CALL OF THE MEETING/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti on Thursday, May 23, 2013, called the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 5:30 P.M. in the auditorium, of Shelton City Hall and led the group in a pledge of allegiance.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti
Corporation Counsel, Attorney Tom Welch
Peter Pavone, Registrar of Voters
AGENDA ITEMS

1. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

Alderman Anglace: The Board of Aldermen wishes to thank the City department heads, the Mayor, the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, the Finance Director and his staff, the public and many others for their input into the 2013-2014 budget process.

Once again, we have demonstrated the ability to work together in the best interest of Shelton’s citizens/taxpayers and have arrived at a spending and taxation plan that will manage our City well and give our citizens one of the most affordable tax rates in Connecticut. This budget also helps to stabilize our business community, allow them to grow and provide much needed jobs.

The economic climate hasn’t changed much in the last 7-8 years but thanks to the many innovations that have allowed us to think outside of the box, we have weathered the economic malaise while continuing to provide outstanding public service and instilling confidence in the business community which fuels much of our needed revenue flow.

This year the Public Hearing on the budget yielded good information. For those of you who may have not been there, I call your attention to the City website to view the Public Hearing Minutes dated May 15, 2013 which lists the Board of Education accomplishments outlined by Finance Director, Allan Cameron. This was possible, in large part through the cooperation between the Mayor and Superintendent of Schools and has resulted in major savings, allowing Shelton to continue to address the needs of our community despite severe economic strife.

Our new Garbage and Recycling systems are progressing well and are on budget. Our Public Safety needs are being upgraded with new Fire Engines and communications equipment. Our citizens have authorized bonding for road improvements. Overall, our debt service is well within our ability to pay without causing serious impact to the mill rate.
The Board of Aldermen, the Fiscal Authority, can be justifiably proud of the financial performance of our City. However, one person stands out as providing the ideas for innovation and who is the driving force behind our economic success…and that, ladies and gentlemen…is our Mayor, Mark A. Lauretti.

It is my honor to thank him on behalf of this Board and our entire community for his twenty-two (22) years of dedicated service to our community, which has brought Shelton from the economic ruin of a mill town to one of the most desirable places to live and work in Connecticut.

Thank you.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adopt the following Resolution:

Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton, in accordance with Section 7.6 of the Charter, that the budget documents submitted by the Mayor on March 21, 2013 and subsequently modified by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, be adopted subject to the following amendments/adjustments and that they be accepted as the official budget for the City of Shelton for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

2013-2014 Board of Aldermen changes to Apportionment & Taxation Budget

**REVENUES**

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MONEY | 371.11-00 | INTEREST

NET REVENUE CHANGES: $336,901

EXPENDITURES

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**NET EXPENDITURE CHANGE: $336,901**

Resulting in a total budget of $115,828,907 for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. The mill rate shall be established at 22.31 mills, with a collection date for fiscal year 2013-2014 to be July 1, 2013 and January 1, 2014 for real estate, July 1, 2013 for personal property taxes less than $5,000 and July 1, 2013 and January 1, 2014 for personal property taxes equal to or greater than $5,000 and July 1, 2013 for the motor vehicle tax with the exception of those that carry their own collection date as determined by Statute under the Motor Vehicle Supplement. Any tax under $5 will be waived. Also be it resolved that the Board of Aldermen officially accepts in principle the Capital Improvements Program as submitted by the Mayor and further amended. SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Mayor Lauretti: The budget is a long process, over the last five months there was a lot of scrutiny and a lot of discussion about these numbers and what they should be, but when you look at these numbers, these numbers are proven year in and year out. They hold up and stand the test of time and I think that we are doing the absolute right thing. Stabilizing the mill rate creates the incentive for growth in place called Connecticut, where they just want to do just the opposite. When you lower and stabilize taxes it is a proven fact on what happens after that: you get growth in all areas like jobs. The single most important thing is that people are working; when they work and spend money, they are paying taxes and other things get taken care of. If you do not have your financial health, you are not good to anyone; I think that that is what our government loses sight of sometimes.
It is nice to give out free things and it is nice to want to be able to help people who need help. That is the American way, but if you do not have your financial health, you are no good to anyone so I hope that you agree.

2. SHELTON WARD REDISTRICTING - RESCISSION OF ACTION AND REAPPROVAL

Proposed Boundaries for the 2013 Ward Redistricting- Revised May 20, 2013

WARD 1

Commencing at the Town line with Monroe at the Housatonic River proceeding southwesterly on the Shelton - Monroe town line to Elliott Drive. Following the street centerline of Elliott Drive, southeasterly to Big Horn Road centerline. Big Horn Road south to Beech Tree Hill Road centerline. Beech Tree Hill southeast to the centerline of Pine Tree Hill Road. Pine Tree Hill Road Northeast to the centerline of Beardsley Road. Beardsley Road south to the centerline of Nicholdale Road, following Nicholdale Road west to the centerline of Leavenworth Road (CT Route 110) to the Means Brook centerline. Means Brook south to Saw Mill City Road centerline, Northwesterly on Saw Mill City Road to the centerline of Walnut Tree Hill Road. Following Walnut Tree Hill Road to the Farmill River to the Waverly Road centerline. Waverly Road east to the centerline of Earl Street, continuing easterly on Earl Street to the centerline of Nichols Avenue centerline, Nichols Avenue to the centerline of Church Street. Following Church Street north to the centerline of Shelton Avenue (CT route 108). Following Shelton Avenue(CT Route 108) northeast to the centerline of Maler Avenue, northeast on Maler Avenue to the centerline of Willoughby Road, following Willoughby Road southeasterly back to the centerline of Shelton Avenue (CT route 108), proceeding northeast on Shelton Avenue to the centerline of Constitution Boulevard North. Continuing on Constitution Boulevard North to the north side of the Shelton High School property line following this line across Meadow Street cutting across the northwest side of the property lines on Ten Coat Lane and beyond to Howe Avenue (CT Route 110) to the southwest side of the Housatonic River, following the Housatonic River northwest to the Monroe Town Line point of origin.
WARD 2

Starting at the intersection of Shelton Avenue and the centerline of Constitution Boulevard North. Continuing on Constitution Boulevard North to the north side of the Shelton High School property line following this line across Meadow Street cutting across the northwest side of the property lines on Ten Coat Lane, to Howe Avenue (CT Route 110) to the southwest side of the Housatonic River, following the Housatonic River southeast then southwest to the point opposite the top center of the cul-de-sac at Fanny Street, proceeding to the centerline of Victory Street going east then north east on Victory street to the centerline of Jordan Avenue going west to the centerline of Two House Lane. Following Two House Lane to the centerline of Wakeley Street, going west on Wakeley Street to the centerline of River Road (CT Route 110), going north on River Road to the centerline of Belmont Avenue, following Belmont Avenue in a westerly direction to the centerline of Coram Road, going northwest on Coram Road to a point south of the property lines on the south side of Plaskon Drive. Proceeding west on said property lines to the centerline of Constitution Boulevard South. North west on Constitution Boulevard South to the centerline of Bridgeport Avenue (CT Route 714) south on Bridgeport Avenue to the centerline of Old Bridgeport Avenue to the centerline of Sunwood Drive, northwesterly on Sunwood Drive to the centerline of Mountain Laurel Road, North on Mountain Laurel to the centerline of Wooded Lane, then southwest on Wooded Lane to the centerline of Nells Rock Road, northerly on Nells Rock Road to the centerline of Shelton Avenue (CT Route 108).

WARD 3

Starting at the centerline of Church Street at the intersection of Nichols Avenue proceeding south to Huntington Street, following Huntington Street to the intersection of the Shelton – Trumbull and Shelton – Stratford town lines, following in an easterly direction the Stratford Town Line to the Housatonic River centerline. Then continuing in a northerly direction along the Housatonic River to the point opposite the top center of the cul-de-sac at Fanny Street, proceeding to the centerline of Victory Street going east then north east on Victory street to the centerline of Jordan Avenue going west to the centerline of Two House Lane. Following Two House Lane to the centerline of Wakeley Street, going west on Wakeley Street to the centerline of River Road (CT Route 110), going north on River Road to the centerline of Belmont Avenue, following Belmont Avenue in a westerly
direction to the centerline of Coram Road, going northwest on Coram Road
to a point south of the property lines on the south side of Plaskon Drive.
Proceeding west on said property lines to the centerline of Constitution
Boulevard South. Northwest on Constitution Boulevard South to the
centerline of Bridgeport Avenue (CT Route 714) south on Bridgeport Avenue
to the centerline of Old Bridgeport Avenue to the centerline of
Sunwood Drive, northwesterly on Sunwood Drive to the centerline of
Mountain Laurel Road, Northwest then North on Mountain Laurel to the
centerline of Wooded Lane, then southwest on Wooded Lane to the
centerline of Nells Rock Road, northerly on Nells Rock Road to the
centerline of Shelton Avenue (CT Route 108). Following Shelton Avenue
(CT Route 108) southwest to the centerline of Willoughby Road, following
Willoughby Road northwesterly to the centerline of Maler Avenue,
southwest on Maler Avenue to the centerline of Shelton Avenue (CT route
108), proceeding southwest on Shelton Avenue (CT route 108) back to the
centerline on Church Street, south to the centerline of Nichols Avenue (CT
route 108).

WARD 4

Commencing at the Town line with Monroe at the Housatonic River
proceeding southwesterly on the Shelton - Monroe town line to Elliott Drive.
Following the street centerline of Elliott Drive, southeasterly to Big Horn
Road centerline. Big Horn Road south to Beech Tree Hill Road centerline.
Beech Tree Hill southeast to the centerline of Pine Tree Hill Road. Pine
Tree Hill Road Northeast to the centerline of Beardsley Road. Beardsley
Road south to the centerline of Nicholdale Road, following Nicholdale Road
west to the centerline of Leavenworth Road (CT Route 110) to the Means
Brook centerline. Means Brook south to Saw Mill City Road centerline,
Northwesterly on Saw Mill City Road to the centerline of Walnut Tree Hill
Road. Following Walnut Tree Hill Road to the Farmill River to the Waverly
Road centerline. Waverly Road east to the centerline of Earl Street,
continuing easterly on Earl Street to the centerline of Nichols Avenue
centerline, Nichols Avenue to the centerline of Church Street. Church
Street south to the centerline of Huntington Street continuing to the
centerline of Bridgeport Avenue at the Shelton - Stratford - Trumbull town
lines. Following the Shelton – Trumbull town line to the Shelton – Monroe
town line back to the centerline of Elliott Drive.
First Vote:

Aldermen Anglace moved to rescind the action taken by the Board of Aldermen at its May 9, 2013 meeting wherein it approved the City of Shelton Ward Redistricting Plan #2.

Further, move to approve the revised apportionment and boundaries of Shelton’s four wards in accordance with state statutes as represented by revised proposal #2 with boundaries shown on the submitted map and further described in the attached list of street boundaries with the map being the deciding factor in the event of any misunderstanding. SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and there were 4 that approved, 2 opposed and one that abstained.

Alderman McPherson: Pete, can you clarify again, because I am convinced that the State does not even know where the State line is.

Peter Pavone: The State line is at the center point on the cul-de-sac on Fanny Street, going up to Victory Street, going up Victory Street and taking a left on Jordan Avenue, taking a right on Two House. Previously we had the line at Anna Street, to the end of the cul-de-sac on Anna Street; going up on Anna Street and then a right out of Jordan Avenue. These are the actual lines that the State has actually given us. Everything on yellow on what you see on this map is the Third Congressional District for the United States Congress. Most of Shelton, which I have said in the last meeting, is in Congressional 4. The other change that was made in the text, if you go to Ward 2, and you go to line 6 which begins with the word “opposite”; they changed actually to place through that line where it says: “Fanny Street proceeding to the centerline of Victory Street, going east then northeast on Victory Street to the centerline of Jordan Avenue, going west to the centerline of Two House Lane”. That is one change on this document.

Another change is on page 2 of 2, Ward 3; go to line 5 where it says: “Housatonic River” and go to the end of line 5 where it says: “Fanny Street proceeding to the centerline of Victory Street, going east then northeast on Victory Street to the centerline of Jordan Avenue going west to the center of Two House Lane”. That is the only change; everything else stays the same.
If anyone is curious about population, this was my scenario #2 map; they all stay the same. With the error that we had, the numbers would have been off.

Alderman Papa: Can you give us an idea of the numbers of each ward?

Peter Pavone: For Ward 1: 10,300; Ward 2 is the largest: 11,100; Ward 3 is 9,200; Ward 4 is 9,600. We had an error of 70 people with that little thing that we had in here.

Mayor Lauretti: Why is my ward getting shortchanged?

Peter Pavone: Your ward is not getting shortchanged. You had the highest population density in the town. The problem is that we had to expand Ward 3. Here are your options: you can go into the Housatonic area, not that many voters in that area, Trap Falls, not that many voters in that area, or the population in the “berries” are not as condensed. Our new line as I have said in the last meeting is basically we took where Constitution meets Long Hill, and we went up Long Hill through Rocky Rest; Rocky Rest down to River Road. In the other direction, we went down Constitution to the south side of Plaskon Drive, which is your entire street Stan. We went through Plaskon, to Coram Road, Coram Road southeast to Belmont Avenue and Belmont Avenue to the centerline of River Road and River Road down to Wakeley Street. From that point on, it is the same.

Attorney Welch: Pete, if the piece of paper that you passed out at the last meeting for the streets; that was correct.

Peter Pavone: They were wrong because it showed the other streets labeled.

The mandate that you all have handed Jack, and me as registrars, was to redistricting with minimal impact on voters changing voting locations. Only the people in that area will have to change voting locations; approximately 650 people have to change voting locations from one year to another. The remaining 23,500 voters, unlike in the past will have the same voting location every election for the next ten years. In the past, there were 7,000 voters that changed locations. Last year we downsized from six to four voting locations to help reduce costs, of what the Mayor was speaking about earlier, and in that process we actually made it simpler this year to
tell the voters where you vote this year, you will vote next year. This year, there are going to be a lot of people that are going to be changing areas where they voted two years ago. For most of the people, you will tell them that they will be voting in the same location as last year, except for those 650 people that are along Long Hill Avenue.

Alderman Kudej: What were the numbers from last year to this year, for Ward 2?

Peter Pavone: You have to go by ten years when they did the last redistricting, and I am not sure. You have to go by the numbers that were done from the last ten years because that was the last time they did the census.

Alderman Kudej: Only 600 people changed?

Peter Pavone: 650 people, no...they will only have to change voting locations. There are more people that will have to change this year, but from that point on they will remain at the same voting location.

Alderman Kudej: I think there is going to be much more than 600 people.

Peter Pavone: No, we counted the households and Jack agreed with the 638 that we estimated. It is an estimate, so w might be off 10 or 15.

Alderman Kudej: I am still trying to visualize that we had from the White Hills Shopping Plaza, all the way down- they took all of that away from us. They took away everything on the other side of Long Hill Avenue, and everything below Belmont Avenue. You said that works out fine, but I do not think that we had any more people from the other wards from the last time.

I wanted to go by the voter’s registration book, and you cannot do that.

Peter Pavone: You cannot go by the voter’s registration book.

Alderman Kudej: Don’t you have to go by the number of houses?

Peter Pavone: No. When they do the census, and like last year when they picked how big the 113 would be or how big the 127 would be. It is all done by population. These numbers that I showed you are population.
Alderman Kudej: Are the apartments and the new Avalon Bay construction counted in the redistricting?

Alderman Finn: No, you cannot look into the future—any developments after 2011 are not included.

Alderman Kudej: How are all these numbers equalized?

Peter Pavone: I reduced your ward; you still have 11,300 people in your ward. We had to reduce it to bring his up from 8,200. Ward 2 was 13,000.

Aldermen Anglace: Let’s talk about the third ward with Lynn Farrell and John Anglace. Ten years ago, we voted to support redistricting because we were told that based on the population numbers, there was a good distribution of the people. Well the fact of the matter is that was the case back then. Immediately following that, we found out a number of voters in the third ward were significantly lowered in any other ward, and it remained that way for ten years. Here we are back to redistrict again and we are using the same figures: population. We are not using geography and we are not using density. We are using the population numbers to get a fair distribution. When we go to vote, they find that the number of voters were significantly different. I don’t know that, Pete does not know and Jack does not know that, so we have to work off the population figures. The second guided principle that they have given to us is to maintain the federal and state lines. As Pete said, what they did is that for that small area, they did not follow the lines.

Alderman Kudej: I believe that the number of households determined this, right?

Peter Pavone: The population was used to determine size, but what we did was verify it by counting households, as instructed by the Secretary of the State, and multiply that by two-and-a-half. That is where we got 638; we manually counted that. The population from the State was provided to us.

Alderman Anglace: The reason why the Board of Aldermen, this year, to take and share this responsibility with the two registrar of voters versus going out and appointing committee because these are the most knowledgeable people, who live with the issues and the problems of voting and the fairness of it; they have to live with it. They are the most
knowledgeable and the plan that they come up with is a fair plan. The reason that we are here tonight is to tweak it, to make sure that we are within the State lines; that is the only reason.

Peter Pavone: By the way, when you go to Sunnyside School in the past, there were always 6 or 7 tables to take the population in. At Long Hill School, we only have two, so there was an indication of how the population was unbalanced from the census ten years ago.

Right now, 60% of the population is voters: 24,000 out of 40,000. If you want, you can use those numbers and apply it to this, and figure out the voting population. I guarantee that you are going to it skewed because in some areas it is probably not 60%, but maybe 80% of the population in Ward 4 are voters whereas less are in other wards.

Alderman Kudej: I argued earlier, and I understand that every 10 years you have to redistrict and adjust. I have only been an alderman for 12 years, and ever since I became an alderman, the second ward has been continuously expanding in area. How is that possible?

I can get the old registration books and show them to you, I saved them all.

Peter Pavone: We cannot speak for what was done from ten years ago, but the lines were drawn ten years ago and our database was set up then.

Alderman Kudej: When I first started with Joe Lanzi, I had a certain area. Now I am with Eric and we have a bigger area. I do not know how it increased?

Alderman Anglace: I want to make this comment: at this table up here with the eight aldermen, there are no winners or losers in the redistricting process. The only winners and losers in this redistricting process are the people for ten years that have been inconvenienced and sometimes wanted to forego their voting privilege because they were so inconvenienced. Jack and Pete know this first hand because they deal with it. They are the winners, and that is what we are trying to do. I do not care where my ward comes out, or what streets I have. I will live with whatever you come up with, but my concern is that we set it as a goal in the registrars and I think you have met it with minimizing changes so the voters are no longer inconvenienced; keep it to a minimum.
Alderman McPherson: It seems like we are going to put more people out of place.

Peter Pavone: With that Eric, Jack and I counted that the other day and it was 70, so the number of 638 would be increased to 700.

Alderman McPherson: As I have said, there will be more people moving.

Peter Pavone: No, I have to correct that; that is less. 700 people will have to change versus 638, so it is less people changing voting locations.

Alderman McPherson: Then you mentioned the Secretary of the State: first of all, anything that that office says, you can throw it out of the window after they screwed up the last election. Doesn’t this have to do with why this part of the area is in the Third Congressional District, and it never should have been.

Peter Pavone: I cannot speak to that; I agree with you. Remember that we do all of the hard work divvying these lines into the computer, and then on top of that we explain to all of those voters why they vote where they vote.

Alderman McPherson: We have to do all of the work because the State screwed up and the State does not know what is going on. So you talk about winners and losers, it is the cities that are the losers because this affects our sovereignty because we have to clean up their mess that they are not competent and capable of doing so we are stuck with it. Stan’s ward and mine gets butchered more than it should have been, and we have to live with it.

Peter Pavone: I tried to minimize that; I went to 638.

Alderman McPherson: This does not sit well with me, and the State and the State should be taking up the task. This is supposed to be representation.

Peter Pavone: On the map, that is the Third Congressional District in orange. That is what reflects the information on Fanny Street.

Alderman McPherson: It is their screw up now and we have to deal with it.
Peter Pavone: They do have hearings in Hartford, and ask the public when they do the redistricting.

Alderman McPherson: They do not listen to the public anyway. It is a waste to have a public hearing there because they are going to do what they want to do.

Peter Pavone: We tried to have these lines follow these lines as close as possible, except for that area of Plaskon that I have talked about.

Alderman Papa: Pete, you did your best to divide up into four wards. Everyone is losing voters from over the years.

Peter Pavone: You are not losing voters you are changing voters. Instead of the Smiths, it will be the Jones.

Alderman Papa: What I mean is that the people who voted for us are voting for someone else in the next ward, in the next election. The bottom line is that it is more balanced now in the sense of people in that district. Not that they are voters, but people.

Alderman Finn: This is based on population, not on voters. If you look at the map that was in front of you tonight, it is the same district that you proven tonight when I was elected in office 28 years ago, with the except of Big Horn.

Alderman McPherson: I have to worry what is going to happen the next time we do it, because who only knows what geniuses at the state and federal level are going to do to us and we are going to have to clean up their mess again.

Peter Pavone: Eric just so you know, the Congressional Third District in Shelton was significantly reduced last time, so we won that battle.

Alderman McPherson: However, it should have never been there to begin with, and we had to pay that price too.

After the vote was taken, Alderman Finn was uncertain whether it was a conflict of interest, to act as an alderman and working as a Voting Registrar. He initially selected to abstain from the vote.
Attorney Tom Welch indicated that there is no conflict of interest and to offer some clarity, prior to the Board of Aldermen requesting that the registrars pursue this process; that the question was asked, was to ensure that Alderman Finn could be involved as both, an alderman and as a registrar and in fact, he could do both.

Alderman Finn requested, per Robert’s Rules of Order, to change his vote from abstained to being a proponent in the vote.

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to reconsider Item 2, learning that there was no conflict of interest; to put the vote back on the floor, and to re-do the vote. SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. MOTION to re-open the vote PASSED 7-0.

Final Vote:

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind the action taken by the Board of Aldermen at its May 9, 2013 meeting wherein it approved the City of Shelton Ward Redistricting Plan #2.

Further, move to approve the revised apportionment and boundaries of Shelton’s four wards in accordance with state statutes as represented by revised proposal #2 with boundaries shown on the submitted map and further described in the attached list of street boundaries with the map being the deciding factor in the event of any misunderstanding. SECONDED by Aldermen Papa. A voice vote was taken and the final vote resulted in 5 approved-2 opposed.

3. AMENDMENT TO WPCA AND TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL 145 AGREEMENT

Alderman Anglace moved to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton Water Pollution Control Authority and Teamsters Union Local 145 as amended.
Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Attorney Welch: Mr. Mayor, all we are doing tonight is amending- I made a mistake. There was an omission, and you have the redlined version that matches your Merit System and other employees. I failed to insert it last time. It had been negotiated by the Mayor and accepted by the union; I just forgot to put it in.

Mayor Lauretti: It was one item that was left out. There was a provision that allows an employee to forego their medical insurance from the City, and to receive payment in lieu of. It is standard language in all of our contracts now. The only thing that is different in this contract is that amounts were increased, as they were when every contract has been negotiated. If you are single, you would get $3,500, if you are two-people, you get $4,000 and on the family plan, you would receive $4,500.

Attorney Welch: You have passed an amendment to the Merit System Ordinance that follows that as well.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Gannon, Clerk
Board of Aldermen