CALL OF THE MEETING/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Olin called the Special Meeting with the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to order at 5:30 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Olin, Board of A&T- Present
Judson Crawford, Board of A&T- Present
Charlotte Madar, Board of A&T- Present
John Belden, Board of A&T- Present
John Anglase, President of the Board of Aldermen-Present
Alderman Papa, Vice-President of the Board of Aldermen- Present
Alderman McGorty, Board of Aldermen-Present
Alderman Finn, Board of Aldermen-Present
AGENDA ITEM

1. PER CITY CHARTER SECTION 7.2, MAYOR LAURETTI TO PRESENT HIS BUDGET FOR FY 2013/2014 TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION.

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti begins to deliver his Budget Address for the FY 2013/2014 to the Board of Aldermen and Board of Apportionment and Taxation:

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board of Apportionment & Taxation, Board of Aldermen, and Friends.

Tonight is my 22nd budget presentation as the Mayor of Shelton. Over the years there have always been challenges in the budget making
process. Difficult choices had to be made such as; reducing the work force and postponing special projects or purchases to control debt and expenses. Dealing with the impact of National recessions and the wrath of Mother Nature certainly presents both financial and safety challenges. Then, there are the self-inflicted challenges by both state and federal government that may yet prove to be all of our demise.

Our financial health is paramount to the success of the American dream as we know it. Let us all understand that shortcomings at the state and federal levels affect us all. New legislation in the form of mandates is always costly and, often times, usually provides little or no enhancement. It no doubt increases the cost of living for all Americans and increases the financial burden on our business, that will ultimately slow or cost job growth.

My goal, as Mayor, has always been ensuring our residents of a high quality of life that is affordable and will allow every socioeconomic background an opportunity to achieve. It starts with user friendly efficiencies, balance within our city government and ongoing Grand List growth, which in turn, creates tax stability. While Shelton has enjoyed the fruits of our decision making over the past years, challenges continue to develop via the state and federal government.

A quote by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities in a recent publication says it all, “The Governor’s budget imposes colossal unfunded state mandates to municipalities.” In addition, Obama Care comes into effect in 2014. With twenty-three new taxes and imposed health care fees, the challenge for all continues. Shelton’s overall health care cost will increase $500,000 because of Obama Care imposed fees, one only needs to ask why.

We, in Shelton, have broken from the norm. While increasing revenue to the Board of Education budget, overall spending will remain flat. Over the years, the key to our success has been to achieve greater efficiencies in delivering of services and holding the line on spending. The result is no reduction of services and tax stability. There is no doubt that a stable mill rate will create more economic opportunities. This year will be no exception.
This year also represents one half of one percent growth in the Grand List, which is not typical of what we are accustomed to, but then again, neither are these national economic conditions afflicting us. Progress in many areas of our community has continued during these recessionary times, and the prospects for stronger and continued Grand List growth will also continue.

The opening of the Avalon community continues to inspire more development along the Housatonic River in the downtown area. Construction on the Riverwalk extension also begins this year and will add another dimension to our evolving riverfront. New residential and commercial proposals on the Spongex and Rolfite sites, signal hope and opportunity for more private investment in the downtown.

There are reasons why private investors continue to show interest in Shelton. Quality of life and tax stability are items that residents and our corporate partners can count on. Controlling our debt on a pay as you go approach will continue to allow Shelton to reinvest in its infrastructure. Again this year, the City will continue to invest in roads, Open Space purchases, much needed school security, including window and entry door replacement, Public Works equipment, improvement to the parks and walking trails, and the building of a new animal shelter. The new recycling program has also provided a benefit. Recycling is now a revenue generator as opposed to an expense. Improving on our recycling efforts creates both financial and environmental gains. Significant savings will be seen in the area of fuel consumption both in City buildings and operation of our school buses. Converting City and school buildings to dual fuel usage, (from heating oil to natural gas), will save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the coming years. Shelton’s school buses will now be powered by propane. Again, creating significant savings in consumption, while at the same time, reducing emissions for a cleaner environment. This is a marked contrast to ever increasing state and federal taxes.

Unlike those that occupy the legislatures in Hartford and Washington, Shelton has managed its resources well, not spending more that it makes. That makes me grateful to those department heads and bargaining units who have worked in the best interest of our City.

I am proposing a tax decrease for every taxpayer with no reduction in services. The mill rate will go from 22.4 mills down to 22.3 mills and
the budget is based on revenue projections of $115,492,006 and expenditures of $115,492,006.

As I have said over the years, the budget process is 5 ½ months long and some information will change requiring the Board of Aldermen to make adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor
City of Shelton
March 21, 2013

Presented at a Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Aldermen & Board of Apportionment & Taxation on March 21, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlotte Madar MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Judson Crawford. A voice vote was taken and the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Gannon, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: _______________ BY:

_________________________________________ Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton