Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Apportionment and Taxation Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Apportionment and Taxation to order at 5:38 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

BOARD OF ALDERMEN:
Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell - present
Alderman John “Jack” Finn – present
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty - present
Alderman Eric McPherson – present
Alderman John P. Papa - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION

Mark Holden, Chairman – present
Christopher Besecheck, absent
Judson Crawford, present
Faith Hack, present
John Zikaras, present
Charlotte Madar, present

Administration:

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti
Administrative Assistant Thomas Taylor
Corporation Counsel Thomas Welch

1. Per City Charter Section 7.2, Mayor Lauretti Presents his Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 to the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, the Board of Aldermen and Friends.

This is my 19th budget as the Mayor of the City of Shelton. My best effort in this budget is based on spending versus revenues and most importantly, our residents and business owners’ ability to pay.

Caution and uncertainty is the theme. The State’s unwillingness to cut spending coupled with declining State revenue has left municipal officials not only wondering if this year’s appropriation in State aid and grants will be realized, but what the likelihood is of receiving monies in Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Declining grand lists and possible lower tax collection rates also give way to concern. While Shelton continues to lead the way in economic growth we too are feeling the effects of a stagnant economy. Our grand list saw a 1 percent increase this year down from the prior year of 2 percent.

Responsible budgeting practices have allowed Shelton to remain in a strong financial position. Budgeting actual costs along with realistic assumptions in revenues have paid dividends for us over the years. We have worked to provide both diversity and stability in our tax base, major employers continue to come to Shelton. Even still, we must be guarded in the way we spend money.

Nationally, unemployment remains high and I believe will do so for the foreseeable future. Most two-income households have been reduced either to unemployment or reduced hours. All age groups are impacted by the worsening national recession. Even seniors receiving Social Security received no increase this year. As a result, we must all learn to do more with less, and this is reflected in next year’s budget proposal that I present to you tonight.

We do not follow the lead of the state and federal government. Next year’s spending levels are held to those of this year. It will allow Shelton to hold the line on taxes, which is much needed for our residents and business owners. Their economic survival must be a priority.

This budget proposal will not will not cause lay offs or reduce programs or ask for furloughs. Shelton will continue to make modest investments in our infrastructure taking advantage of the reduced marketplace conditions. A new school - the 5-6 School - will open in September with
a thrust toward leveling the educational playing field. It should also be noted that this budget will not keep pace with educational spending requests. With the average pay increases of Board of Education employees at 5.6 percent, no municipality can keep up with the consumption of financial resources at that rate. Many unfunded mandates issued by the state and federal government usually providing no benefit will continue to plague our State, in particular the municipalities. They are required to pay what the State does not.

This budget is both adequate and responsible. It will allow Shelton to continue its economic growth and high quality of life. It is a budget based on revenue projection and expenditures of $110,099,399. This will result in a mill rate of 18.6 - no change from our current mill rate.

In these trying economic times, more of a burden on people will yield less in results and productivity. While I always remind these two boards at this time that the budget process is some five months long and that things will change, and need to be changed, and you’ll be able to make those assessments and valuations as we move forward over the coming months. I look forward to working with you. Thank you.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Holden stated, our budget process, the Board of Apportionment and Taxation will have a short workshop at the conclusion of their regularly scheduled meeting this Thursday, it’s in Room 104. The first of the budget interviews will be next Monday, March 1st, here in the Auditorium.

There being nothing further on our agenda, the meeting will stand as adjourned. Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _________________

DATE APPROVED: _________________BY: _______________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton