Call to Order
Aldermanic Vice-President John Papa called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 6:45 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call
Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – excused
Alderman Lynne Farrell - present
Alderman John “Jack” Finn – present
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty - present
Alderman John P. Papa – present
Alderman Eric McPherson - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

Administration:
Administrative Assistant Tom Taylor
Corporation Counsel Thomas Welch

There was a quorum present.

1. **Chief of Police Contract**
Alderman McPherson MOVED to reappoint the Chief of Police, Joel Hurliman, for a three-year term effective March 1, 2010 and ending March 1, 2013, subject to the terms and conditions as set forth in Ordinance #795; SECONDED by Alderman Farrell.

Alderman Farrell stated, I’d like to commend the Chief for all he has done for the City of Shelton in the years that he’s served as Chief. Alderman Simonetti concurred.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

2. **Extension of Agreement between City of Shelton and Worker’s Compensation Trust**
Alderman McPherson MOVED to extend the agreement between the City of Shelton and Worker’s Compensation Trust for three years for an annual cost as set forth in the attached for Third Party Administration of Worker’s Compensation claims; and further, MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Kudej asked, these are the same people that have been representing us for the last couple of years?

Alderman Papa replied yes. And if you read the information you’ll see that in the three years, it’s been extended. In the first year they kept the fee the same. The second year goes to $45,000 and the third is $45,000.

Alderman Kudej asked if anyone else bid for this.
Corporation Counsel Welch stated, this is a professional service. It hasn’t gone out since the early 2000s. As you’ll note in the contract it provides you the right to terminate the contract with 60 days notice for any or no reason.

The Administrative Assistant is looking at it in terms of [inaudible].

Alderman Papa stated, over the years they’ve done it, they’ve done an outstanding job with the claims, and they’ve been very successful for the City.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, I know there may be some concerns, and the Administrative Assistant has a strong background and has raised some of those issues that may be on the City side as opposed to their side.

Alderman Finn stated, will this group work with the City of Shelton to reduce the $3 million deficit in worker’s compensation?

Administrative Assistant Tom Taylor stated, I think from a standpoint of a third-party administrator they’ve done a super job. They have a very good reputation. I’ve done some background studying on them, some people I’ve worked with had worked with this company as their TPA. Our problem I don’t think is from the TPA standpoint, I think it’s within. Some of the actions we can take from director level down could improve our overall program. With our aging workforce it’s very difficult to bring this down immediately. It takes a good overall program.

Alderman Kudej stated, I’ve always wondered – we always get it when it almost finalized. How many claims are filed immediately when somebody reports an injury? Are the injuries being reported in a timely fashion? Sometimes I wonder who is working for whom. If everybody is satisfied, then who am I, but I have a different opinion than some of these companies.

Administrative Assistant Tom Taylor stated, I’m going to write an internal program for us to follow such as maintaining weekly contact with the individuals. We don’t really utilize a “we help” type program – for example, if you have some individuals who have questionable background, you can call a number which many times goes to the TPA. But you have to advertise it, you have to push it, if you have people with questionable motives. We have a hard state due to the laws we have - the claimant has more rights than many other states with maybe the exclusion of Massachusetts and a couple of other states. There are things we can do administratively to bring that number down.

As Stan mentioned, reporting on time. Last month, in January, we had more than 2/3 of our claims reported outside the 24-hour time period. That has to change.

Alderman Papa stated, so Mr. Taylor, you’re obviously going to talk to the Department Heads and make sure they get the right time to report this so we don’t have a delay in responding to accidents.

Alderman Kudej stated, you’re supposed to report it as soon as it happens on the job. Don’t go home, do something at home and get hurt and then come in the next morning and say “I hurt my back.” I see so many claims that we paid, I shake my head. I represented the union in workers comp cases, and people never got money as easy as they do here.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, to Alderman Kudej’s point, problem is the only things that come before this Board are settlements. There is the Worker’s Compensation Trust, the annual update, which identifies all the claims that are filed, and the cases that are contested. The problem is, what you’re seeing, the only thing that has to come to your board is those settlements that are over $10,000.

Alderman Papa stated, the people working for the City, when there’s an accident, they should report it in a timely manner. We should tighten that up.
Alderman Simonetti stated, I personally use Worker’s Compensation Trust in my business, they’re very good. You have to understand that the worker has up to one year to report an injury, believe it or not, and you can tell them you don’t believe it, and they can prove it, whatever, they’ll put a watch on them, whatever you want. But they do have a year to report an injury. And some injuries, the worker goes home feeling fine, and they wake up and their back is killing them.

Alderman Kudej stated, no, they have up to a year to file. They have to report the injury right away.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

3. **Funding for Vehicles for Parks and Recreation Department**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to appropriate the sum of $21,016.35 for the purchase of two Ford Ranger pickup trucks for the Parks and Recreation Department with funding to be provided by bonding, pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Papa stated, this is from the State Surplus and we got a good deal for two used pickup trucks that we need.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk

Date Submitted: ___________________________

Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: ___________ BY: ___________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton