Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dennis Salzer, United States Navy, Retired.

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

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Lauretti asked three times if any member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Dennis Salzer, Senior Chief, Electronic Technician
United States Navy, Retired
418 Long Hill Avenue

I thank John and the Mayor for inviting me, and all of you for giving me a few moments to share in some thoughts and feelings about Veterans’ Day and a little bit of information. Speaking to all of you ladies and gentlemen is really – I’m not used to this type of crowd; usually I’m speaking to children who haven’t heard that much about Veterans’ Day or don’t have the values yet of patriotism instilled in them, and you folks do. I will share a few things.

As you know, this Sunday the country sets time aside to honor our veterans. The days preceding that and after that are filled with events, as today we had a Veterans’ Day celebration at Sikorsky Aircraft. However, in my mind, every day that we enjoy freedom is Veterans’ Day. We should connect somewhere in the back of our mind when we’re going
through our day, whatever we’re doing – coming to City Hall, going shopping, going to church or synagogue, there should be something linked to the fact that we’re running around doing what we can do, pursuing our goals, sharing our days with loved ones and friends – we should be linking that to sacrifice made by fellow Americans throughout the history of our country, various men and women, who have sacrificed – some with their lives, some with their limbs, and some maybe with just their time and some inconvenience. Still, they were there, they were on line, ready to go, on duty, ready to serve and God forbid ready to die if they had to. All Americans should always reflect on the sacrifice veterans made. It’s what freedom is all about.

A couple days ago we had an election. Some of us may be happy with the results; some of us are unhappy with the results. However, we should look at Election Day as really a celebration of freedom. Bring it to a different level. If you think about other countries who have had these dictatorships, and oppressed societies, it’s such an honor and privilege to be able to go up to a local school and to cast our vote without any type of control or pressure to do so.

Like I say, speaking to you folks is like preaching to the choir. I’d like to share with you some of the things that I’ve been doing for about the past four or five Veterans’ Days, because I think it’s very important. Years ago I thought, maybe someday when I’m older, maybe I’ll go into schools and talk about the military and veterans. Well, you know, God has His will, and He certainly saw it that I would have that opportunity to do so. I thank Him for that. I had opportunities firstly through the Sikorsky Veterans’ Association to go to a school in Wilton and address 500 first and second graders. It was my first experience and it was quite interesting. I’ll share with you the things that I share with the students of different ages. I try to educate them and instill a little bit of patriotism and make things clear on just what Veterans’ Day is and things they should do. First, I identify who a veteran is, because I know when I was a young boy, I wasn’t quite clear on who a veteran was. I knew they were associated with the military, so I explained that to them. Further on I’ll give the history of Veterans’ Day explaining how it started with World War I, with the end of hostilities and the signing of the truce on Armistice Day and then later on, in 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veterans’ Day and relate to how the celebrations are always on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. I go on to explain to them or suggest to them things they could do on Veterans’ Day – some of these families I’m sure go about their normal business without giving much of a thought. Hopefully the children can bring home some ideas. I’ll suggest things they could do like fly their flags, have discussions with their family about a veteran in their family or someone they know, or go visit a monument. I also suggest to the kids, I say, when you go out in public with an adult, and if you see somebody out there either in a uniform or wearing a veteran’s jacket or veteran’s hat, you know, you see them all over, as long as you’re with an adult, suggest to your mom and dad or whoever you’re with, let’s go up and thank these men and women, say something to them, just say, “thank you for your service.” I do it all the time. You never know what you’re going to get in a response. At WalMart a couple years ago I was walking in there, there was an older man sitting down. He had a ball cap that indicated that he was a crewman on a B-17 bomber in World War II. I stopped and shook his hand, and I thanked him for his service. Well, he started to tell me about his experiences, and you
could see he was all choked up. I listened intently, and he had something to say that was quite impressive at the time. I thought, gee, this poor guy, he’s been here for 60 years, I may have been the first person who has ever thanked him for his service, and I’m so glad I did. I make it a point to do that all the time and I encourage the kids to do that.

Lastly, what I tell the kids, I say these veterans did a lot for you. You go to school, you can do all these things at home. You have the school of your choice, you go shopping, you play ball, you have all this freedom. You owe them. You owe these veterans. And that stops them, they think, hey, what’s he going to say next – what do I have to do, pay these people? I say, you know what you have to do? You have to be the best student you could be; you have to be the best citizen you could be because they gave you your freedom to work at bettering yourself and bettering your community. Use your freedom to do good things. I encourage them. I say look, when you get older, you go out and you vote. Now and when you grow up, try to use your freedom to do things for the betterment of your community and your country. I pretty much leave them with that idea and it opens up the questions. I do it differently depending on the schools. This year I have three different schools to go to and I have PowerPoint slide shows – one of them is a just a series of pictures of veterans. They are pretty nice because a lot of these young kids don’t even know what a person in uniform may look like other than what they see on the news, but that doesn’t cover it all. I have another one I will do Monday at Amity Middle School which is a personal presentation about my career and it’s not that it’s so much about me, but it’s about tradition, family, military, love, honor and friendship and probably a few of those other good characteristics. Hopefully maybe some day I could share that with some of you.

I will leave you to go on to your business. I thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts and feelings about Veterans' Day and I thank all of you for the service you do for our community. I want to say that I grew up in Stratford, and I absolutely love being in Shelton and part of the Valley community. Thank you.

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

Add-Ons

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

8.2 Smartbus Live Agreement
9.6 Repair to Tower 7 – Waiver of Bid

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

Agenda Items
MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading and approve the following meeting minutes:

    Regular Meeting of October 11, 2012
    Special Meeting of October 18, 2012

SECONDED by Alderman Papa.

Alderman Anglace stated, on the minutes of October 18, 2012, Item 1, part B, paragraph 5, the word asepois should be asbestos. In case you were wondering.

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

5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE

No items.

5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

No items.

5.3 STREET COMMITTEE

No items.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

None presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

I want to reflect back on Tuesday’s election. Just for the record let everybody know that the Charter Revision passed and all the questions on the ballot passed. I want to take a minute to thank those people that had a great deal to do with putting these issues together, getting them on the ballot and working so hard to get them where they are.

Charter Revision Commission, I want to name Ken Nappi, and thank Jack Bashar, Frank Coyle, Ruth Ann Dunford, Patrick Lapera, Bronislaw Winnick, Steve Bellis, Anthony Metz, Judy Miko and the clerk, Sophia Belade.

The Animal Shelter Building Committee Gerry Craig, Chairman, Steven Martino, A.J. Grosso, Roberta Reynolds, Irene McCoy, Linda Hooper, Tony Minopoli, and Gail Craig their clerk.
The Fire Department, of course you all know. They did a marvelous job in putting together the information, Chief Fran Jones, Assistant Chief Joe Constantino, Assistant Chief Paul Wilson, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio, and Assistant Chief Daryl Osiecki. The Commissioners Chuck Sutton, Ben McGorty, Mike Ullrich, Justin Sabatino. Fire Marshal Jim Tortora and his staff, and Tim Manion and the Officers’ Council.

The roads – put together by Paul DiMauro, Bob Kulacz, the Board of Aldermen Street Committee, the Street Department and the Engineering Department. They did a great job putting that together,

Canal Street – Jim Ryan, Jim Oram from the Downtown Advisory Committee, SEDC Staff and Board members, the Downtown Citizens Advisory Committee.

I think I’ve mentioned everybody and I think they all deserve our thanks for doing a marvelous job of putting that together. I haven’t mentioned the Mayor, you’re last, because he led the parade. Thank you, thank you.

6.0 LEGAL REPORT

6.1 Corporation Counsel Billing

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize a total payment of $3,705.28 to Corporation Counsel Welch, Teodosio, Stanek and Blake, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated November 1, 2012, with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

- Legal Fees 001-1900-411.30-03 $2,482.50
- Foreclosure Fees 001-1900-411.50-01 $825.00
- Court Costs 001-1900-411.80-84 $397.78

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

6.2 Assistant Corporation Counsel Billing

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize a total payment of $520.50 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous, for services rendered per statement dated November 1, 2012, with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

- Legal Fees 001-1900-411.30-03 $187.50
- Foreclosure Fees 001-1900-411.50-01 $187.50
- Court Costs 001-1900-411.80-84 $145.50

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

No items.

8  FINANCIAL BUSINESS OLD

8.1  Rescission of Action and Re-appropriation – Funding for Riverwalk Lighting – LOCIP Eligible

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind “Item 9.1 Funding for Riverwalk Lighting – LOCIP Eligible” passed at the October 11, 2012 meeting; and further,

MOVED to add the lighting for the Riverwalk, Constitution Park and Huntington Green to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of $159,302 to come from LOCIP; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

8.2  Smartbus Live Agreement

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and the Shelton Board of Education and SBL Investments, LLC D/B/A Smartbus Live; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Anglace asked Mayor Lauretti to give an overview of what this is all about.

Mayor Lauretti stated, before I do that, I don’t understand why this contract is before us; I think it would be more appropriate before the Board of Education seeing how this is a Board of Education issue. I don’t know why Tom has asked us to approve it and me to sign it. In any event, these are cameras that will be going on some of the school buses to help assist law enforcement and people who violate traffic laws by passing buses when buses are dropping kids off with flashing lights on. I would suggest that these cameras are helpful in a lot of other situations that could, may, or may not occur on buses or around buses or at bus stops. I thought it was a pretty good thing. It’s taken about a year to take it to this point and I’m happy that we’re doing it. I think it’s a win-win for everybody.

Alderman Papa asked about the fines from these violations – where does the money go?

Mayor Lauretti stated, the fines are split. Some of it comes to the City; some of it goes to the State. It depends on the nature of the violation. It assists law enforcement. It’s another tool at their disposal.

Alderman Anglace asked, is there any need for funding on this?
Mayor Lauretti replied, no, there is no cost for the infrastructure being put in place, to the City or the Board of Education.

Alderman Anglace asked, do you want us to table it and refer it to the Board of Education?

Mayor Lauretti replied, I did that six months ago. Tom is the one that sent it over so I would assume he feels that we have to approve it. Look, at the end of the day if the Board of Education has to approve or endorse it they can still do that. Let’s just approve it and keep it moving.

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

9 Financial Business New

9.1 November Statutory Refunds

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of $1,787.24 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 Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.2 Levitsky & Berney Invoice

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate $9,000 for professional services rendered by Levitsky & Berney, P.C. with funding to come from Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00; SECONDED by Alderman Papa.

Mayor Lauretti stated, I just want to let everyone know that this was supposed to go before the Finance Committee before it got here; that’s where I sent it. I guess the meeting got canceled for one reason or another.

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

9.3 Funding and Waiver of Bid for Promethean Boards

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendation of Purchasing Agent to waive the bidding process for the purchase of Promethean Boards for various City schools and appropriate funding in the amount of $199,975 to be provided by bonding, pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.
Mayor Lauretti explained, this was an ongoing commitment to technology for the Board of Education. The Promethean Board is used in the classroom by the classroom teacher for instructional purposes. This will completely outfit Shelton High School – they’ll have one in every classroom. There are also a number of boards that will be going to the Shelton Intermediate School and the 5/6 School. The 5/6 School has some already; and so does the Intermediate. This number helps bring every classroom up to speed.

Alderman Papa asked, this is something we are going to bond for? It’s not coming out of the Board of Education’s budget, right?

Mayor Lauretti stated, that is what the motion says.

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

**9.4 Funding for Professional Services – Rain Garden Median on Bridge Street Extension**

Mayor Lauretti stated, this is another item I had sent to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee did not meet. If the Board is not comfortable with this at this point in time or needs further explanation, we can have a little discussion, table it, or act on it, whatever your pleasure.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate $1,500 for professional services rendered by Tate & Associates, LLC for the rain garden median at Bridge Street Extension with funding to come from Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00; SECONDED by Alderman Papa.

Mayor Lauretti explained, by way of background, years back when we closed Bridge Street, and opened up that parking area down by the Post Office, we put in a median – a stone planter with a small blue spruce that after about 10-12 years became a big blue spruce and busted the planter. So it was time to redo the aesthetics in that area down there. Jim Tate did work with us a little bit on it; a lot of the design was done as a work in progress, done by our Public Works when they had available time. Also, recognizing the importance of streetscape in downtown areas. This is something this Board and the City in general has been sensitive to over the years in our ongoing efforts to redo sidewalks and put in street trees along with streetscape and streetlights, much like we’re doing down around the Riverwalk, carrying this up to Main Street on Howe Avenue, the pocket park on the corner of Center and Howe is also another example. So I thought that area does need some work and repair in that parking lot; it did get a little run down over the last couple of years. In an effort to keep pace with the aesthetics in the downtown area, it’s an investment we have been making for over the last 20 years. I open it up for discussion at this point. It’s also environmentally sensitive; it helps with the runoff from the parking lots. It eliminates some blacktop and has a lot of good impacts for one reason or another. This is what a lot of communities around the country are doing in their streetscapes in their downtowns.
Alderman Anglace stated, it’s good; it’s fine. It takes all the gaudy junk out of there and makes it nice and clean. It’s worth $1,500.

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

9.5 **Funding for Shelton High School Baseball Field Fencing**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of $10,094 for the purchase and installation of fencing and various materials for the Shelton High School Baseball Field with funding to come from Contingency General Account 001-9900-900.99-00; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Papa.

Alderman Anglace stated, if you look in your packet there’s a picture of this. You might explain the fencing.

Alderman Papa explained, they’re going to take the old fence out and put in a brand new fence. They’re putting in foul posts and a windscreen. It should really dress up the field. The field is in great shape and this is going to enhance it. This is the field we just renovated.

Mayor Lauretti stated, for the benefit of the Board, we appropriated a lot of funding to these upper fields over the years and we finally have it to the point where this field is in very good if not pristine shape. The fencing formalizes the baseball field. It was part of the agreement that I had with Freeman Burr in the beginning when the City decided we would take on this project. The reason I say that is because over the years the field was open; there was a portable fence along the outfield, and it allowed different activities to go on on the field. Including bringing trucks, Public Works trucks, and Fire trucks, which all are very, very heavy. When you do that, that ruins the drainage that’s in the field; the expensive drainage that goes into these fields. It ruins the irrigation and when you have multiple activities it doesn’t give the grass enough time to grow in for a particular season. So we decided the baseball field would establish its own identity, it’s own feel. We’re doing that with girls’ softball, with a practice field up there for both boys and girls, depending on what the season is, much like what was done with the football field down below and the soccer fields between at the new Intermediate School, that is also a softball field as well at the Intermediate School. This is not anything that is out of character in terms of organizational protocol for athletic fields, particularly for high school and intermediate school complexes such as what we have. It kind of gives everybody their own identity, protects their turf, and we’re in the position to do it, so we should.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.
9.6  Repair to Tower 7 – Waiver of Bid

Alderman Anglance MOVED, per the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent, to waive the bidding process for the emergency repair of Tower 7 for the Fire Department; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

10. - LEGISLATIVE - NEW

10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

No items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Alderman Anglance MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

11.1 Anderson – Workers Compensation
11.2 Murad – Workers Compensation
11.3 Perry Hill School – KBE Lawsuit

and invited Mayor Lauretti and Assistant Corporation Counsel Sous to remain in the auditorium during the Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

At approximately 7:39 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.

It was noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

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 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _____________________________

DATE APPROVED: _____________BY: _____________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton