

SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 20, 2011
5:00 PM
Erlingheuser Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 4:58 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

All those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

At the request of the Chairman, the Recording Secretary called the roll. The following Commissioners were present.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico	X		
Commissioner Ann Pitney	X		
Commissioner David Casseti	X		
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		

Also in attendance:

Chief Kevin J. Hale

Recording Secretary recorded five Commissioners present at the time of the roll call. The Chairman declared a quorum and proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.

At this time Chairman asked for a motion to move up number eight (Meet new police candidate) on the agenda at this time. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to move up number eight (Meet new police candidate) on the agenda. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent

Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Casseti			X			
Bob Goldson	X		X			
Frank Tyszka			X			

At this time Chief Hale explained to the Board that there were 2 openings in the rank of Patrol officer and there were 600 applicants for the two positions. That number has dwindled down considerably. He also stated that Commissioners Amico and Commissioner Goldson and himself sat on a panel and did interviews and the young man that he is going to introduce tonight has risen through the top through the entire process. Chief Hale also mentioned that the candidate also met with the Mayor and he (Chief Hale) would like to present him to the Board of Aldermen at their August meeting to formally hire him and put him through the police academy. Chief Hale introduced to the members of the Board Mr. John Pierre Lassard, currently from Farmington, CT. He is also referred to as JP. Chief Hale explained that JP is two semesters shy of a bachelor's degree and most importantly, he has finished his second tour of duty in Afghanistan in the United States Army, and we thank him for his service. Chief Hale asked for the Boards approval to forward him to the Mayor for nomination by the Board of Aldermen.

Commissioner Pitney asked JP that she understood that he lives in Farmington and asked if he planned on moving down this why. JP responded that he has thought about the possibility of moving to the Cheshire area but at this time no, but he has considered it.

Chief Hale asked JP what his final rank was in the army. JP responded that he was an E5 Sergeant and an E6 Quad Leader. JP gave a brief explanation of his duty's while in the Army. Commissioner Tyszka asked if JP was done with the Army. JP responded yes. Commissioner Tyszka and the members of the Board applauded and thanked JP for his service.

Commissioner Pitney made a motion to accept JP as a candidate for the position that is available and to present him to the Board of Aldermen. Commissioner Casseti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Casseti			X			
Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka		X	X			

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman asked if there was anyone present to speak during the public session. There were none.

PROPOSED ALDERMANIC RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Pitney addressed the President of the Board of Aldermen Mr. Blume that she wanted to make a few comments in regards to the resolutions that were presented to the Board at the July regular meeting. Commissioner Pitney expressed her concerns that the amount for the rewards are to high. She stated that the police have increased patrol in the area and also feels that residents need to get involved in neighborhood watch patrol. Commissioner Pitney stated that people need to be more alert.

Aldermen Blume agreed and stated that a neighborhood watch is a good idea and that the Board of Aldermen should help. He also stated that there is no budget for these funds but the money can be garnish if needed. Commissioner Cassetti asked in the Board of Aldermen has the authority to fund the resolutions and Mr. Blume replied yes. Commissioner Tyszka recommended that we look into other towns to see how they handle these types of rewards. Chairman recommended that two people from the Board of Police Commissioners and two members of the Board of Aldermen be appointed to a subcommittee in order to research and correct some of the concerns the Board members have on the resolutions. Chairman also stated that he has called a few near by police departments regarding rewards and he stated that one particular department issues awards and not rewards. Chairman also expressed that the Ansonia Police Department is doing a good job and these investigations take time and he really doesn't want things to interfere with the police investigations

Commissioner Pitney asked Chief Hale if the department has any policies regarding vandalism. Chief Hale responded no because the process is dealt through the court system and the police department doesn't get involved.

Commissioner Goldson expressed his interest in being part of the subcommittee. Commissioner Tyszka also expressed his interest on being part of the subcommittee. Commissioner Pitney made a motion to appoint Commissioner Goldson and Commissioner Tyszka to represent the Police Commissioners as subcommittee members. Commissioner Cassetti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti		X	X			
Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka			X			

Aldermen Blume stated that he will be appointing two members of the Board of Aldermen.

Commissioner Pitney made a motion for the subcommittee to review all three resolutions and return with their recommendations. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka		X	X			

Aldermen Gene Sharkey addressed the Board and stated that another thing to look at is people don't want to come forward, and asked that the subcommittee also look into putting together a tip line. Currently the Ansonia Police Department has a drug hotline, but a tip line can be strictly for these types of crimes. Chief Hale noted that West Haven as a texting line which could also be another option.

Chief Hale also expressed his concerns as far as the wording in the resolution, for example the arrest and conviction. He stated that the definitions for this would need to be defined because there are some cases where the court system will nolle a charge and that term basically mean that you were not charged with the crime. And if the town says to someone that came forward with information to receive the reward and says well the case was nolle, there will be more of a chance that people will no longer come forward. Chief Hale also asked how far back with the town go as far as cases that are unsolved. He mentioned two unsolved murders from two and three years ago. As far as the vandalism, is the City taking on the responsibility for private property damage? Chief Hale said these are questions that need to be clarified. Chief Hale stated that he feels that the resolutions need guidelines.

PROPOSED ALDERMANIC ORDINANCES:

A. **Riverwalk Guidelines- Commissioner** Pitney asked Aldermen Blume if once the rules are implemented, does the Board of Aldermen want the police department to make extra rounds. Aldermen Blume responded yes. Commissioner Pitney asked Attorney Blake that the guidelines asked that protective gear be worn, and would the City be held liable for injuries. Attorney Blake stated that the town does have liability insurance and if there is a defect then the town would be responsible. Commissioner Pitney asked Chief Hale if it should be mandatory that people wear protective gear. Chief Hale stated that for that section it should say protective gear, including helmets should be worn when mandated by law.

Aldermen Sharkey expressed that he walks the riverwalk very frequently and he knows that the issue of banning dogs then allowing them back then allowing then banning them again has been a big issue. Aldermen Jerome Fainer stated that he met with Mayor Staffieri of the Town of Derby and he recommended that the rules note “NO ANIMALS”. Chief Hale mentioned that the section which notes motorized vehicles, a section should be added to say emergency and authorized vehicles.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the revisions made to the riverwalk guidelines. Commissioner Cassetti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti		X	X			
Bob Goldson	X		X			
Frank Tyszka			X			

B. **Graffiti Ordinance-** Chief Hale stated that he spoke with attorney Blake regarding this and he expressed his concerns regarding the section under penalties. Chief Hale stated that the City does not have the authority to impose jail time. This is done through the court system and Legislature. Also Chief Hale stated the City should not be the one to ask for restitution for private property.

Aldermen Blume stated that he will appoint two Board of Aldermen to work with Chief Hale and Attorney Blake to rewrite the Graffiti Ordinance.

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion for Aldermen Blume to appoint two members of the Board of Aldermen to work with Chief Hale and Attorney Blake to rewrite the Graffiti Guidelines. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			
Frank Tyszka			X			

DISCUSSION OF STREET FOOD VENDORS:

Chief Hale stated that the department receives half a dozen phone calls a month on people requesting to sell food on city street and city sidewalks. Chief Hale is opposed to the idea because he feels that it will create traffic hazards. Attorney Blake asked if these people would be taxed because that may live in New Haven can come here to sell yet its taking business away from tax paying restaurant owners.

Aldermen Sharkey also mentioned the heritage festival that is done every year, has people who pay for a spot to sell food and the ones that don't pay need to be prohibited.

Aldermen Duffus asked if there is an area that can be designated. Chief Hale stated that if we designated an area then it would defeat our own purpose.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to prohibit food vendors on City streets and sidewalks and for the Chief to meet with Corporation Counsel regarding the wording of the prohibition.

Commissioner Cassetti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti		X	X			
Bob Goldson	X		X			
Frank Tyszka			X			

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss grievance #2011-2, and that only the Board members and Chief Hale be present. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti			X			

Bob Goldson	X		X			
Frank Tyszka		X	X			

The Board went into executive session at 5:52 PM.

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Casseti			X			
Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka	X		X			

The Board returned to regular session at 6:13 PM.

Commissioner Casseti made a motion to deny grievance 2011-2. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Casseti	X		X			
Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka		X	X			

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Casseti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Casseti		X	X			

Bob Goldson			X			
Frank Tyszka	X		X			

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lester
Recording Secretary
Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority