



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 11, 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.

***Roll Call***

The secretary called the roll:

- Randolph Carroll, R1– present
- Charles Stowe, R1 – present
- Philip Tripp, R2 – present
- Lorie Vaccaro, R2 – absent
- Denice Hunt, D3 – absent
- Joseph Jeanette, D3– present
- Richard Kaslaitis, III R4 – present
  - Ashley Rogers, R4 – absent
  - Anthony Cassetti, R5 – present
  - Joan Radin, R5 – present
  - Matthew Edo, R6– absent
  - Patrick Henri, R6 – present
  - David Blackwell, Jr., R7 – present
  - Frank DeLiberio, R7 – present

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 ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
 Philip Tripp

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

*[NOTE: Any reference in these minutes to "BOAT" refers to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation]*

***Add-On***

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to add Late Communication #1 and Late Communication #2 to the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

President Tripp reminded the Aldermen and the Public Officials that at the last full Board meeting a motion passed prohibiting displaying cell phones on the table.

Alderman Henri called a point of order, stating his belief that it was only for the one meeting.

**Alderman Radin MOVED that the Aldermen and Public Officials keep their cellphones silenced and off the table during this meeting and all future Board of Aldermen meetings; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette.**

Alderman Blackwell explained that he needs his cellphone out for work purposes.

Alderman Radin suggested keeping the phone in the pocket or on the lap.

President Tripp asked for discretion on the part of all Aldermen as regarding cell phones.

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

### ***Approval of Minutes***

**Alderman Kaslaitis TABLED the acceptance of the minutes until the July 19<sup>th</sup> special Board of Aldermen meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

### ***Public Session***

Lee Dimech, 5 Hughes Circle

Mayor Cassetti told one of our people at the association, we had wanted the street taken over by the City. He told this person to get signatures that want it. Fourteen out of the 16 residents homeowners want it. The reason we've had trouble is, we cannot buy pipe insurance because the company says that we have a condo and we cannot have pipe insurance. I know of two people that had to pay the water people to come and drain out the sewers, unplug them, and it cost them \$600 - \$800, each one. We would like the City to take over the street so we can buy the insurance for the pipes. We cannot buy it. Someone talked to Mayor Cassetti about it, and he said see what the members of the condo association wants to do, and 14 of the 16 members said they would like the City to take it over for us so we can get insurance.

President Tripp noted that this is on the agenda for Executive Session tonight.

Deborah Hanley, 70 Woodlawn Avenue Apt. 20

I am requesting that the Aldermen look into what's going on with Ansonia Housing. I've been there 17 years. It was a nice place. The more the people that are in charge stay, the more it looks like a project. I don't want to pay to live in a project. Now their newest thing is we can't have anything in the front or the back. So they took away one of the girls' wheelchairs today. Vicky's response to that was, "oh well." "Oh well" is not acceptable. When you need a wheelchair, you need a wheelchair. Nothing else about it. There's a lot to it; I'm not going to get into it. I just think that it's time for us to make some changes in the Ansonia Housing, the way they do things. We all feel, and there's a lot of us there on Monsignor Heights, that, they're trying to get rid of us, that just, everything is, "well if you don't like it, you can go somewhere else", or "I can arrange to have you evicted." This is not fair. This is not the way we... First of all, if you're in a position like Vicky's, your answer should never be "oh well," ever. It's very unpleasant, and it's not at all like it should be. They make up stuff, kinda, you know, they gave me a writeup saying they were going to tow my car because it was in the wrong space four times. Three of those times I had to move it because two times there were insulation trucks, the third time they were supposed to cut a tree and they didn't cut it. So these things, if you want me out, just do me the favor and say

that you want me out. I'm not trying to harass anybody but they are not getting the job done. Bob did not get the job done while he was interim. He's a very nice man but they have this attitude - if they know you have a problem or you're not following exactly the way they want... They want to put in these hook things up and put plastic flowers on them. Would you want plastic flowers in the front of your house? Just please, my point is, would you please start looking into these things?

President Tripp assured Ms. Hanley that the Aldermen that are appointed to the Housing Committee will bring her concerns to the Housing Authority.

Jackie Eaton, 115 Prospect Street

A lot of young couples have come to me and my husband and asked us if we know if Ansonia is still doing the Summer Meal Program for the kids. I haven't seen it anywhere; I don't know if it even exists anymore. There used to be three sites – the Armory, the Salvation Army and I think on Fourth Street, but that was a long time ago. Does that still exist?

Alderman DeLibero stated, I think what we're going to do is we are going to refer this to the Board of Education because in the past they have had meals for...

Ms. Eaton stated, yes, you know, the kids go up to the truck and they don't have to show any ID or income thing or anything, and they give them breakfast and lunch. I was like, I don't think they do it at all any more.

Alderman DeLibero stated, it was done through them in the past, so we will try to see if that program still exists.

Ms. Eaton stated, okay, if not for this summer maybe definitely for next summer, because I know we're already mid-July. I know a lot of kids that would benefit from it though, a lot. Thank you.

Alderman DeLibero suggested that Ms. Eaton attend the next Board of Education meeting herself as well, and bring it up there.

Timothy Holman, 48 Elm Street

I'm a little disappointed, I cut my vacation short, I was in Wells, Maine. I came here tonight to show my support for a friend of mine that I've known for 30-plus years, Mr. Edward Bostic. The Mayor recommended him. And then I found out that the vacancy was taken off the agenda tonight. But nevertheless, I'm here to show my support and let you guys know, most of you know me, that Eddie is going to be an asset to this community. He's concerned about this community, he loves this community, he's out there now talking to people, finding out what their concerns are in that Ward so he can bring them back to this Board. If you see it fit to appoint him and put him on this Board. Again, I'm here to support Mr. Eddie Bostic. Thank you.

Greg Johnson, President, NAACP, PO Box 6, Ansonia

Again, I echo the sentiments from this young man. Nevertheless we are in a nation of unrest. I come to the leadership here in Ansonia with all that's happening between our Police Officers and our community. What is going to be done here to make sure that these things don't happen in this great town? Is that even on the table? I'm talking about the relationship between the Police Department and our community – to make sure that what happens in these other towns doesn't happen here. So we need to continue to educate our community in regard to the importance of the job of the Police Officers, as well as Police Officers respecting the members of our communities. Is there information being put out there, are there any meetings being requested, is anything being done?

President Tripp stated, the Mayor has been very proactive on that and he's been out meeting with the community.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I was talking to Pastor Smith, who is here tonight. I'm going to get a forum together with the Police and the residents probably sometime in the next three weeks.

Ryan Bingham, Torrington, CT

I represent Winters Bros. waste management company serving the City of Ansonia. I just want to address an item that's in Executive Session. We're not invited to attend. I wanted to say our peace and offer an opportunity if there is one to meet with the City Aldermen in any way, shape or form to resolve any perceived issues. I have the pleasure of serving as Torrington's former Mayor – the 'upper Valley'. My first experience with the City of Ansonia was as a freshman football player, getting bonked in the head and having my first concussion and then subsequently getting trounced by the City of Ansonia high school team. That was nothing compared to the stone wall, lack of respect and professionalism from this administration to our company. We're here today to talk about the quality services that we provide as Winters Bros. For the past five years we've provided service to the City of Ansonia. In addition to great service, we've saved the town considerable money. In fact in 2014, this Board passed an extension of our contract for disposal of MSW of which I think we've saved if not tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of dollars. At a July 5 meeting of the Board of Public Works, Mike D'Alessio stated he had received many complaints about service from Winters Bros. This is news to us. We've had no correspondence of specific complaints regarding service for the City of Ansonia, no requests for a remedy to any reoccurring issues. This troubles us. Winters Bros. has a solid reputation for delivering outstanding service and I'm shocked by the City's attempt to violate the terms of the contract. If there are legitimate, specific service issues, we want to hear about them. We want to fix them. That's why I'm here today. The hard working drivers and helpers who pick up trash here, every single day, deserve better. I think the people of Ansonia deserve better from their town representatives. We believe the City of Ansonia and this administration is in violation of the law. Specifically, the behind-the-scenes actions of Mayor Cassetti, Sheila O'Malley, and Mike D'Alessio to meet in closed-door meetings with our competitor, we think is unfair and potentially illegal. Let's look at the facts. In 2014 the Board voted, this Board voted to extend our contract.

President Tripp asked Mr. Bingham to wrap up his comments.

Mr. Bingham concluded, we've had several attempts at meeting with this administration to which none have been requested. E-mails, letters, texts, phone calls. Our attorney has tried to contact your attorney. There's just been no communication. So if there are issues that we need to address, we want to address them. But to rip the contract away, and I believe this authority is the contracting authority, this is the proper venue to attempt to resolve these issues, that's why I'm here.

President Tripp stated, you will have to refer this to Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Bingham stated, we have, and the Corporation Counsel hasn't responded to our attorney. So, what am I left with?

President Tripp stated, you made your statement, it is on the public record. We thank you for coming tonight.

Mr. Bingham stated, we've served the City of Ansonia with a lawsuit today in New Haven Superior Court, naming the defendants Sheila O'Malley, Mayor Cassetti, and Mike D'Alessio personally.

Walter Kendzierski, 185 Maple Street, Seymour

I'm the owner of the Ansonia Opera House which I was made to board up the windows on the short notice. I have some liens on my properties now, which is illegal, but I won't get into that. I'm just wondering where we stand now with those liens.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I'll take care of it.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we have you on for Executive Session tonight. The Board is going to consider the liens and the work that you've done on the property. The Board has to make a decision so if you'd like to, stay for Executive Session.

Mr. Kendzierski stated, I'll stay, okay.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I got a suggestion. I understand a bid went out for the Police cars. The ex-chief told me Saturday, he said why can't, to save money for the City, why can't Public Works do like we did four years ago up the north end and just go there and tell them that. And I said yeah, maybe I should. Because he said years ago Public Works would fix the police cars. He said that there's a high bid that went out, and he said if they want to save money they could go back Public Works. I said yeah, I could [inaudible] because Public Works used to be up the north end. I remember that. Public Works used to be up the north end, [inaudible] and he says, what's the problem, why can't they do that, they're going to save money.

Millie Rios, 121 Great Hill Road

I have a request and also a comment. My request is, as you all know the Fountain Lake Development project that's been going on, it's been brought to my attention that part of the reason why my land is eroding is because there's not the sedimentation and erosion

guidelines are not being followed. I am no expert, so I don't know what exactly needs to be followed, but Mayor Cassetti, please, I ask you and I beg of you to please, please, please have someone go out there.

Mayor Cassetti asked, what section are you talking about? Because everything has been stabilized on that hill that you go up. I mean, the grass is growing, so it's stabilized. Where is the area that you're talking about?

Ms. Rios stated, I'm not quite sure because I didn't go all the way up.

Mayor Cassetti stated, take a ride up there someday.

Ms. Rios stated, you can also come to my back yard and see all the land just coming forward. You'll see that – all that is eroding. Maybe now everything is in place. Please do come and look at that. I thank you for that.

My other concern is that recently with the Nolan Field event that's going on, there was an insert to donate money to the Board of Education. I and a lot of the citizens here in Ansonia would be more than happy to donate to the Board of Education. My only concern is, at least what I could see, it was kind of general and I want to make sure if I make any kind of donation that it doesn't go into the General Fund, that it does go to the Board of Education, and more importantly, that I can go ahead and earmark whatever I'm donating say, to the Sports Department, or to the Music Department, or whatever. Maybe that the Board of Education should be the ones handling it.

Mayor Cassetti stated, they are – you can see on the paper it says to mail it to 42 Grove Street. The check is made payable to the Board of Education and mail it to the Board of Education at 42 Grove Street.

Ms. Rios stated, I just wanted to make sure. I am going to donate, I just don't want it to go to the General Fund and used for another purpose.

Dave Knapp, 3 Glen Drive

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to stand here and speak to you tonight. Just a quick question. About two weeks ago we received our tax bill, and in there was the insert about the donation to the Board of Education. I attended the Board of Education meeting last week. They did not have any knowledge or were not aware of that insert going out. I am assuming from what I hear and what I understand, the Board of Aldermen were not aware of that insert going out. I would like to know, what is the process, or the procedure, or the protocol that the Mayor makes in making decisions to put inserts like that in the tax bills.

Mayor Cassetti stated, there are a string of e-mails, Mr. Knapp, that went to the Superintendent of Education, Board of Education, and the President of the Board of Education, along with the attachment of what the bill looks like. And they both approved it. There are e-mail strings to that effect. Yes there is. You come down to my office and we will present them to you.

Mr. Knapp stated, I was at the Board of Education meeting last week and the President of the Board of Education, Mr. Nimons, said they received the e-mail but they never approved it and the Superintendent said that he didn't approve it.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I have their comments on my computer; I'll be more than happy to show them to you.

Mr. Knapp asked, how about the Board of Aldermen? Was that ever approved? Did that go before the Board of Aldermen?

Mayor Cassetti replied, that's where the idea came from. The idea came from Alderman Henri.

Mr. Knapp asked, can we canvass the Board of Aldermen? Were they aware that was going to be going out as an insert?

President Tripp stated, Mr. Knapp, I don't want to get into a back and forth. Direct your comments to the President of the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Cassetti stated, we stand by doing it; I think it's a good thing.

Mr. Knapp stated, I think it's a great idea that we donate; I'm all for education. I just think the way, the process, and the avenue that you took was inappropriate. Just like the comment you just made to the gentleman about the liens, I'll take care of that. You don't have the authority to take care of that. I understand that you're the Mayor but you do not have the authority.

Aldermen DeLibero called a point of order that Mr. Knapp should direct his comments and questions to the President of the Board of Aldermen. It's become a back and forth.

Mr. Knapp stated that he directed his questions through the President of the Board to the Mayor. Mayor Cassetti responded.

Daryl Parks, 70 Woodlawn Avenue, Apt. 65

I want to address 307 Kimberly Lane, the property where my father's house is. There is a particular tree that has been teetering for a while. If there's a good storm and that tree falls, my sister who takes care of my father won't be able to make it up the hill. My father has dementia and it will be very difficult to get him up there. I would like that tree taken down, please. It's already broken and a good storm is going to take it down. If it falls in the street it's going to be difficult to get my father up the hill.

Mr. D'Alessio will look at it tomorrow.

Kevin Blake, 19 Birchwood Drive

A quick question, we've got November coming up for elections, and also referendum, we're talking about bonding. Are we going to get a response before that date as to where we are with the bonds that we did recently or the Armory and some other projects.

President Tripp stated, if I can answer your question directly, Sheila O'Malley gave her PowerPoint presentation on all of that. You missed it. Just come by during the day and you'll find Sheila O'Malley here and I'm sure she'd be happy to share that with you.

Mr. Blake asked, is it something that I can get a copy of it?

Ms. O'Malley stated, I can give you a copy. It has been on television as well.

President Tripp stated, it's also in the minutes of that meeting.

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

### ***Public Official Session***

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*Mayor David Cassetti*

Good evening members of the Board of Aldermen, residents of the great City of Ansonia. I want to ask for a moment of silence for the brave Police Officers on the Dallas Police Force that lost their lives.

[A moment of silence was observed]

Thank you. I want to recognize these Officers. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

On a positive note, I want to congratulate veteran Police Sergeant Patrick Lynch on his promotion to Lieutenant last week. I swore him in. This is his third promotion, and he has faithfully served our community for 26 years.

Summer is a busy time for all of us. Our Public Works Department has been busy fighting blight, cleaning our parks and fields, working to make our City more beautiful. Thank you to Mike D'Alessio and the Public Works Department for their hard work.

The Ansonia Nature Center will be getting a brand new playground for all to enjoy. I want to personally thank Larry Janesky, owner and president of Basement Systems, who has graciously and generously donated equipment and labor to make this project happen. Thank you Larry. and thank you Allison, for taking this project through. Larry has donated \$40,000 in materials; the Ansonia Nature Center has raised more than \$30,000 toward this effort. We thank everyone who's contributed to the project. I ask for your authorization to sign the construction agreement tonight here that you have before you. It protects the City, the Nature Center, Larry Janesky, and his company.

I want to thank Chairman Nunzio Parente and members of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Rita and Tracy for their hard work and effort. The WPCA will be lowering their rates for the third year in a row with a decrease of 2 percent for our residents. I am pleased that we have been able to lower taxes and sewer rates for our residents for an unprecedented three years in a row. Let's keep up the good work.

I want to thank Rich Bshara, Bob Jaskilka and the Finance Department, the Finance Committee and the Aldermen for continuing to work on our long-range Capital Improvement Plan. This important bonding project will help improve our City by paving badly-neglected roads, providing upgrades on equipment and public safety, maintaining our fitness facility, and providing for our future. This plan will help us move the City forward and minimize the impact of our taxpayers. This is a common sense approach adopted by almost all of the healthy cities and towns throughout the State. I would like for us to follow suit. I appreciate the time and effort you have devoted to this, and I am confident you will approve the plan that our residents will see fit to ratify. Thank you and good evening.

Alderman Radin stated, I was at a public hearing for the WPCA. I know it has to be published in the papers, but nobody seems to read the paper any more. Is there any way that we could put that on a robo-call when there is a public hearing? I've been to two or three public hearings where nobody's been there because nobody knows about it.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I think that's a good idea; we'll do robo-calls. We're going to do one with this referendum for the long-range plan.

Alderman Radin continued, this month has been a bad month, I understand, for Trish. But there are other things that are not getting into our boxes. I went down there Wednesday morning, and Thursday morning, and Friday morning. Half of the papers were not in my box. I think I made a motion a couple of months ago that we need to get these things in earlier so that they're there, in the box, by at least Wednesday or Thursday before the meeting.

Town and City Clerk Janet Waugh stated, Joan, do you have an issue with our Town Clerk's Office or is the issue with this? Our office is not getting the paperwork. I went to your shop three times. It is not getting to our office.

Alderman Radin stated, I would appreciate it if you could speak to the departments. A month or three weeks is plenty of time for them to get whatever they need to talk about at our meeting which is like five or six days later. So we have the opportunity over the weekend to look at these things and see if we have any questions.

Mayor Cassetti stated, I mentioned a moment of silence for the Police Officers that were killed, but I think we have to remember all of the lives that were lost in these past few weeks. That's what you've got to think of too. I had a moment of silence for everybody.

Mr. Greg Johnson from the NAACP stated, I'm glad you said that, Mayor.

Alderman Henri stated, once upon a time this board voted to put a television set in the other room so that people could watch these meetings. A month after that the majority of this Board voted not to fund it, thinking it was alright to let people stand in the aisles and out in the hallway. I think we should revisit that because this is really unacceptable. Thank you.

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*Corporation Counsel John Marini*

We have a lot to discuss in executive session. We talked about Basement Systems and the donated playground. It's a very big deal for Ansonia and everyone is very thankful to Larry Janesky and his company. Tonight you have before you a Construction Agreement and a hold harmless that protects both the legal interests of the City and also our volunteers, Basement Systems. We're looking for a timely approval of that release and hold harmless so that the work can be done in the coming week. Other than that I can take any questions that you might have.

Alderman Radin stated, I have a question about the transfer of property - why is that in executive session? That's public property that belongs to the City.

Corporation Counsel Marini replied, transfer of property from the City, or to the City, any time the City is a facilitator, is appropriate for executive session because it could possibly involve the City giving up rights and in negotiation with another land owner. In this case we're going to be talking about a memorandum of understanding that would be between the City and another owner of property, so it's appropriate to talk about those details in a privileged setting, so that if there ends up being any legal considerations that would place us in a first position with the other property owner, that's done...

Alderman Radin interjected, I don't understand, it's City property that you can transfer to people, to anybody?

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, any time there's an agreement about the transfer of property the City has a right to discuss it in executive session because of the legal implications that could come up, and also because the City never wants to tip it's hand in the negotiation of a property, even if it is a pretty smooth negotiation. It doesn't want to tip it's hand to the other side.

One other matter I forgot to bring up – a bit of clarification that the Aldermen could help on. As you know we have an active blight program in the City. We've been going after a lot of property owners who haven't been upkeeping their property to the standards and conditions of the rest of the neighborhood. We're trying to protect property values and improve quality of life. One specific situation has come up where there really isn't a clear cut-and-dried answer. There have been complaints in several areas about unimproved building lots. These are lots that may be in residential areas but there are no structures on there. It's not a case where we have dumping going on, these aren't instances where we have trash or debris. That's very clearly under our blight laws, it's actionable. You simply have situations where these building lots are not being cut. There's overgrowth; the grass could be very high, or the woods is filling them in. And they could be located in areas that are otherwise very residential – high residential population. The question to the Board is, would you like the Land Use Department to enforce it's blight laws against these unimproved lots if the grass and the foliage on an improved lot had grown to those proportions, certainly we would be taking action, we would be giving a notice of violation to cut the grass and to trim the trees. But here we're dealing with a property where there never was a building, or there is no building. What's the pleasure of the Board?

President Tripp stated, we can bring it up under New Business if one of the Aldermen so desires.

Alderman Carroll stated, I've tried to get the front of Ansonia Copper & Brass on the blight list. The weeds are this tall. There are 28 units of housing complex at the bottom of the street. There are 58 units right across the street. It's the front yard of both of these properties. Can you have something done about it? There is garbage all over the place. The weeds are this tall. I ask once a month for something to be done and nothing is being done.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I'll talk to the Land Use Department, especially where the Copper and Brass starts to connect with the residential areas. Obviously we have an agreement in place to do demolition, but we have to watch out for...

Alderman Carroll interjected, this is the Liberty Street parcel.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, okay, I'll talk to Land Use about that tomorrow and get back to you.

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*Sheila O'Malley, Economic Development Director*

The Animal Control Facility – I am going to go to BOAT to ask for \$10,000 in additional funds and then will be coming to this Board next month. The low bidder was \$90,000 and we currently have approximately \$80,000.

Jewett Street Demolition – there are additional soil sample tests that we have to do; we believe the demolition will be sometime next week.

Prindle Avenue – I have engineers out doing a survey, the first step before preliminary design. I'll be coming back to the Board to discuss that as well. I want to get that project going and get the engineering done so that puts us in line to receive the funds for the construction of sidewalks.

I'm working on a grant for Fountain Lake which will help to identify and create site pads for Fountain Lake Industrial Park, moving forward next step.

Alderman Carroll stated, I discussed with you that I have the Seymour Land Trust meeting tomorrow. So by the end of this meeting would you please get me that map that I asked for? Also, can you give me an update on the demolition of Ansonia Copper & Brass?

Ms. O'Malley replied, we actually met with one of the owners, the CFO and he gave us an update, he's ready to pull the permits. The Building Department gave him applications, we're going to pull the permits and the demo company will be ready to go in the next few weeks.

Alderman Carroll stated, the map right over there that's in the white, that is no longer what's going to be torn down next, it's going to be on Liberty Street?

Ms. O'Malley stated, it's called the flat wire building; it's near the rod and wire mill. It is on the Liberty Street side of things.

Alderman Carroll stated, the buildings that the roofs are all collapsing, is that where you're talking about?

Ms. O'Malley replied, yes.

Alderman Radin stated, we discussed this, the gas lines. I was told they were supposed to be starting this week to dig up from Division Street to Franklin Street for gas lines to go up to White Street and down Jackson Street. Do you have any update on that? That's where my business is, and a lot of other businesses. We'd like to know what's going on. I need to know when they're going to start. They've been working under the traffic light down on Division Street, which has been a disaster.

Ms. O'Malley stated, yes, and our engineers have been in touch with the gas company. I'll find out for you and can give you a full report.

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*Richard Dziekan, Director of Constituent Services*

We've got the summer concerts started last Wednesday, they'll be going on for the next five Wednesdays. If you haven't seen it, it's a good time down there. Dates are posted all over the City; we've got the signs out there.

The Traveling Market starts tomorrow alternating between Nolan Field and the Hilltop every other week. Hopefully it will be a little better than last year.

Rock the Valley is August 20<sup>th</sup>. We got donations from several businesses in town to help defray the costs, and the fireworks at night too. It should be an awesome time, we have a good venue for musicians there.

The Playground Build will start on the 15<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Janesky and will continue on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. They're doing some prep work right now. If anybody shows up there you're requested to just keep your distance and let them work because they're covered under insurance for their workers.

We had a Chamber of Commerce meeting last Wednesday up at the MPI building which went very well. First they went to numerous businesses in town, we contacted the others, trying to get people to go up there. It went very well.

I continue the day to day operations and constituents I've been dealing with and helping out with their problems. It's going smoothly.

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*Acting Comptroller Rich Bshara*

Fiscal Year 2015-16 has closed. We are now in the process of closing all our systems that we need to, and preparing the data for the auditors. We're also starting to open up Fiscal Year 2016-17. We just started putting in purchase orders, we have a few more departments to put online with that. The processing of checks that we held up for the last two weeks and the writing of purchase orders will be done.

We've met over the last month with Barry Bernarbe discussing the official statement for the bonding that we're planning on doing in September which is for the '13-'14 Capital Improvement Plan. We're still working to finalize the exact number we're going to be using, we're looking to put that one to bed. We also worked with him on the bond rating paperwork.

We continue to provide data to the Finance Committee for the Capital Improvement Plan.

On the computer side of things, the new servers are up and running. We are working on a punch list to adjust them and get them in sync going to Server 12 and along with that Dave Connolly spent a ton of time upgrading all the client PCs up to Windows 10. That was a free upgrade from Microsoft through the end of July. We continue to work with servers and hopefully we will be up and functioning full force within a month. The wifi in City Hall went down at one point, and we've been playing with that on a temporary fix, we currently have it in place. We're working to find out the exact reason why it's going down; there's some kind of glitch in the system. Currently it's up and hopefully we'll have the final fix on that.

We've processed all the payroll updates with the new fiscal year. We had to adjust all the payroll rates so Payroll has been working hard on that. Finance has also helped with Tax and WPCA on the document preparation for the lien sale. There have been several meetings with the Housing Authority on the Olson Drive demolition funding process.

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*Chief Kevin Hale – Ansonia Police Department*

As the Mayor mentioned, we had a promotion last week. I'd like to thank this Board again for its support in getting us to that position, a third Lieutenant. Pat Lynch has been with the department for 26 years, he and I were hired right around the same time. He's going to do an excellent job for us. We're starting to transition already.

It's been a busy summer so far; we have four officers in various stages of training. We did talk about having them come in – they're all on the schedule – I'll try to get them in, maybe one or two at a time.

It was mentioned to me before the meeting, we continue to see the IRS scams. The IRS will not call you on the phone. If they call you it's a scam. Unless you pre-arrange a call with them, they never call. Don't write them a check; hang up the phone. That goes to everybody. Just hang up the phone.

Roadwork has been unbelievable this summer. We had Main Street blocked off, we had Westfield Avenue, which went into Division and Wakelee. The power was cut to the traffic light. Tremont Street. We've had tree services on Beaver and all over the City. Our Officers are stretched to the limit. We have an agreement with Seymour where they'll come in and help us out and we'll go there and help them out. There is no end in sight to be quite honest with you. We're hearing about smaller projects and bigger projects coming along. Wakelee Avenue apparently, the gas company is going through there now. We're doing the best we can. It's a lot of work; there's a lot of construction out there.

Alderman Radin stated, I've had a couple calls with that mess that's down there. There's people coming in from out of town that work on Wakelee Avenue and work in our area, one

woman got lost because there are no detour signs telling people – and you know our section, the streets are all crazy. You can't go down Westfield, because now that's cut off, Division Street is a mess. You get off at the street before where Dargon's was and they don't know where to go. The woman said to me that she ended up in my store where she was supposed to be up near the Hearing Center. She works there. She's not from here she's from Fairfield so she didn't know a thing and she was completely lost. Is there any way we can put some detour signs up.

Chief Hale replied, it's up to the contractor. I don't know that the detour signs will be in Derby. We don't know exactly where they're looking to go on the west side.

Alderman Radin stated, you know the roundabout by the hospital and you go on that road on the other side of the cemetery, they're working on that road too. So if somebody comes off the highway and they try to go that way they're completely lost because they've got that whole road blocked off.

Chief Hale stated, they're getting off at Division Street. We should be able to get them onto Grove and back onto Mary. We can talk to the contractors and see. They should hopefully finish in the fall.

Alderman Kaslaitis stated, in the North End over by Domino's where the traffic light is where we put the No Parking sign, there are still 2-3 cars at a time parking in front of the store.

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*Public Works Director Mike D'Alessio*

We finally started spraying for vegetation on the streets. The west side was getting really bad. We got the chemical, we have our own sprayer so instead of hiring out like we did, Public Works guys got that taken care of. They did most of the west side of town today. In the next two weeks we'll have the whole City done.

We did 10 catch basins this past month, rebuilt them from the ground up. The street sweeper has been out, it's been broken for about two weeks now. It had electrical problems but they resolved the issue.

We have the crew out there ripping up the curbs that were broke through the winter and we're replacing the curbing.

The fuel system is keeping good records of that. The Police Department this month used 2,088 gallons. Public Works used 1,700 gallons, WPCA, Fire Department, 350 gallons, Board of Education 300 gallons – so we know exactly how many gallons are going out and what department. Fuel is down. There's not much going on beside vacations - I have three guys out on vacation this week and one guy hurt. I'm stretched out a little thin, but we're getting everything done.

I've been passing out a few hours overtime trying to get the curbs all taken care of so this vegetation stops. I rented a roadside machine so everybody that sees the roads getting overgrown, can't see around corners, I rented a machine for two weeks. We had some shared services with Derby last night. They had a meeting, shared services between

Ansonia and Derby, trying to get some state funding for equipment. Ultimately we can get together with them and get some equipment and share it - save us a few dollars.

Alderman Radin stated, I was going to mention something about overgrowth on the sidewalks. I was coming down Jackson tonight and there was a lady out there spraying it. I don't think they've done it in our neighborhood.

Mr. D'Alessio stated, they were there today on Jackson Street. It takes a few days before it works.

Alderman Radin continued, on Hull Street where the big white fence is. That bush there is high and you can't see the oncoming traffic.

Mr. D'Alessio will check into it tomorrow.

Alderman Jeanette stated, Sunset Road, that road that goes up the hill, both sides, it's getting really bad, really high grass. The City always maintained that - I don't know if they forgot about it but it's really bad. It hasn't been done all summer, maybe you could just send somebody up there with a lawnmower or weed whackers or something.

Mr. D'Alessio stated, we were out there for about weeks; the machine we had broke. It's a 1982 machine, we tried to use Derby's and Derby's broke. We rented one and hopefully we're getting it next week. For two weeks we'll be just cutting, cutting all the side roads. I'll take a look at it tomorrow.

Alderman Carroll stated, first I'd like to thank you, I think you're doing a fantastic job. I do want to thank you about moving the mulch piles in Gatison Park. It looks really nice. The basketball court – did you repair the basketball hoop?

Mr. D'Alessio stated, we had to order a new one. It's not up yet. Hopefully it will be up this week. If it's in I'll go grab it and we'll help you guys put it up.

Alderman Carroll continued, you know where four corners is – Eagle Hose, SHW and the church – as you're coming down from the YMCA, that island, there's a sign that said "end of work zone" that UI put up when they were clearing trees. Could you have that sign taken down? It's blocking the view – I can't see cars coming toward me.

Mr. D'Alessio stated, I'll take a look at it tomorrow.

Alderman Stowe stated, there's a flyer that was made, the mailers for all the people in town explaining to them what not to put down your sink or toilet so we can prevent the backups – they're very expensive.

Mr. D'Alessio stated, they're going into the WPCA bills that are going out – fliers that remind people what you can put in there and what you can't – wipes, grease, etc. It costs the town a lot of money for repairs and overtime. Hopefully it will help.

### ***Committee Reports***

Finance Committee – Alderman Charles Stowe

**Alderman Stowe MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Carroll. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

The Board of Aldermen will be notified of a special meeting at 7 p.m. July 19 to appoint a building commission.

The Finance Committee has been working on the Capital Plan. We're pushing as hard as we can with people on vacations we're trying to make quorum in order to meet the deadline. There are a lot of things, like the paving list, equipment, vehicles. There are a lot of things in the package and we have to make sure it all works out monetarily. The big thing on the table is the Public Safety Facility.

ARMS Committee – Alderman David Blackwell

In June, ARMS responded to 255 calls for service. Ten of those calls were mutual aid to Derby, 7 to Seymour, 2 to Shelton. We took in three mutual aid calls to the City of Ansonia – two on the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for service while our first ambulance was out; and one on a third call when two of our ambulances were out. Receiving hospitals for patients – Griffin 163, Yale 14, Bridgeport 6, St Vincent's 5, Yale Children's 4, Yale St. Raphael's 5, Milford 1, St. Mary's 1, Waterbury 3. Total revenue collected was \$66,767.65. Chief Heon also has some points he'd like to add to this report.

Chief Heon stated, we were unable to make a quorum for our monthly meeting; we're going to try and meet next Monday.

Every month we give the totals of how much we bring in. Last fiscal year we budgeted to bring in \$676,000 and we actually brought in \$761,481.50 – a difference of \$94,481.50 more. This goes to show the work that our guys are doing and our billing company is doing. Year over year increases. The guys are out there doing their jobs.

We have some ongoing HVAC issues; we had the Fire Department there last week. We have mold growing again; it is very moist/humid in the building. We're trying to get these people back in there to fix the mess that they made after all that work.

President Tripp stated, I thought we had all of these problems fixed already. Who was the last contractor? This is the third iteration – it was built faulty and then somebody fixed it once and that was supposed to be the final fix. I remember the Mayor adding to conversation, this is it, this will fix it. And the problem is still not correct. You might want to check and see if we have any recourse with the last contractor.

Chief Heon stated, we hired a professional engineer through this whole process who oversaw the whole thing. They keep changing stuff but it's still not working out. I wanted you guys to be aware of that. It's been the same contractor through the whole process, and the same engineer. We're not HVAC experts.

We are having some tech/IT issues. We still don't have a server or a backup system and we still don't have a phone system. That stuff was in the Capital Plan.

We're dealing with what we consider a staffing crisis – we lost about 13 employees in the last month and a half and we have a full-time position open. I'll be going to the Salary Committee.

I've been working with Rick Dziekan regarding an EMS plan for the City. The State is requiring some new stuff so I need to know who is in charge of what committee now because I believe Matt was in charge of the Ordinance and I have to propose an ordinance or two. It may have to be soon because there are deadlines to meet with the State.

President Tripp stated, for that one specific situation, Alderman Carroll is in charge of the Ordinance Committee now. The Aldermanic Subcommittee list will be redone when the two new Aldermen are sworn in.

Chief Heon continued, for the new ambulance we are finalizing the bid spec and intend to go out to bid asap and hopefully bring that back for bid award next month.

We completed our Dispatcher Center move from Prospect to St. Mary's hospital. We were able to obtain some of their furniture and stuff; we're trying to build a little place down at ARMS and improve what we had, and tie in with the Police Department so we can be a backup center. There is no backup center in town right now so if they had to evacuate the Police Department we really don't have anywhere to go except for maybe Derby.

#### WPCA Committee – Alderman Charles Stowe

At the WPCA we actually went along with the City's plan for the tax lien sale. I would be curious when the actual bids are going to happen and how that's going to be resolved.

Ms. O'Malley stated, the Valley Independent Sentinel has it out on their website, but the proposals are due back 2 p.m. August 1<sup>st</sup>. The bids will be opened, and I don't know if a decision will be made.

Alderman Stowe asked, who will be present at the bid opening?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, anyone can be present but the Administration will be here, Sheila and I will be there. Any Alderman is invited to attend; they're public so any member of the public can be there as well. The Aldermen will select the most qualified bidder at the next Board of Aldermen meeting following the bid opening.

Ms. O'Malley stated, in this case it won't be the low bid, it will be the high bid.

#### Fire Committee – Alderman Joseph Jeanette

There was a total of 41 calls for the month of June:  
Motor Vehicle Accident assists – 13  
CO investigations – 1  
Smoke/Odor investigations – 4

Trash fire – 2  
Grass/brush - 3  
Structure – 2  
Natural/Propane gas leak – 2  
False alarms 4  
Electrical hazard – 5  
Public Service/Good intent – 5

I want to say what a good job the Fire Department did up here on Franklin Street. They did an awesome job up there retaining that fire. It could have been a lot worse. It could have been a major problem up there. They responded quick and risked their lives doing it. My hat goes off to them.

Ordinance Committee – Alderman Randolph Carroll

I will be calling a meeting. The sidewalk reimbursement ordinance needs to be changed. I will put Jared on the agenda.

Housing Committee – Alderman Joan Radin

This month's meeting was canceled because Bob had surgery. He told me the bids are in. They will be going out for demolition probably the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. We're calling another meeting to be held at Woodlawn at the end of the month. We'll be getting the information at that time.

Alderman Carroll stated, the Housing Authority deals with a lot of absentee landlords throughout the City. I made them a copy of the Ansonia Anti-Blight Regulations so they have a copy. I would also like to thank them - they gave a very nice donation of about 15 antique framed photographs of Ansonia to the Ansonia Historical Commission.

Alderman Henri stated, to the members of the Housing Commission, if you could bring up or have a discussion on the Ansonia Fire Department is up there like two times a week. I don't know why, but if there's some root cause, something that could be addressed to cut back on those numbers, that would be helpful.

Alderman Radin stated, I've requested that and I guess it's the alarms – and people burning things on the stove. They've been working on it for quite a while, but just haven't gotten to the right place yet. They do know about it and are very aware of what's going on.

Alderman Carroll added, they're adjusting the alarms because they were very sensitive. Even if someone was smoking inside the alarms went off.

**Alderman Radin MOVED to accept all Committee Reports; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

***Municipal Reports***

Alderman Carroll MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

a. **Board of Apportionment & Taxation Recommendations from the meeting of July 5, 2016**

b. **Land Use Department Report**

FY 16-17

**Increase 2-001-0310-11-010-0023 Town Clerk Records SB410 LOCIP \$17,500**

**Increase 1-001-0802-11-461-0002 Town Clerk Records SB410 LOCIP \$17,500**

**Journal Entry To:**

**Debit L-001-0202-00-007-0001 SB410 LOCIP/Town Clerk Records \$17,500**

**Credit 2-001-0310-11-010-0023 Town Clerk Records SB410 LOCIP \$17,500**

LATE COMMUNICATION MOTION #1

FY 15-16

**Transfer from 1-001-0201-11-411-0006 Oil \$13,136**

**Transfer to 1-001-0555-13-246-0001 Public Works Buy Back Sick Pay \$13,136**

LATE COMMUNICATION MOTION #2

FY 16-17

**Increase 2-001-0305-17-010-1159 Fountain Lake 2 \$750,000**

**Increase 1-001-0850-11-800-1159 Fountain Lake 2 \$750,000**

INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1-UU IT

From 1-001-0403-11-440-0001 Maintenance Contracts \$2,000

From 1-001-0403-11-440-0002 Computer System \$3,000

From 1-001-0403-11-440-0003 Computer Service \$3,000

To 1-001-0403-11-111-0004 IT Manager \$5,000

To 1-001-0403-11-411-0002 Telephones \$3,000

1-VVDebt Services & Insurance

From 1-001-0215-11-211-0001 Medical-ABC \$2,000

To 1-001-0215-11-211-0002 Employee Opt Out \$2,000

1-WW Nature Center

From 1-001-0214-17-250-0001 Auto Expense \$283  
To 1-001-0214-17-640-0001 Printing Expense \$163  
To 1-001-0214-17-611-0001 Office Supplies \$120

1-XXFire

From 1-001-0401-12-311-0001 Firemen Physicals \$100  
To 1-001-0401-12-111-0011 AFD Training \$100

1-YYSenior Center

From 1-001-0302-17-440-0002 Repairs \$100  
To 1-001-0302-17-440-0001 Equipment Maint \$40  
To 1-001-0302-17-860-0002 Food Supplies \$60

1-ZZLand Use

From 1-001-0212-11-840-0001 DEP Fees \$200  
To 1-001-0212-11-461-0001 Office Supplies \$200

1-AAA Recreation

From 1-001-0701-17-880-0001 Basketball \$685  
From 1-001-0701-17-880-0025 Girls Softball \$235  
To 1-001-0701-17-880-0010 Soccer \$920

1-BBB Library

From 1-001-0601-17-412-0002 HVAC Maint/Repair \$1,000  
To 1-001-0601-17-430-0001 Building \$1,000

1-CCC ARMS

From 1-001-0801-12-250-0004 EMS Training \$6,944  
From 1-001-0801-12-311-0002 Personnel/Membership \$723  
From 1-001-0801-12-461-0012 EMS Equipment \$506  
From 1-001-0801-12-440-0009 Equipment Maint/Texting \$1,946  
To 1-001-0801-12-461-0007 General Equipment \$7,667  
To 1-001-0801-12-461-0002 Office Equipment \$2,452

1-DDD Tax

From 1-001-0420-11-521-0001 Tax Travel \$1,113  
From 1-001-0420-11-560-0001 DMV Ongoing Expense \$4,112  
From 1-001-0420-11-620-0001 Dues/Fees/Meetings \$605  
From 1-001-0420-11-241-0001 Education \$1,232  
To 1-001-0420-11-870-0001 Refunds \$300  
To 1-001-0420-11-613-0001 Tax Bills Printing \$6,762

1-EEE Police

From 1-001-0301-12-614-0004 Protective Equipment \$695  
To 1-001-0301-12-243-0002 Clothing/Reg,Det,Sgt \$695

1-FFF Police

From 1-001-0301-12-433-0001 Vehicle Accident \$306  
To 1-001-0301-12-434-0001 Police Car Repair \$306

1-GGG Police

From 1-001-0301-12-434-0002 Portable Radios \$500  
From 1-001-0301-12-461-0001 Furniture \$600  
To 1-001-0301-12-248-0001 Dept Promotional Testing \$1,100

1-HHH City Government

From 1-001-0201-11-411-0006 Oil \$10,000  
To 1-001-0201-11-580-0001 Postage All City Offices \$10,000

1-III IT

From 1-001-0403-11-440-0003 Computer Service \$750  
To 1-001-0403-11-411-0001 Telephones \$750

1-JJJ Fire Marshall

From 1-001-400-12-243-0001 Fire Marshall Clothing \$1.00  
To 1-001-0400-12-111-0007 Deputy Fire Marshall \$1.00

1-KKK Fire

From 1-001-0401-12-311-0001 Firemen Physicals \$1.00  
To 1-001-0401-12-111-0008 Fire Alarm Superintendent \$1.00

1-LLL ARMS

From 1-001-0801-12-460-0002 EMS Supplies \$840  
From 1-001-0801-12-860-0001 Collection Fees \$1,120  
To 1-001-0801-12-461-0007 General Equipment \$1,960

1-MMM Town Clerk

From 1-001-0802-11-591-0003 Vital Statistics Reports \$300  
From 1-001-0802-11-591-0006 Vital Statistics Other Towns \$550  
From 1-001-0802-11-613-0001 Absentee Ballots Printing \$598  
From 1-001-0802-11-611-0001 Copier Suppliers \$3,001  
To 1-001-0802-11-880-0004 Postage Lease \$137  
To 1-001-0802-11-611-0002 Binders \$750  
To 1-001-0802-11-591-0011 Microfilming Land Records \$1,500  
To 1-001-0802-11-241-0001 Education Expenses \$297  
To 1-001-0802-11-440-0001 Office Equipment/Maintenance \$1,800

1-NNN Fire

From 1-001-0401-12-440-0004 Preventative Maintenance \$1,000  
From 1-001-0401-12-360-0004 Pump Testing \$89  
From 1-001-0401-12-360-0001 Ladder Testing \$750  
From 1-001-0401-12-360-0005 Meter Testing \$840  
From 1-001-0401-12-611-0004 General Fire Houses \$1,400

From 1-001-0401-12-617-0001 Rescue Maintenance & Supply \$900  
To 1-001-0401-12-440-0005 Radio Maintenance & Repair \$1,000  
To 1-001-0401-12-440-0006 Repair/Maint Scott Air Pack \$89  
To 1-001-0401-12-461-0002 New Equipment \$3,890

1-PPP Public Works (Late)

From 1-001-0555-13-120-0001 Overtime \$5,650  
From 1-001-0555-13-110-0001 Wages \$9,250  
From 1-001-0555-13-111-0001 Wages Seasonal \$1,692  
From 1-001-0555-13-120-0001 Overtime \$2,492  
To 1-001-0555-13-220-0001 Pension \$5,650  
To 1-001-0555-13-246-0001 Buy Back Sick Pay \$13,434

1-QQQ City Government (Late)

From 1-001-0201-11-411-0006 Oil \$12,500  
To 1-001-0201-11-221-0001 Pension Fund \$12,500

1-RRR Police (Late)

From 1-001-0301-12-110-0012 Regular Patrolmen Salary \$4,500  
To 1-001-0301-12-223-0001 MERF \$4,500

1-SSS City Government (Late)

From 1-001-0201-11-130-0009 Charter Revision Secretary \$171  
To 1-001-0201-11-110-0003 Grant Writer \$21  
To 1-001-0201-11-130-0001 BOA Secretary \$150

1-TTT Engineering (Late)

From 1-001-0211-11-110-0002 City Engineer Assistant \$1.00  
To 1-001-0211-11-110-0001 City Engineer Salary \$1.00

1-UUU Mayor's Office (Late)

From 1-001-0216-11-110-0006 Dir of Constituent Services \$150  
To 1-001-0216-11-110-0001 Mayor's Salary \$150

1-VVV Finance (Late)

From 1-001-0402-11-110-0001 Comptroller \$166  
To 1-001-0402-11-111-0001 City Treasurer \$166

1-XXX Town & City Clerk (Late)

From 1-001-0802-11-440-0001 Office Equipment/Maintenance \$1,000  
To 1-001-0802-11-110-0001 Town & City Clerk \$1,000

**Alderman DeLibero MOVED to accept the Comptroller Approvals and Land Use Department Reports; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

***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 \$2,191.67 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

***Accidents and Claims***

None presented.

***Communications***

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Communication #1

From: Marsha Benno, Assessor

Re: 2017 Revaluations Bids and Request for Approval

Ms. Benno explained, we had a bid put out for Revaluation for 2017 Grand List. We had four responses and I'm requesting that we go with the Municipal Valuation Services, LLC. They are Connecticut based and licensed, as well as being the lowest bidder. They are the only Connecticut based company they would have more of a grasp of what is going on in Connecticut and the market. They're a smaller firm and take on less clients so that they can pay more attention to each municipality during their revaluation.

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

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Communication #2

From: Residents of Hughes Circle

Re: Making Hughes Circle a City Street

**Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to TABLE for further review; SECONDED by Alderman Carroll.**

An unidentified speaker from the audience, a resident of Hughes Circle, requested that when the Board meets again to discuss this issue the residents would like to bring to the Board all of the legalities of making Hughes Circle a City street.

President Tripp explained to her that Corporation Counsel Marini needs to review and explain the legalities to the Aldermen. There was not enough information to make a decision tonight.

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

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Communication #3

From: Board of Police Commissioners

Re: Recommendation to accept the bid from Auto Repairs Unlimited

**Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to accept the bid from Auto Repairs Unlimited;**

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

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Communication #4

From: Mr. Charles Fort

Re: 9 Elm Street Sidewalk

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to forward Communication #4 to the Ordinance Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

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Late Communication #1

From: Jackie Eaton

Re: Free Summer Meals for Children Under 18

**Alderman DeLibero MOVED to refer Late Communication #1 to the Board of Education; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

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Late Communication #2

From: Corporation Counsel Marini

Re: Construction Agreement for New Playground at the Ansonia Nature Center

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Janeski, thanking him very much for his outrageously generous donation of this playground; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

### ***Resignations***

President Tripp read the three resignations aloud.

**Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to accept the following resignations:**

**Ashley Rogers from the Board of Aldermen**

**Matthew Edo from the Board of Aldermen**

**Michael Cratty from the Board of Recreation**

**And send them letters of thanks for their service to the City of Ansonia; SECONDED by Alderman Carroll. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

### ***Appointments***

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to appoint Pantelis (Peter) Eftymiou (U) of 133 Cliff Street; term to expire 7-12-2019; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

***Resolutions***

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Resolution #1

Introduced by All Aldermen of All Wards

Re: Amendment to the City of Ansonia Retirement Plan

**Alderman Carroll MOVED TO ADOPT Amended Resolution #1; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen intends to modify and update the Retirement Plan of the City of Ansonia and transition to a new plan; and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Board voted unanimously on November 16, 2015 to increase employee contributions under the plan to 4%; and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Board has advocated for the option of allowing Retirement Plan members a limited-time opportunity to withdraw funds from the plan prior to retirement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CHAPTER 21A OF THE CODE ORDINANCES IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Be it resolved that Section IV, Article 21A-17 is amended as follows:

The annual retirement benefit of a member who retires on an earlier retirement date and who elects to have retirement benefits commence on his normal retirement date shall be computed in accordance with section 21A-16 based on his credited service to the earlier retirement date. In the event a member elects to have retirement benefit payments commence prior to his normal retirement date, such retirement benefit shall be computed as though it were to have commenced on his normal retirement date, but shall be reduced, however, by one-half percent for each month by which such member's earlier retirement date precedes his normal retirement date. **The Retirement Board shall have the power to offer members the ability to withdraw funds prior to retirement provided that the withdrawal consists only of: a) the member's contribution; b) the interest accrued on the member's contribution; and c) any additional funds representing a member's vested interest in the plan.**

**And further be it resolved** that the following Section VI Article 21A-34 is amended as follows:

**Members – The annual contribution for members active in the plan on and after August 1, 2016 shall be increased and gradually phased in to four percent of his**

**compensation for each plan year as follows: the employee contribution will be increased one-half percent to two and one-half percent effective October 15, 2016 for that plan year, and the contribution will be increased one-half percent each succeeding plan year until the employee contribution reaches four percent effective October 15, 2019.**

### ***New Business***

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, a Blight Ordinance clarification of whether or not the Land Use Department should be taking action against building lots. To be clear, these are lots where there is no structure, there is no house, there is no apartment. It's just empty land that could be built on in the future. In many cases these lots are in the middle of residential neighborhoods. Even Main Street, there are several building lots in the area that could be improved but are not. The question is a matter of interpretation for the Board – should we be taking action under the Blight Ordinance against those lots when they become overgrown. If they become receptacles for debris, trash, then the Blight Department will certainly take action, as dumping should not be going on in lots. That is certainly a detriment to the surrounding area. But overgrowth is simply a natural part of any lot that has grass or shrubs or trees. Should action be taken if residents are calling and complaining about a lot becoming overgrown in a residential neighborhood or commercial area? It's a question of interpretation for the Board and really just a policy question.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'm an excavating contractor and have been working outside almost my entire life,

**Alderman Stowe MOVED to advise the Land Use Department that if there is a property that is a vacant lot and it's natural growth with no debris, then that is not a blight situation; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell.**

Alderman Stowe stated, as long as the shoulder of the curb of the road, if it's 10 feet, 15 feet, is maintained and cleaned it's really not any of our business to be landscapers for the entire City of Ansonia.

Alderman Henri asked, does the Board of Aldermen have a Blight Committee that can get together and discuss this? I'd like to see some examples of what we're talking about.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, we can certainly refer it to the Blight Committee to take a look at it. We want to apply the law as fairly as possible, so we're not picking and choosing. That is the request for guidance, and the Committee can certainly help with that.

**Alderman Stowe RESCINDED HIS MOTION.**

Alderman Stowe stated, when the agenda is set for that meeting, I would like somewhere on that agenda to include, what do we do about natural growth, because that's what you're talking about here. You're not talking about somebody's couch that was thrown over a bank or a set of furniture or a garbage bag or cans. We're talking about natural growth which is over running, which is what it's supposed to do.

Alderman Radin stated, if you see places like that, the people maybe should just notify that they would like to see it cleaned up and keep it in clean condition, I would like to see them keep it natural but so that it at least looks nice for the neighborhood.

Alderman Carroll asked, do we have a Blight Committee?

President Tripp stated, yes, there is a Committee that deals with that. I actually chaired it about four years ago. I believe it is active; I don't have the Committee assignment list in front of me tonight. As we go into Executive Session I can run out to the truck and grab it.

### ***Old Business***

#### ***Executive Session***

**Dave Blackwell, Mr. Kendzierski, and later D'Alessio, Mayor, Sheila**

**At approximately 8:37 p.m., Alderman DeLibero MOVED to enter Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss the following:**

- 1. Ansonia v. Washington Management, LLC**
- 2. Ansonia v. Winter Bros.**
- 3. ATP/Palmer Buildings – re: Purchase and Sale Agreement**
- 4. Ansonia v. 7 Lester Street – blight matter**
- 5. SHW Property – re: Potential acquisition**
- 6. Ansonia v. 100 Main Street – blight matter**
- 7. Ansonia v. 49 Myrtle Avenue – blight matter**
- 8. Shortell Drive; re Transfer of Property**

**The Mayor, Corporation Counsel, and Economic Development Director were invited to remain during the session, and Blight Enforcement Officer Blackwell, Mr. Kendzierski and Public Works Director D'Alessio were invited in the Chambers during their items on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

#### ***Return to Regular Session***

**At approximately 9:48 p.m., Alderman DeLibero MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

#### ***Items from Executive Session***

- 1. Ansonia v. Washington Management, LLC - No action**
- 2. Ansonia v. Winters Bros.**

**Alderman Delibero MOVED to refer the matter of Ansonia v. Winters Bros. to Corporation Counsel Marini; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

3. **ATP/Palmer Buildings – re: Purchase and Sale Agreement - No action**
4. **Ansonia v. 7 Lester Street – blight matter**

**Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to release the blight lien; SECONDED by Alderman Delibero. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 9 Yes, 1 No (Stowe).**

5. **SHW Property – re: Potential acquisition - No action**
6. **Ansonia v. 100 Main Street – blight matter**

**Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to release the lien and have the owners of 100 Main Street meet with the Blight Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

7. **Ansonia v. 49 Myrtle Avenue – blight matter - No action**
8. **Shortell Drive; re Transfer of Property**

**Alderman Carroll MOVED to refer the matter of Shortell Drive Transfer of Property to Planning and Zoning; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.**

President Tripp announced the Blight Committee is chaired by Alderman Henri and the appointees are Aldermen Carroll, Cassetti, Kaslaitis, and Radin.

Alderman Carroll requested that President Tripp appoint another member to the Ordinance Committee as he will be calling a meeting to discuss ARMS and the sidewalks.

President Tripp stated, I would like to wait until the two new Aldermen are appointed.

***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen