be some health benefits to those using vaping to stop using cigarettes and to stop their nicotine addiction. This seems to be a way that's hopefully going to encourage more health and an alternative to smoking. I can say on one side of the argument that banning them outright doesn't encourage that.

The other side of the argument is, the vaping industry is considered to be the wild west. Really, the FDA hasn't ruled on it and all sorts of different things are being done. All sorts of different devices and so no one has really put out a good statement as to how they should be regulated, which ones could be dangerous and which ones are not. There is also the argument that the cartridges that the e-cigarette devices use could be taken out and actually substituted with devices or cartridges that were never meant to be used with the product to begin with. For example, someone could be sitting there vaping, they could be vaping a harmful substance or they could have actually inserted something like marijuana inside. You just wouldn't know unless you removed the cartridge. The other argument was that, well, you can be sending mixed signals. If you have a law that is no smoking, but some people are vaping, is it mixing signals on whether or not this type of activity is allowed.

There are two sides. The jury is really still out and I think there will probably be more regulation of the field to narrow down the kind of devices that are healthy. Some people are saying, like Senator Kane in Connecticut that said he would like to see the State hold off from any regulations on vaping until it's really understood. Until the FDA really has an opinion. There are a lot of things that might be a danger; you can't regulate all of them. Connecticut has started to regulate vaping but not to the extent that it's in all outdoor areas, but they seem to be moving in that direction. You can revisit this ordinance at any time.

Alderman Henri MOVED to ADOPT Ordinance #2 with the omittance of any reference to electronic cigarettes and vaping; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

3. Prohibit dogs and other animals from certain public places

Alderman Carroll noted that there are fenced off playground areas that should be included as some people bring their dogs into those areas, unleash them, and use them as a run area, without picking up after them.

Alderman Carroll MOVED to ADOPT AND AMEND the Ordinance to include “playground areas”; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 12-0.

4. Citation Procedures and Fines for Violation of the Zoning, and the Inland-Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations

Alderman Carroll MOVED to ADOPT Ordinance #4; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

5. Administrative Fee for work without building permit

Alderman Carroll MOVED to ADOPT Ordinance #5; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

6. Citation Procedure for Violation of City Ordinances

Alderman Edo MOVED to ADOPT Ordinance #6; SECONDED by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12-0.

New Business

Alderman Carroll stated, Farrell Corporation and Mr. Scinto gave the City a gift of \$5,500 for park benches up at Fountain Lake. The check was made out to the Seymour Land Trust as they're the ones that handle the property for us. I turned the check over at our last meeting. I'm inviting you to the Seymour Land Trust meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday to walk the Ansonia side of the property to decide where to put the picnic tables and benches. We asked for this donation so the new employees of Farrell's can walk down the hill, enjoy the lake, have lunch.

Alderman Carroll asked, I have been getting things that are stamped in at City Hall on Sundays. Why are we getting things stamped in on Sundays? I've asked the City Clerk and I've asked Ms. O'Malley.

President Tripp asked, are we open on Sundays?

Alderman Carroll replied, no.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, things that were worked on, things we've prepared over a weekend, we'll stamp it in there. Your staff works constantly.

Alderman Carroll stated, I brought up a couple meetings ago the stone wall on the private house next door to the YMCA. What's happening with that? That has a police tape across it. The wall is starting to bow again. A lot of people walk from that parking lot to the YMCA and if that wall crumbles and hits somebody that can be a lawsuit.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I'll talk to Dave Blackwell about it tomorrow. The problem with that wall is that the granite came from Potter's Quarry which is now filled in with 100 feet of water. It's hard to match it up. The rest of the wall may have to come down and a new nicolock wall may have to go back up. Depending on what the property owner wants to do.

Alderman Kaslaitis stated, on our agenda for the public hearing was the Revision of the Parking Tickets and Fines. It is not on tonight's agenda. We've been waiting a long time to pass these and the point of having the public hearing tonight was to pass this so the tickets can be printed.

Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to add to the agenda:

REVISION OF PARKING TICKETS AND FINES, CITY OF ANSONIA

And further, indicate the fine of \$150 for handicapped parking.

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

Corporation Counsel Marini explained that in January, we moved to incorporate the correct list from one of our previous meetings, we voted on it, but we didn't have the full complement to pass it right away. All that needed to be done was to hold the public hearing, which we did at 6:30 tonight. Technically you don't have to vote on it again. It was not the intention to leave it off the agenda tonight.

Old Business

Alderman Henri stated, we've been tabling the idea of putting a television set in the Erlingheuser Room to broadcast these meetings to overflow attendees. I've looked at it; I've laid it out. The proposal was for two.

Alderman Henri MOVED to mount one television set in the Erlingheuser Room; SECONDED by Alderman Vaccaro.

Ms. O'Malley stated, Dave, can you speak to why we were requesting the two? I think because the second screen would be for meetings so that you don't need a projector and one of those screens.

Dave replied, it's more for visibility throughout the room for things like spreadsheets. If a spreadsheet is put up on a TV and you're sitting in the back of the room you may not be able to see the detail from the other end of the room. With two, the furthest away you could be is half the room away, not the full room. The screens would be identical. The cost is approximately \$7,400 for one and an additional \$700 for a second one.

Alderman Edo stated, with the layout of the room if you're in the back of the room you won't be able to see the detail, that's why they were putting the second one on the side wall so the people who are sitting the farthest away are able to read the fine print, or, having something here and something there at the same time.

President Tripp asked what the funding source for this would be.

Alderman Henri stated, it went to the Board of A&T and it was a tie vote, so we brought it here to vote on and it was tabled.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I think money is allocated in the budget for it in Contingency. About \$7,400.

Mr. King stated, the Board of A&T denied it so that it could go to the Board of Aldermen for further review. It was discussed to pay for it from this year's budget from Contingency if approved by the Board of Aldermen. We did not put it in to next year's budget. Best practice would be to do it now. There is money available in Contingency for it.

Mr. Nimons stated, Sheila has indicated that there is money in LOCIP to be spent this year. We could take the money from LOCIP.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, you could see with the crowd we had here tonight we could have used it.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8 Yes, 4 No (Stowe, Edo, Carroll, Tripp).

President Tripp stated, the iPads, Mr. Vaccaro, that was being worked on and Sheila O'Malley is pursuing a grant, is that correct?

Alderman Vaccaro replied, right.

Ms. O'Malley stated, we're looking into securing funding or to see if there are any [inaudible] technology funds. I will report on it next month.

Executive Session

At approximately 9:15 p.m., Alderman Casetti **MOVED** to enter Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss the following:

1. Ansonia v. Washington Management, LLC (Blight lien)
2. ATP/Palmer Buildings (Sale of City property)
3. Copper & Brass (Potential property transfer)
4. Fountain Lake (property transfer)

The Mayor, Corporation Counsel, and Economic Development Director were invited to remain in the Chambers; **SECONDED** by Alderman DeLibero. A voice vote was taken and the **MOTION PASSED 12-0**.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 9:54 p.m., Alderman DeLibero **MOVED** to return to Regular Session; **SECONDED** by Alderman Rogers. A voice vote was taken and the **MOTION PASSED 12-0**.

Items from Executive Session

1. Ansonia v. Washington Management, LLC (Blight lien)

Alderman Vaccaro **MOVED** to authorize Corporation Counsel to proceed as directed in the matter of Ansonia v. Washington Management, LLC; **SECONDED** by Alderman Carroll. A voice vote was taken and the **MOTION PASSED 12-0**.

3. Copper & Brass (Potential Property Transfer)

Alderman Carroll **MOVED** to extend the timeline to perform demolition and further, shift the demolition site to the Flat Wire Building; **SECONDED** by Alderman Casetti. A voice vote was taken and the **MOTION PASSED 12-0**.

4. Fountain Lake (Property Transfer)

Alderman Kaslaitis **MOVED** to give the Mayor authority to execute warranty deed in favor of the City of Ansonia for the Fountain Lake Property and Access Road; and further,

MOVED to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement between the City of Ansonia and Fountain Lake, LLC; and further,

MOVED to authorize the Mayor to execute the release of the mortgage;

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

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen