



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
STREET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON CT

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Alderman McPherson called the July 1, 2025 Street Committee Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Shelton City Hall. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PRESENT

Alderman McPherson, Chairman – Present
Alderman Durante - Absent
Alderman Simonetti – Present

Also in Attendance:

Brian Roach, Superintendent of Highways & Bridges – Present
Rimas Balsys, City Engineer – Absent

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members from the public present to speak.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 REGULAR STREET COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 3, 2025

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to waive the reading and approve the Regular Street Committee Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2025.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

(Please visit www.cityofshelton.org to view minutes)

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 SAFETY GRID & SIGNAGE IN FRONT OF ECHO HOSE FIRE HOUSE ON CORAM AVENUE

Michael Plavcan, Assistant Chief
Kevin Hazlett, Firefighter

Alderman McPherson: I spoke to these gentlemen (Assistant Chief Michael Plavcan and Kevin Haslett) and Chief Jones at the Flag Day Picnic. I happened to be in Stratford about a week before and had noticed in front of their EMS Headquarters, in the Fire Headquarters on Main Street, of a grid pattern. In digging into it, it was done for a couple of reasons and Mayor Hoydick's office had a lot to do with it. Part of it is there is a bike lane there, but the other part in talking to a couple of people is that when traffic backs up, they stop in front of the apron and they block the access to the fire apparatus to come in and out. I came up with the idea of having that same type of grid pattern installed in front of Company 1 because we do get a lot of backups and they back right up to almost Fairmont Place and the access in and out is impeded. The other reason, also, is the safety concerns. The Assistant Chief was actually hit by a vehicle.

Michael Plavcan: It was actually in 2014. I suffered a concussion and was out of work for quite a while. The driver was impaired on top of it.

Alderman McPherson: Echo is unique compared to the other companies. The other companies have a parking lot or they can drive the vehicle around and drive into their bay. Echo does not have that. We have to pull off into the road and then back up and then there are issues with the traffic and people flying. This is why I approached these gentlemen at the Flag Day picnic and spoke about the idea. They have sent a letter into the record endorsing my proposal. Chief Jones has also endorsed the proposal and I believe your company commissioner also has endorsed the proposal.

I spoke with Deputy Chief Stratton yesterday and Chief Sequeira this afternoon about it. I sent him a formal request which I will read into the record. You gentlemen can add in anything you wish.

Addressed to Deputy Chief Kevin Stratton from myself, Vice President of the Board of Aldermen dated 6/30/2025 as follows:

I am requesting that a grid pattern similar to the one in front of the Stratford Fire and EMS be painted on Coram Avenue in front of Echo Hose Fire House. Putting the grid pattern there would improve the ability of the firemen and apparatus to get in and out of the station, especially when traffic is backed up on Coram Avenue with vehicles blocking the apron. Having this grid along with additional signage my Street Committee will be requesting, will also improve safety for the firefighters, especially since one was hit by a vehicle. Any assistance you can provide in getting the grid pattern there would be greatly appreciated by the fire fighters and myself. My proposals have been endorsed by Chief Jones and Deputy Chief Mike Plavcan.

Again, I spoke with Chief Sequeira also and requested that they attach this to their request to the State DOT and to copy Senator Perillo who I have spoke with on this also.



Echo Hose, Hook & Ladder Co.

No. 1, Inc.

P.O. Box 204

Shelton, Conn 06484

June 11, 2025

Board of Aldermen
54 Hill St
Shelton, CT 06484

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing on behalf of the Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. 1 to formally request the installation of a traffic control signal in front of our firehouse located on Coram Avenue. As the busiest fire company serving the City of Shelton, our station is a critical emergency response hub, and ensuring our personnel's and the public's safety is paramount.

High traffic volume, combined with instances of distracted driving, presents significant safety risks for our emergency responders. We routinely experience vehicles failing to yield when fire apparatus are exiting or backing into the station, creating dangerous situations that could hinder response times in emergencies. To effectively protect our firefighters and the community and responsibly manage taxpayer resources, we believe it is essential to implement stronger traffic control measures in this area.

The installation of a traffic control signal would provide a clear, enforceable means to stop traffic when our emergency vehicles are responding to or returning from incidents. This action would greatly reduce the risk of accidents and enhance the overall safety of both our personnel and the public, allowing us to focus on our critical mission without the constant threat of being struck by vehicles.

We have extensive security camera footage that documents several near misses and highlights the urgent need for improved traffic control. Tragically, our concern was underscored when one of our firefighters was struck by a vehicle while managing traffic in front of the firehouse, resulting in a concussion. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers we face daily.

We are eager to discuss this matter further and are willing to attend Street Committee meetings to advocate for the safety enhancements that this installation would provide. Thank you for your attention to this pressing safety issue. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Joseph Pelaggi
Secretary
Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. 1

Gentlemen, I will give the floor to you to add anything that you think would help to get this process going.

Michael Plavcan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know you and the committee get a lot of requests for street items. I appreciate you allow us to speak quickly. As you mentioned, that is a great start in making our firefighters more safe and protecting our apparatus. We had signs previously and unfortunately, we had a couple of rollovers in front of the firehouse and they took the signs down. The signs were unrepairable. I think we can all agree that everybody is more distracted now driving than ever before. It was a great idea, a move in the right direction to try some things. We had to do something. We couldn't just keep going at the pace we were going. With a new firehouse probably further down the road now, we need to make it safe now and not wait. Ultimately, the best solution would be a traffic light. I know it could be a tall task, but I feel with everybody's support we could at least explore the idea and just see where it goes. If not, then your proposal with the signage and the painting is definitely a good short term solution. My main concern is the light, and also, I believe painting of the box, as an enforceable means to stop traffic. The Police Department has the ability to enforce that, I believe. That is definitely a good short term solution. Our lack of parking lot, as you mentioned, is another big hinderance. The individual across the street – we try to play nice with him. He has a lot of vehicles. It is his property, we understand that, but the trucks are 40 plus feet long now and we have a City firehouse, not a rural type firehouse, and it is tough to get in and out of there. Access does get impeded at times. We have had cars purposely block up going to calls on the highway where time could have made a difference. We have a lot of documentation via video. We updated our surveillance, which includes outside the firehouse, not just for this reason, but to protect the guys, our assets, the City's assets. Any support you can offer, any recommendations, we are willing to work with you guys, attend meetings. We would have had more guys here, but we were just on Route 8 twice in a row for calls. Sometimes it is difficult. Again, I appreciate you taking the time to at least address this and talk about it and to get the conversation going.

Alderman McPherson: My goal is, and I know we share the goal, is to get that going and then at some point the Traffic Division through the Police Chief would have to take a look at where to put a light there, we would have to get our representatives and senator involved and see if we can get a meeting with the DOT. It is their road, they control it. We just have to have the unique circumstance of a fire station right there. Years ago, that was not a State road. The State road actually began on Perry Avenue, but in the late 90's there was swap that was done. From Coram up and all the way now it is 108.

Michael Plavcan: In the past we have talked with DOT off the record when they were painting lines, etc. They did mention the traffic signal is pretty close to Center and not Coram, but I used to be a firefighter in Milford before going to Norwalk, and Milford has lights 100 feet apart. They are very close. The other firehouses have this. It does not have to be a traffic light, it could be a flashing signal we would operate.

Brian Roach: That was my question, something you could operate.

Alderman McPherson: Even if it was a flashing light that could turn red when the alarm goes off, you could hit a button and make it red and stop the traffic.

Kevin Hazlett: They don't even acknowledge that we are backing in. They try to go around us. We are going to get hit.

Alderman Simonetti: We are having the same problem with the buses, people passing buses. We are putting cameras on the buses. 200-300 times a week.

Kevin Hazlett: If you slam into a firetruck, it is about four years to get a new one.

Michael Plavcan: It is tough to get replacements.

Alderman McPherson: My intent is to proceed with this and then try to get the various groups together to come up with some sort of long term solution. I have seen how bad it gets and you are absolutely right and something has to be done. I appreciate the letter, I appreciate the endorsement of what I would like to get accomplished there. We will meet as often as we need to meet.

Michael Plavcan: You let us know what documentation you need. I am a big documentation fan. If it makes it easier for you to make the decision.

Alderman McPherson: This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. We actually have a block the box ordinance in place which I wrote in 2015. We can piggyback off of that. All we need is State approval. I talked to the chief and we will pave it ourselves. They have money in their line painting budget. They have a company that does it. They have to bid it every year. They can do it at night as long as the temperature is 55° and above and should not be a problem. We will update each other as we proceed. It was important for us to hear what you had to say here.

Michael Plavcan: Brian, what is the procedure for getting a traffic light or traffic signal, stop sign signage.

Brian Roach: It is DOT Traffic Division.

Michael Plavcan: I'm sure this is probably a 2-3 year project.

Brian Roach: That's what I am thinking. I am going to make some calls tomorrow.

Alderman McPherson: What can we get in the interim as some kind of signage.

Brian Roach: We can get signage. Those signs that were damaged and came down, I had the City electrician look at it. I did send an email on the cost to replace those, but off the top of my head I don't remember what it was. We can get firehouse signs, regular signage. That I can get right away.

Michael Plavcan: We had them, but they have been knocked into so many times. I don't know if the State has a signage requirement.

Kevin Hazlett: Jason said that once we get something from the Police Department he can go on a State level. Until he gets something from the City Police, he can't do anything.

Alderman McPherson: Exactly right. Which is why I sent Deputy Chief Stratton my written request and I spoke to the Chief himself to formally request that. They can even attach this letter.

Michael Plavcan: Do you want a flash drive of what we have so far?

Alderman McPherson: Let's have that for the August meeting. We will proceed from there.

Alderman Simonetti: I have a thought. A thing you can pull out with a banner on it stating do not cross. One on each side when pulling out or putting the trucks away which is actually a barrier.

Michael Plavcan: We did try to put guys on the street with vests and flashlights, but it is too dangerous. Unfortunately, that was one of the Chief's recommendations and we are against putting anybody in the road. Firetrucks can be replaced, human life cannot.

Alderman McPherson: Another thing, similar to Meadow Street where the brick crosswalk is, where we had "Slow" and triangles put. We can probably do that also, paint that there.

Michael Plavcan: Some of the crosswalk signs have two emergency lights on the left and right that are yellow. I don't know if that would be something to look into with the signage. Pretty much to where the lawyer's office is and to the where the chiropractor is on the corner. We can't even make the turn out of there anymore with the two big trucks because of the cars that are parked across the street. There is a lack of approach and departure that is there. The firehouse is meant for the 60's, not the 2020's. If you need anything from us, feel free to reach out.

2.2 CORAM AVENUE FROM CENTER STREET UP TO KNEEN STREET (GAS MAIN – REPAVING OF THE ROAD)

Alderman McPherson: This is just an update. I spoke to Rimas. They are responsible to repave that whole area. We have that ordinance in place.

3. OLD BUSINESS – FOLLOW-UP

3.1 SIDEWALK UPDATE – CORAM ROAD

Alderman McPherson: This is also for Rimas. He is sending this to Senator Perillo – this is where we are going to be putting that sidewalk from Cuppy's all the way down to the corner of Center Street. The State did a small section of this for whatever reason. I asked him to forward the job number and all of the information to Jason because for some reason we need DOT permission to put that sidewalk in because it is a State road.

3.2 CORAM ROAD FROM KNEEN STREET DOWN TO CONSTITUTION

Alderman McPherson: If we can get to it, we will get to it, repaving Coram from Kneen down to Constitution.

3.3 RIVERVIEW PARK ROAD REPAIRS

Alderman McPherson: Just to keep it on the agenda.

Brian Roach: If we get to it, that is the lowest priority.

Alderman McPherson: Also, Brian, we are getting questions about – again if we have time – Huntington Street from Commerce out to Route 8. Apparently, that is becoming bad.

Brian Roach: Yes. I actually broke Huntington Street into sections and I have to ask the Mayor about it. Priority section wise, Commerce to Trap Falls would be #1. And from Heathridge Condos and Bridgeport Avenue. There are a lot of places that were kind of skipped over. Next would be Blueberry and Courtland. Then 130 Huntington Street. It is broken down. As well as Ripton, complete Ripton. More than two-thirds of the way down.

Alderman McPherson: That flashing yield sign – awesome. Really nice. Thank you for that.

4. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Alderman McPherson: I have a couple of minor items that need addressing. Can you contact DOT because they have all of their signs on Center Street or Bridgeport Avenue where they are leaning, bent like this. There is one down in front of Shelton Printing the sign is leaning, twisted at the bottom. You can go all the way up Center Street. If they can straighten out THEIR signs. It really does not look good.

My final item – the crossing sign up on Meadow between Shelton Avenue and Wheeler on the right. Tree branches are obstructing the signage, you can't see them. If they could cut the branches. Can they send the brush cutter back up to Wheeler on the even side of the road to cut that brush down because it is getting high again. Cut it all the way down to in front of 75 if they could. We have people that walk up there with their kids. I know that section of the road is going to be done in August you said.

I have no other items except to say thank you for everything.

Alderman Simonetti: Thank you. The guys did a great job trimming Meadow Street and Maple, that was a real problem. Lynnwood court, anything on that?

Brian Roach: I was going to start it, but with the short week, hopefully next week.

Alderman McPherson: One other thing, that asphalt sidewalk from the service entrance of the high school going all the way up, if that can be cleaned up.

5. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NO ITEMS

REPORTS OF:

- A. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
- B. SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
- C. CITY ENGINEER
- D. STREET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No further reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to adjourn the Street Committee Meeting at 6 p.m., seconded by Alderman McPherson.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen