Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Aldermanic President John Anglace called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

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 John P. Papa – present
Alderman Eric McPherson - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

Administration: Corporation Counsel Tom Welch
Administrative Assistant Tom Taylor

Agenda Items

PUBLIC SESSION

Alderman Anglace asked if any member of the public wished to speak.

Joyce Wilson

I’m representing Pauline Carroll and Joan Klapick from Long Hill Avenue. I’d like to let you know I’ve timed my speech and it’s approximately seven minutes so I will thank you for allowing me to speak my mind, I’d appreciate it.

I’m here to express our disappointment in this ongoing issue we’ve had over the last year and half with fencing and maintaining the 605-610 Long Hill Avenue Klapick property. Mayor Lauretti and I, over the course of a year and a half, actually March 2010 being our first meeting, to a response on July 15, 2011 with a letter from the Mayor stating that at this time the City does not feel that they are required to place fencing on the Klapick property, even though we have a contract that states “fencing and maintaining.” For the last year and a half we were led to believe this would happen with each meeting with the Mayor that transpired. Well that old saying, you cannot fight City Hall, may be true. We followed instructions and guidelines at first given to us by
Attorney General Blumenthal stating, try going right to the top sources that made the contract - that would be Mayor Lauretti, head of the city – and if you have a contract stating fencing it should be honored. What brings me to speak at this meeting is a new phone call out to Attorney General George Jepson’s office after receiving the July 15, 2011 letter of denial for fencing from the Mayor; the Attorney General’s office stated, they do not get involved in the city municipality issues, but some advice was, we could get a lawyer to help us or try going back and publicly ask why the City of Shelton won’t respect the Klapick’s request and honor the contract that was made with the City.

That being said, truly from our hearts, first let me say congratulations to the mastermind of the Open Space purchasing era, Mayor Lauretti and Board of Aldermen. You have had a great ten-year run of purchasing open space land, labeling it active or passive and making substantial interest off the purchased land. Deals were made to pay landowners for the purchased land in increments over a period of three years. The landowners, for whatever reason, received no interest over that three-year period. The City still was able to receive the interest that sat in their budget in general funds for those other two increments. The City then put that money back into the City funds. Great idea, great work bonding together as a team. We the family agreed with the statement made in the minute books by Mr. Lauretti, I don’t know anywhere in America where you can get terms like this without interest. So from my perspective, unless I’ve missed something here, I think there is an outstanding opportunity from a financial standpoint for the City, coupled with the fact everybody knows I’m in favor of the purchase of the Klapick land.

Truly from our hearts I would also like to say thank you to the Klapick’s for being role model citizens, neighbors, and taxpayers for the last 87 years since 1924. They have supported the City of Shelton through good times and bad times. So the ridiculousness of this matter of fencing as I was told by the Mayor at my very last meeting is very disheartening to us. Should not it be reciprocated from the City of Shelton to honor the fence, not look for anything they can to get out of it? Should not the contract be honored with integrity for the great deal the Klapick’s gave the City instead of giving the family a hard time and run around of words to get what the Klapick’s had wanted from the beginning of the talking stages and so deserve - fencing? Also as stated in the minute books from Mayor Lauretti, I’ve said to some people that I am prepared to bear the responsibility for this purchase because I do believe this is the right thing to do. I’d like to think that this is a creative way to finance land. I know you can’t get this done in the private sector. We are fortunate in the respect that the Klapick’s are willing to work with the City and see the property preserved in perpetuity for the City. With decisions of this magnitude there is always a little pain people must bear. That is the price for living in the kind of community that we have. I would urge everyone to support this. This is my best effort from a finance standpoint. If anyone’s got a better one, put it on the table. Alderman Anglase stated, having come this far with this proposal, and worked so hard to get it this far, I just want to make note that the many comments from the public that we have received in support of the purchase of this property, I think throughout the whole process, while it is an absolutely magnificent deal for the City, I have to focus on the comments made this evening in the public portion. I was listening to Dan Allen who commented with respect to the Klapick’s themselves and their role throughout this
entire process. They could have sold this property for more money, but they were civic-minded and they thought of the City, and they stuck with us. They deserve to be recognized. If we approve this, and I hope we will, and you did, they deserve a lot of appreciation from not only the Board but the entire community. And lastly, the interest accrued by the City on this deal from 2000-2002 for the purchase of the property came to approximately $50,000 and that is figuring it out at a low return of 3 percent. That being said, the cost of fencing certainly isn’t that amount and should not the interest earned have been shared with the Klapick’s and put toward the fencing?

We the family, feel asking for fencing as agreed upon in a contract is a small matter compared to the great deal you received for the City and the people of the community. After all, the original contract line before an amendment for extra footage was treed with a wire fence that should have been replaced at the boundary line. As I said to Mayor Lauretti in the very first meeting, I will say to you in this present meeting: Let’s base our decisions on integrity and let’s make the right choices. We are not here to cause trouble; we are simply asking for fencing at the boundaries of all the 605-610 Long Hill Avenue property from the City lines. Thank you for your time. I’ve prepared a packet that’s being presented to you for review and response to this issue. Again, have a nice evening and thank you again for listening to me.

Karen Reynolds, 97 ½ Myrtle Street

I’ve lived in Shelton for many years; I grew up here and went to school here. My sister and mother still live here. I was a long time volunteer at the Shelton Animal Shelter. The only reason I’m not still there is because I had to have my knee replaced and I’m not doing too well right now. I intend to go back as a volunteer as soon as I can.

I came here tonight to see some progress made on getting this town a new Animal Shelter. I am disappointed to find that nothing is going to happen tonight. Just like nothing has happened earlier this year, last year, the year before or the year before that. Except maybe some time this year the State might actually come in and close our Shelter which, I suppose, doesn’t quite bother too many people or they would be concerned enough to make this move forward a little faster. Thank you.

Alderman Anglace stated, you might be interested to know that the Animal Shelter Building Committee, we have that on the agenda tonight. We met with them this week and they want to look at a few other alternatives, so we’re not going to take any action tonight. This is the Building Committee that is responsible for building this, not the City.

Ms. Reynolds stated, the Building Committee is not putting up the money to build it. The Building Committee is not providing the land to put the building on. I don’t see where you can blame the Building Committee.

Alderman Anglace stated, we’re not blaming anybody ma’am, we are just providing you with information.
Chris Jones

I’m asked why I am running for Mayor. I’m running for Mayor in the City of Shelton because of people like the Klapick’s; the family here that’s getting the runaround for a simple fence which was promised to them in a contract. Which, a majority, most of you were on the Board at the time when that contract was drawn. So I’m pretty sure you’re well enough well aware of what the contract states. Being that you live 6 houses down the street I’m sure you know where that is Alderman Anglace.

As far as the Animal Shelter, from my understanding there was a subcommittee meeting yesterday in which now new locations are being looked at. After five years you’re going to look at a different location from right here, to 200 feet down the, come on. You go from the pink elephant to the parking lot where the buses park their cars? I don't know if you guys know that. That’s what I was told; maybe I’m wrong.

Alderman Anglace stated, no, you’re not wrong.

Mr. Jones continued, it’s nice to see Mr. Ryan here and the chairwoman of Planning and Zoning. Of course they’re going to be here before election time to give a downtown revitalization update. Of course. Right? I’m the politician here. There’s no politics here. That’s okay.

I’ve made up a simple report card for the last five years. I think all of the Aldermen have been sitting on the Board except for one for the last five years. I’m going to be quick with it. And my grades, which you know are all going to be... not favorable. I’ll start with the most recent issues. The Fire Department radios. Of course you know that’s an F. I’m giving an F not to the Fire Commissioners or the Officers Council; I’m giving it to the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor. This is why. Because nobody seems to realize that there is a problem with the Fire Department radios. The members of the Board of Aldermen approved the purchase of these trucks. I suggest you come down to one of the firehouses, you all know where they are, and take a ride-along on the fire trucks and see how bad the radios really are.

The newspaper article yesterday that this Marian Gail Brown – “How Faulty are Shelton’s Fire Radios?” Come off, come off your seats, go down to the firehouse. Go on a call and you’ll see. Evident today; evident yesterday. Every day they don’t work. Saying that it’s not an ongoing problem, here is a letter from the Officer’s Council, cc Public Health and Safety, Public Safety Council, re- the Radio System. April 19, 2007. The Officer’s Council has the highest degree of concern regarding our current radio system and has requested this issue be addressed to you in writing. It has been over 7 months since the study was completed and to date we have seen no progress toward obtaining a more reliable radio system. So yes, you’ve done a radio study already, 2006, five years ago – hence the five-year plan. The study clearly documented the necessity for improvements to our radios to increase safety. Please advise us of the time frame for the Board and the City to make a decision on the recommendations of the study. Our concern is that it should not take a firefighter injury or death before this becomes a priority. 2007. 2009. Shelton firefighters seek radio upgrade. This is a
great comment right here. It comes down to dollars and cents because the economy is so bad. But if something isn’t done, something bad is going to happen to us. Who said that? It comes from Pine Rock Park Captain Justin Sabatino. 2011. In this study that was, in this grant that was just applied for. In it, it states the Shelton Fire Department’s annual budget is funded solely by taxes. Our four companies all operate on tight budget. Our current budget is actually less than in previous years. I don’t know how that happens when we have to return $300,000 every year. We are not allowed to spend our whole budget. Why is that? Can anybody answer that? How come we’re not allowed to spend all of our money? Didn’t think so.

Alderman Anglace stated, I can answer it, but I’m not going to. I want to save your time.

Mr. Jones continued, without funding assistance from the AFG Program the Shelton Fire Department would fall short of being able to purchase desired radio equipment. The City of Shelton has committed a sizeable match of $1.1 million to this project. But due to the current economic environment, the City cannot provide any additional funding over their initial commitment. Although our City officials realize the importance of our proposed project, they do not want to increase the tax rate of our citizens. It would be financially impossible for the City to fund the entire purchase price anywhere in the near future. So in today’s editorial the Connecticut Post said it the best out of anybody. However frequently it happens, if emergency communication equipment in Shelton is failing and putting people in danger, something has to change. It’s election season, which puts a spin on any dispute. But this should be a bipartisan cause. The City is applying for $1 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase new equipment with the City to add $1.1 million. The grant application claims the City’s substandard radio communications system fails 50 percent of the time. A figure Mayor Mark Lauretti disputes. The Mayor. Come down, get on one of the fire trucks. Go for a ride on Bridgeport Avenue. Hear it for yourself. Because his democrat challenger Chris Jones is a firefighter and has made the radio problem part of his campaign, the problems part of his campaign, the issue is in danger of being viewed as just another political back and forth. Of course. I’m stirring the pot. I’m just; I don’t know anything. I don’t know any of the issues. Facts. These are all facts here. It’s not. I know the equipment is old and has shortcomings and needs to be replaced. But I don’t agree that it fails 50 percent of the time, Lauretti said. It’s the first part of his statement that matters. The equipment is old and needs to be replaced. A legitimate topic for debate is why it’s taken so long to reach this point. Emergency communication is not a democratic or republican issue. It is essential for the well being of everyone in the City, especially its first responders.

Alderman Anglace stated, okay Chris, your time is up.

Mr. Jones continued, the political questions are secondary. What matters most is getting the right equipment and approving safety for first responders. My time is up? Listen! All their time is going to be up. How much longer does this got to drag on?

Alderman Anglace stated, each speaker gets five minutes; you know that. You’ve been around a long time.
Mr. Jones stated, this lady got 7 minutes Alderman Anglace! How come you won’t do anything?! It’s been five years! Where’s, how come you didn’t put $200,000 away?

Alderman Anglace stated, stick around to the President’s Report part of the meeting and you will hear what I’ve got to say.

Mr. Jones screamed, I’m gonna hear lip service Alderman Anglace, you know that! It’s lip service! Five years!

Alderman Anglace stated, please sit down.

Mr. Jones continued, and I have my whole report card right here. All F’s. All D’s. Police Department radios, everything.

Alderman Anglace asked, is there anyone else that wishes to speak?

Mr. Jones stated, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, lip service! Lip service!

Alderman Anglace asked, is there anyone else that wishes to address the board that can be civil?

Bruce Kosowsky, 29 Martinka Drive

Good evening. Recently I’ve seen some articles relative to this Fire Department issue and I just, sometimes you collect things. I happened to collect this piece of paper that was actually the Huntington Herald. This goes back to Wednesday January, 1994. I kept this for certain reasons. I figured one day maybe it might become useful. The topic is local incomes, taxes and expenditures. Since we’re all taxpayers in this great City of Shelton. Since I’m a volunteer fireman, which is not good in the City of Shelton, I’ll just bring this to your attention. Back in 1994 this great City of Shelton spent $18.89 per capita on the Fire Service. The State average was $70.72. This is in the Huntington Herald. Recently, I just received this nice book - Shelton Answer Book 2011. Just more information. So I looked at it and I said, well, it’s got facts. Since we have community minded people here, what is the population of the City of Shelton? It’s 39,559 from the 2010 census. We also received this nice book on Shelton Life, City of Shelton, 2011-12 Annual Report. Very nice book; very well written - nice information. Fire Department Budget., $780,930. Do the math. How many people live in Shelton, per capita? I think you’re getting a good bargain with the Fire Service. We didn’t go up that much. Maybe the paper wants to take a look at all the other departments and see how much their revenue has gone up as far as the taxpayers. You know, we’re still roughly around one percent, less than one percent. Back in 1994 if you look at some of the other departments, actually, the Parks and Rec got more money than the Fire Department. That’s interesting because back then they got 1975, the Board of Education, that’s interesting, is $948.75 – that’s what Shelton spent and at that time the State average was $1,030.99 by the information I get off this newspaper article.
So I think as a taxpayer, somebody who’s been volunteering for a number of years, we get a good deal if you look at it from the point of what’s happened since 1994 to 2011. There are a lot more buildings that we have to look at. I think probably from a volunteer fire service, we are one of the few cities that has so many multi-story buildings that we have to look at. That’s where the Fire Department radio system creates some issues. It’s no fault to anybody. I know sometimes everybody thinks – and I’m not running for any political office – sometimes people want to put blame or whatever it is. It’s nobody’s really fault. It’s the nature of electronics. You have to understand electronics to know what frequency we work with and the problems that the frequency that we’re on today with all the electronic devices that have come about since 1994. It creates interference with our radios, and that’s where we have a lot of issues, especially when you get to computers and things of that nature. You have to understand electronics a little bit to understand that. We’re very fortunate in the City of Shelton to have people that just about know everything, because if you’re not compatible you can’t get a job. I don’t know what that means, even though other professionals select you for a job in the Fire Service, but you can’t get it. Am I getting the message from the City of Shelton, the residents, and maybe, maybe they’re not getting told the whole facts. The tax base I know is always a big consideration, and your mill rate is always a consideration, but then again, could somebody answer me why we delayed the revaluation? I thought there was supposed to be a revaluation this year. Is it because it’s an election year and next year we’re going to have it? Maybe the Grand List is going to go down because I know my house is not worth the same amount of money it was a few years ago. I can’t figure this out. Why, why consistently does the Fire Service have to take it on the chin? It’s a community service. I’ve been doing it for 40 years. Twenty-seven years I was on the Board of Fire Commissioners and I left because of the stone wall that you see – just what that other gentleman said. We’re constantly stonewalled; the City is growing. It’s not our fault. We need certain things; they’re important tools to the firefighter and we need to understand that our communications equipment costs a little bit more because we’re not like the average person that walks into something. Think of taking your telephone and throwing it into an oven. That’s what it’s like going into a fire. You’re going into temperatures that are extremely high. You’re on the ground, crawling around the ground. We need radios. It’s a necessity; a tool that we need not only for that but it’s also for accountability. We were denied an accountability system when we tried to get an accountability system for our firefighters. Denied. This system, back in 2006 I made a presentation to the Public Safety Board. The study was done by their people that they said we had to use. It was clearly stated in the 2000 report that all of us taxpayers paid for. You have paid for a 2000 report for the Fire Service, you’ve paid for a report from the communications people, you have been paying for a communications company to do extra work. If it wasn’t for, and I’m not taking any credit for anything, I don’t want any credit from this City.

Alderman Anglace stated, please summarize.

Mr. Kosowsky continued, to summarize real quick, if I didn’t have the initiative back a few years ago to have the licensed frequency, ultra-high frequency that we have today, and then make a suggestion after we were told that they were seeking frequencies, we wouldn’t have the frequency today that we’re talking about today, even that, if I didn’t
take the initiative to do it. We are paying a lot of money for what? I think the taxpayer needs to consider the Fire Service. That’s all I have to say.

Donald Tagg, 16 John Street

I’ve been a Fire Department member for the past 10 years. I’ve been going crazy for the last 10 years because this has all I’ve been hearing for the last 10 years. So please pass this whatever you have to do to get us a radio system. Did you hear me? That’s it. Thank you very much.

John Tatun, 125 Dickinson Drive

I retired as a Norwalk Firefighter back in 2009 and my 16-year-old son Daniel and I just joined the White Hills Fire Department about five months ago. I have to tell you, I have seen some issues with radios in Norwalk, but I have never seen anything as bad as this is in Shelton. I have to tell you it’s horrendous. It is a life and death situation. I am not only scared for my well being, I’m scared for my son and the rest of the firefighters here tonight, and the rest of the guys that are on this department, and the rest of the citizens here in Shelton. Somebody has to wake up here; somebody is going to die. Okay? That is what it has come to. I’ve only been on this department a short time but I can tell you, I don’t have all the facts right in front of me but if I have to I’ll come back and do it, there have been, and I’ll tell you, Commissioner Manion has been very generous and very kind saying it’s only been 50 percent. I can tell you it’s closer to 80 or 90 percent, and I can back that up. I’ll come back with the numbers. It is horrendous. I’m trying to be patient here; I’m trying to do a good thing and volunteer for Shelton. Mayor Lauretti is treating this Fire Department like dirt, and I’m going to be blunt about it. For him to make those comments in the paper about this great department – you’ve got to be kidding me. Especially what he said, the expletive, that’s our own Mayor treating our department like that? I’m a proud member of this Fire Department. Like I said, I’ve only been here five months. It’s a great group of guys that have been very patient with this city. Like these guys are saying, it’s out of control. I’ve been following as much as I can. With my background being a paid professional firefighter, I’m telling you there’s going to be a problem here in this City. We have to learn from what happened in Bridgeport just recently and all these other situations around the country. Something is going to happen here whether it’s a resident or one of our firefighters. I heard a comment about something about folding up a flag that’s going to be draped over one of our coffins – it’s going to happen. We can’t even communicate with each other in the trucks. We can’t even hear each other radio to radio. We can’t hear our dispatch. Our pagers won’t even go off half the time. If I didn’t have my scanner on one time at home, I would have missed a call from my own company because my pager didn’t work. That’s what this has come to. Apparently these guys have been fighting for 10 years or more for a new radio system and for us to be discredited in the paper, not only by this reporter in the Connecticut Post but by our own Mayor. It’s horrendous. I hope that each one of you understands how serious this situation is. I know from experience; I’ve been a firefighter for over 23 years. I had to deal with a lot of this stuff in Norwalk too. But this is out of control. Something needs to be done now. It has to happen now because that’s how serious - it’s life and death. It’s that serious. I know a lot of people don’t understand
that and they may think that we’re just a bunch of whining firefighters. But this is crazy. It’s ridiculous. We can’t even hear each other responding to calls. We don’t even know what trucks are on scene. We can’t even plan. When we’re on our way to a scene, we have to know who is on scene so we can plan what the next truck is going to do on the way in. We don’t even know who’s there. It’s out of control and something needs to be done about that. Thank you for your time.

Alderman Anglace stated, whatever information you offered, we’d appreciate having it.

Alderman Anglace asked if any other member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

**Presentation – Update on Downtown Revitalization**

Planning and Zoning Chairman Ruth Parkins and Shelton Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Jim Ryan gave the Board an update on Downtown Revitalization.

Alderman Anglace thanked Ms. Parkins and Mr. Ryan for their presentation. He stated, I would also like to thank the candidates who are here who are running in this next election and who sat through this and listened. You never know after the election who is going to be sitting up here. I think it’s to their credit for being here and being part of that. Thank you.

[Alderman Kudej left the meeting at this point]

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Alderman Papa MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2011; SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

5.1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

No items.

5.2 **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

No items.

5.3 **STREET COMMITTEE**

5.3.1 **Sidewalk Reimbursement Request – 227 Howe Avenue**

Alderman McPherson MOVED per the recommendation of the Street Committee, to approve the sidewalk reimbursement in the amount of $2,577.08 to Bill Hinkson of 304 Caroline Street, Derby, CT, 06418 per Ordinance #465 with funding to come from
Engineering Account #001-3600-713.80-43; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

[Alderman Kudej returns at this point – 8 present 0 absent]

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

None presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Alderman Anglace stated, I have a report but with all due respect to the time that we’ve taken, I’ll save it – I’ll briefly, quickly give it to you at the end of the meeting if that’s okay with everybody here.

6.0 LEGAL REPORT

6.1 Corporation Counsel Billing

Alderman Papa MOVED to authorize a total payment of $5,387.50 to Corporation Counsel Welch, Teodosio, Stanek and Blake, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated October 1, 2011 with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreclosure Fees</td>
<td>001-1900-411.50-01</td>
<td>$1,125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Costs</td>
<td>001-1900-411.80-84</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
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</table>

SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

6.2 Assistant Corporation Counsel Billing

Alderman Papa MOVED to authorize a total payment of $262 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous for services rendered per statement dated October 1, 2011 with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Fees</td>
<td>001-1900-411.30-03</td>
<td>$262.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

7 LEGISLATIVE - OLD

No items.

8 FINANCIAL BUSINESS OLD

No items.
9.1  October Statutory Refunds

Alderman Papa MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of $6,870.81 be approved and that the Finance Director be directed to make payments in accordance with the certified list received from the Tax Collector with funds to come from the Statutory Refunds Account 001-0000-311.13-00; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.2  Funding for Demolition and Removal of 234 Shelton Avenue

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and Connecticut Dismantling, LLC for the demolition of 234 Shelton Avenue in the amount of $13,850 with funding to come from Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Alderman Finn asked, the demolition we’re going to be seeing is what you see on the building at the present time. Another contractor came in before that and removed all the siding off the building. What contractor removed the siding, and how much did the City of Shelton get from that contractor coming removing the siding?

Alderman Papa stated, I think the City took the aluminum off, all the copper, and we reclaimed it. We salvaged it. The City.

Alderman Finn stated, people were saying it, that there were contractors out there and they didn’t know who they were.

Alderman Simonetti asked, why wasn’t the house saved for the Fire Department to use as a practice burn?

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, it is my understanding as in Item 2 on that contract with regard to the asbestos and hazardous materials.

Alderman Anglace stated, that’s always a strong consideration.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.
9.3  Funding for Repair of Long Hill Avenue Sinkhole

Alderman Papa MOVED to appropriate funding in an amount not to exceed $30,000 to come from Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00 to be paid to Mark IV Construction for the emergency repair of a sinkhole on Long Hill Avenue; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Anglace stated, you’ll note that it says funding not to exceed $30,000. The bill came in a little higher. It is under discussion between the City and the contractor. If it is determined that the challenge that we have to the bill does not uphold, we will be back and may have to appropriate more. We think the legitimate and reasonable charge is no more than $30,000.

Alderman Finn stated, all the criteria was met to do an emergency repair. The information received indicated a certain amount of money. What increased the cost of the project?

Alderman Anglace replied, I think it has to do with coverage and who pays for the Police and Traffic Control.

Alderman Finn stated, my understanding is as far as maintaining traffic control and Police coverage, the City of Shelton is supposed to absorb the cost, not the contractor.

Alderman Anglace stated, that’s what’s in dispute here. This is being challenged by the Public Works Director and that’s why we’re only approving up to $30,000. If it’s more he’ll be back with a full explanation.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.4  Funding for AT&T Infrastructure Downtown

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve the purchase order with AT&T for the installation of utility undergrounding and related work to be performed by AT&T in conjunction with the City of Shelton in the amount of $296,784.15 with funding to come from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development grant for Phase 3 Downtown Revitalization Program; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Alderman Anglace stated, I recall that the original amount was much higher than this.

Mr. Ryan stated, it was in the $1.5 million range. There were many, many meetings between the City Administration and AT&T to make sure the number was the best number for Shelton.
Corporation Counsel Welch stated, in conversations with Mr. Ryan and the Purchasing Agent I’d rather be safe than sorry and in speaking to Mr. Ryan he had questioned at my request, he requested of Gene Sullivan a bid waiver. This is AT&T doing their work. But it requires a purchase order. Obviously it’s sole source, but I did obtain through Gene Sullivan a waiver of the bidding process. Obviously AT&T is the only one that’s going to do it and you negotiated the price, but when I was preparing for this evening I thought, better safe than sorry to have a bid waiver. I have that and I ask that the motion is amended to waive bids with regard to this pursuant to Section 7.14.3 of the Charter.

Alderman Finn MOVED TO AMEND the motion to waive the bidding process pursuant to Section 7.14.3 of the City Charter; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 8-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 8-0.

9.5 Center Stage Theatre, Inc. Lease – Lafayette School

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve the lease agreement between Center Stage Theatre, Inc. and the City of Shelton regarding a portion of Lafayette School located at 54 Grove Street subject to modification as may be approved by the Mayor and Corporation Counsel; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Finn asked, what are the modifications being referred to?

Corporation Counsel Welch explained, my concern is on that Schedule B. The intent here is that the tenants are paying all the costs and expenses. We have gone back and forth with the language a few times on Schedule B. I believe it’s in the final form. My intention obviously, not to change anything of true substance, but if the language in Schedule B which talks about, tenant agrees that the monthly rent is calculated based upon the estimate of the utility costs and general facility maintenance associated with Lafayette School. I think it’s clear. If there’s minor language changes for clarity’s sake, I think everyone understands the intention of it. That’s why I did it, because I know the United Way Board is meeting on it tomorrow or early next week. In addition to those which I had forwarded, the Rules and Regulations for the building. We are requiring them to become part of a tenant association and follow these rules. As we go back and forth, correct, as to what are the rules and regulations kind of thing. That is why I just didn’t...

Alderman Anglace stated, similar to a condominium association – living together.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, correct. If they came back with something – language change or clarity’s sake, that’s why I had that amended.
Alderman Finn stated, this will be the same thing for Valley United Way which is next on the agenda.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, correct.

Alderman Papa asked, the landlord, City of Shelton, will pay for all utilities and maintenance on the outside of the building – air conditioning, roof, any kind of maintenance outside?

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, the structural.

Alderman Papa stated, and they pay $30,000 a year, or $2,500 a month?

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, as a base. But if the utility costs exceed that, they will pay 40 percent of any excess.

Alderman Papa stated, this is only Center Stage though.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, correct.

Alderman Kudej asked, how is this going to affect any activities that are down on the ball fields?

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, it’s only interior.

Alderman Kudej stated, if there’s a football game scheduled, and they want to schedule their show, how’s that going to affect...

Alderman Papa stated, Center Stage has talked to Ron and talked to Pop Warner – they’ve tried to coordinate the dates they’re going to do it. If it’s night time or Saturday or Sunday they’ll try to work around them. They’re not going to have a concert or a show every week. They have coordinated already with Pop Warner and Parks & Rec.

Alderman Anglace stated, as part of the negotiations to arrive at this contract they were required to meet with Parks & Rec and with the users of the field to work out their schedules and to make sure that there was no conflict. And if there is about to be a conflict, that notice will be provided as part of it.

Alderman Finn stated, I drove by there yesterday; there’s a sign up in front of the old Lafayette School that says, “Parking on Field.” Does this mean we’re allowing vehicles to park on the football field?

Alderman Papa replied, no, there is a field in the back of the football field. They park there already for Pop Warner. This is not on the football field; it’s the area in the back.

Alderman Anglace stated, a couple of things were discussed. One was, if there were difficulties with parking, we could make available to them parking at the City Yard and
they would have to provide some type of transportation back and forth. You should also be aware that the lease for Center Stage does not include the entire first floor. We have two other parts to the building. The upstairs and the old school. On the upstairs will be the United Way. There are other interested non-profit groups but cannot come now because their leases where they are now haven’t expired. There are a number of them and they want to remain anonymous at this point, for obvious reasons. One I can mention because they have discussed it publicly with their Board – that is Valley Health. They like the idea; they like what they see. They are going to consider it. They have three years to run on their lease where they are. With Center Stage downstairs and two renters upstairs we will more than cover our estimated utility costs. Those costs are based on estimates provided to us by the school system.

Alderman Kudej stated, so we’re talking now about the new building; the old building hasn’t been rented out yet.

Alderman Anglace stated, that is correct. They’re thinking that behind the old building there is the potential for senior housing. It doesn’t take a lot of parking and usually it’s one-room studios. Also, the parking for the upstairs portion would be in the back of the building.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

**9.6 Valley United Way Lease – Lafayette School**

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve the lease agreement between Valley United Way and the City of Shelton regarding a portion of Lafayette School located at 54 Grove Street subject to modification as may be approved by the Mayor and Corporation Counsel; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Alderman Anglace noted that Planning and Zoning acted favorably on both of these.

Alderman Papa stated, the rental on this is $1,200 a month plus 10 percent on any overage of utilities.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, there is a president’s office, a secretary’s office and a larger area referred to as a conference room. The intent of that conference room is that it will be a common area to be used by any of the entities upstairs. It will be a common conference room and that is why that tenant association becomes an important part of this. Their coordination as to the use of it is going to be their responsibility.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.
9.7  Funding for New Animal Shelter

Alderman Anglace stated, the Mayor and I met with the Animal Shelter Building Committee representatives – not the entire committee but the representatives that they chose, three of them - and they determined, discussion went on, and the Public Works Director raised the question that he would like to use the Pink Elephant to store his equipment. It’s a natural, you don’t have to do anything to it. Otherwise, we would use it for the Animal Shelter and we’d have to tear it down. They looked at the property right to the right of the Pink Elephant, at the corner, and determined that property would be suitable. We talked about parking for the bus parking, and they had plenty of ideas about that. They will meet one more time and they will be back to us next month with their proposal. They have done a good job of planning this. During the course of their planning the State has changed the law, the requirements, and has become much more stringent. The Town of Stratford just opened an animal shelter and they couldn’t get a certificate of occupancy because they haven’t met the criteria and the State won’t let them occupy it. They had to go in and do a lot of work and bring it up to State requirements. Our committee wants to take another look at it and they’ll probably be back next month, I expect.

Alderman Papa stated, the Building Committee already has the schematics and layout of the building they’re going to out to bid for.

Alderman Anglace stated, it’s a pre-cast building, yes.

Alderman McGorty asked, so what do we expect for next month? For them to come back with...

Alderman Anglace stated I don’t have any specifics from them other than, I think by the way it sounded to me at the meeting, that they may be back to us next month. I don’t know. I can’t predict that I can only say that they were very positive about it and have everything already planned out and they know what they want to do. There were other issues – engineering issues – that were discussed at the meeting that were just to deep for me to attempt to explain.

No action.

9.8  Purchase of Recycling Equipment and Containers

Alderman Papa MOVED to appropriate funding in an amount not to exceed $150,000 for the upfront purchase of Hook Lift Truck, associated Roll-Off Containers, Wash Water Recycling System and Indoor/Outdoor Recycling with funding to come from General Fund Surplus to be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.
Alderman Papa stated, I talked to Paul DiMauro and we want to put these indoor/outdoor recycling bins at all of the schools and all the recreational parks and fields so we can recycle the aluminum cans and so forth. We’ll have our own truck to be able to pick up all these containers at these areas, bring them back to the transfer station in the recycling bin and sell the recycling and make revenue on the product. This $150,000 we’re putting up front and the State is going to reimburse us the $150,000. It won’t cost us a penny.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

10. - LEGISLATIVE - NEW

10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

10.1.A Water Main Extension for 599-615 Booth Hill Road and 10 Oxford Drive

A Public Hearing is set for November 22, 2011.

10.1.B Amendment to Chapter 16, Section 16-34 Winter Parking Restrictions

A Public Hearing is set for November 22, 2011.

10.2 Reappointments to Naugatuck Valley Health District

Alderman Papa MOVED to reappoint the following people to the Naugatuck Valley Health District effective immediately:

Rebecca Cheron of 454 Coram Avenue
Ann Walsh of 189 Coram Road

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

10.3 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Clean Water Fund Grant Application

Alderman Papa MOVED to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolved,

Whereas, the City of Shelton has previously approved an agreement between the City and Fuss and O’Neill Inc. for professional services for Phase 3 of the Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Infiltration and Inflow Investigations; and

Whereas, said agreement is eligible for a 55 percent grant reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency; and
Whereas, the City has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to apply for
said grant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF
SHELTON that the City may apply for said DEEP Grant and that Mark A. Lauretti may sign
any and all documents necessary for said grant to effectuate same.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

11 EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 8:47 p.m. Alderman Papa MOVED to enter into Executive Session to
discuss the following item:

11.1 Durante – Worker’s Compensation

and invited Corporation Counsel Welch to remain in the Auditorium; SECONDED by
Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Alderman Simonetti MOVED to return to regular session;
SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Anglace noted that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the permanency rating in the worker’s
compensation case of Ralph Durante as presented; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A
voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Simonetti).

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Alderman Anglace stated, I would like to share with you a few things that I learned today
about the Fire Radios. I did receive a letter that you all have a copy of from Assistant.
Chief Nick Verdicchio.

I called Nick and talked to him about this. What the Officers’ Council wants is a report
on what is being done to upgrade the Fire Department radio system. In his letter he
explains that they’re in the dark on this thing. He wants to know also, is there, what
they’re hearing is that there’s a January 2012 deadline.

Corporation Counsel Welch stated, no.
Alderman Anglace stated, he – on behalf of the Officers’ Council - wants to know, is there a January, 2012 deadline for the use of the grant – the federal FCC grant, frequency grant – and if so, did the City get an extension or are we in jeopardy of losing it – because we may only have three months to go, and is somebody working on it, and they want to just be enlightened.

Part of the explanation of all of this, just so you know, this all started somewhere back around 2006-2007 and the study was done in 2006 and thereafter. The City hired Northeastern – the City designated the Public Safety Council to be the implementing agency for the communications radio upgrade for all services – Fire, Police, EMS and OEM. The Public Safety Council hired Northeastern Communications who received individual complaints about the system – what you heard people describe tonight – some situations that happen. Some say you can’t talk truck to truck and so forth. All this is set up so that you call Northeastern. I don't know the mechanics – whether you go to the Police Department or what, I don't know. But the Police Department keeps the record, and they generated a two-page document of what happened, what kind of complaints were received by Northeastern Communications during the nine months of 2011. They didn’t go back beyond that. To give you a flavor for it.

I did a quick analysis of it and there were a total of 35 calls over nine months for service from the Fire Department – this is just exclusive to the Fire Department. Thirteen were service or technical repair issues that were corrected. Eight were user error issues where somebody made an error or somebody did something wrong. For example, they had one complaint that the console was down at Pine Rock Park; that it didn’t work. They came out, investigated, and found that somebody unplugged it. Simple things like that – user error issues. They had two outside service issues – two inability to communicate because the telephone line was down in one case, and the electrical service was down also. They had 12 complaints that had no basis – they could find no basis for the complaint. Roughly 37 percent of the calls that went in were service/technical related. I think for what it’s worth, that’s what it is.

They have started, and everybody is aware that the issue early on was decided by the Public Safety Council that we needed to get a specific frequency, and that frequency was going to take time and that frequency was associated with the risks that went with it; we might not get it – we might be out in the cold. But we were fortunate and we got it.

I think what the request that Assistant Chief Verdicchio made for information, I think what we need to do is we need to support that. We need to support that and ask, I think you should authorize me to ask the Public Safety Council for a summary and an explanation so that all our firefighters, through Assistant Chief Verdicchio and the Officers’ Council, know what’s going on.

I think that’s the extent of what we do. I called Assistant Chief Verdicchio and he said that would be fine; it’s a good approach and that’s what they’re looking for. They’d also like to know if there’s any limit on the frequency to do something before January 2012.
Alderman Simonetti stated, when you have this many men, and I know there are women in the Shelton Fire Department also, with this, they really have this, they have problems with their radios, with their communications. Do they know that when they have a problem, from the 16 year old that’s just coming into the Fire Service learning, up to the I. do they know that they have to register it and make sure that Northeastern knows about it, so Northeastern is coming to their rescue?

Alderman Anglace stated, there are 35 calls on record this year, from a variety of people within the Service. So I would imagine that they know.

Alderman Simonetti stated, but to say there’s 50 or even 80 percent, you’d think there’d be a lot more calls to Northeastern. There should be more calls. Are they not registering the calls because they feel like they’re not being heard? Do they think this is just the way we do things in the Shelton Fire Department?

Alderman Anglace stated, no, it’s not. The fact of the matter is there must be a procedure set up. I’m not in the Fire Department so I don’t know.

Alderman Finn stated, there is a procedure set up. If anybody has a problem with a, pager or we have problems with the radios they go through the Officers and the Officers pass it on to the Commissioner and the Commissioner contacts Northeastern.

Alderman Anglace asked, what do you know of the specific experience with Northeastern? Are they responsive?

Alderman Finn stated, oh, they’re always responsive; they’re under contract. You have to take into consideration too, I didn’t respond to this fire, but we had a structure fire reported about two weeks ago, it was either a Monday or Wednesday night. My daughter was in the car because I just picked her up from work. I don’t respond if she’s in the car. Three companies responded to somewhere over in the Huntington section. Our tanker was asked to respond because it’s a non-hydrant area. All of a sudden the dispatcher goes over the air – “everybody stop talking.” My pager, you could follow the conversation. There’s no conversations going on. Four fire companies are on the air and not one company knew they were talking over the other company, because nobody could hear each other.

Alderman Anglace stated, now, the Chief of Police said that the console that we just approved is going to allow the Police Department and the dispatchers to talk with the Fire Department.

Alderman Finn stated, currently they do that now, you can communicate back and forth. That’s one of the procedures; if we don’t have the department radio on the air, that the command of a certain call contacts the dispatch and the dispatch communicates back and forth.

Alderman Anglace stated, let me tell you how I see this. I see this as we set up the structure to do this. We are ready to provide the funding and we are waiting for them as
well to tell us what they need to do, and come to us with a proposal. This group or any group sitting here I’m sure is going to be, [snap] like that.

Alderman Finn stated, and I’m sure former Fire Commissioner Bruce Kosowsky and also Assistant Chief Hongo, if you recall, came back in front of the Public Health and Safety a couple years ago with a proposal for a radio system, and from there it went on to the Public Safety Council.

Alderman Papa stated, the Fire Department should be aware; who is representing the Fire Department on this Public Safety Council? Who takes the place of the Fire Chief at this meeting?

Alderman Finn stated, whoever the duty officer might be that day.

Alderman Papa stated, then he should convey that information to his people, because he knows what’s going on at that particular committee meeting.

Alderman McGorty stated, I think we’ve acknowledged that the process is broken; something is very broken in the process.

Alderman Anglace stated, I don’t think that we as a Board of Aldermen, I think we’ve heard what people have to say and I don’t think we can make that decision – I think we’ve got to try to expedite information, get the Public Safety Council to act and get this issue before us for funding. Get the thing done. That is what we have to do. We can’t sit here and try to understand every detail of ...

Alderman Finn stated, this is your report, this is what you need, go ahead you have our permission, go ahead, let’s get the ball rolling.

Alderman Papa stated, it seems like everything at this Public Safety Council is in private and nobody knows what’s discussed at that...

Alderman Finn interjected, no, it’s not in private. They’re supposed to be taking minutes.

Alderman McGorty stated, it does seem like that.

Alderman Anglace stated, we’re not part of it.

Alderman Papa stated, yes, but we still should know what’s going on.

Alderman Simonetti stated, Jack, what you said about the trucks go out, they call for a truck and somebody was talking over all the other companies?

Alderman Finn stated, no, this one incident was very strange. All of a sudden the dispatcher at the Police Department was saying, “everybody stop talking,” and he said to one of the cars, let’s say Car 3, “Car 3 has an important message it’s trying to get
over the air.” I couldn’t hear anybody talking. None of the other companies heard him talking.

Alderman Kudej stated, there is a lot of electronic equipment in this town that interferes with our radios, with our televisions. You take your car and drive down the old Route 8 on WICC and you’ll lose it periodically because of interference.

Alderman Anglace stated, the next steps in this thing, I want to know is, what are the next steps? Let’s get this thing moving. I will take care of it.

Alderman McGorty asked, what are you going to take care of? What’s on the table here?

Alderman Anglace stated, on behalf of the Board I am going to ask for a report from the Public Safety Council. I’m going to ask the second question that the Officers’ Council raised about, is there a deadline.

Alderman Finn asked, Alderman Anglace, could you provide us with the information you have, the two pages, about the calls? And for the Aldermen that didn’t receive the letter from Assistant Chief Verdicchio, can we get a copy of that letter?

Alderman Anglace stated, I’ll make sure everybody gets one whether you got one tonight or not.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: ___________________ BY: __________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton