CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Madar called the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and the Board of
Apportionment & Taxation to order at 5:50 p.m. All those present rose and pledged
allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Madar, Board of A&T- present
Joe Palmucci, Vice-Chairman, Board of A&T- present
John Belden, Board of A&T- present
Joe Knapik, Board of A&T-presenter
Louis Dagostine, Board of A&T-present
John Zikaras, Board of A&T-present

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President of Board of Aldermen – 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

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti, City of Shelton
Allan Cameron, Board of Education Finance Director
Freeman Burr, Superintendent of Schools

AGENDA ITEM

1. PER CITY CHARTER SECTION 7.2, MAYOR LAURETTI TO PRESENT HIS
BUDGET FOR FY 2014-2015 TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND
BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION
MAYOR’S BUDGET PRESENTATION

March 21, 2014

Members of the Board of Apportionment & Taxation, Members of Board of Aldermen, Members of the Press, Ladies & Gentlemen … Today represents an unprecedented opportunity for me, as your Mayor, to deliver to you the 2014-15 Budget for the City of Shelton … a privileged practice I have been honored to perform now for the past 23 years.

I want to thank the Department Heads and the Boards and/or Commissions who submitted well thought-out budget requests. I especially want to thank the Finance Director, Paul Hiller, who burned the midnight oil and was of immeasurable assistance in putting together this budget. This is yet another example of your commitment to your City and your constituents.

The economy has not improved since last year. The job picture is probably worse in CT this year and more and more pressure is being put on our neighbors to pay more and more taxes to state and federal taxing authorities. Municipalities must hold the line if our families are to survive this dismal economy. Shelton families are working harder and longer hours and they are not better off today than yesterday. The more they make, the more their governments seem to take. Consequently, my budget concentrates on fiscal stability, focusing on the needs of the community and the ability of City residents to make ends meet.

The hallmark of Shelton’s continued economic success has been its ability to retain its financial competitiveness while enjoying a high quality of life. This challenge is on-going.

Our City will continue, as we have done in the past, to invest and re-invest in our total infrastructure (all aspects of our city) - education, open space, roads and parks, etc. This budget will continue those efforts. While our Grand List is only a modest ½ percent in growth this past year, the future for more robust activity is almost certain. We continue to have significant activity with both residential and commercial investments up sharply from the past recession of 2008. Our City’s investment in the downtown continues to foster new development activities with the completion of the Avalon complex; it also brings new opportunities at Spongex and Rolfite properties.

Economic success is rewarded with more investments when affordability is in play; one goal I have always pursued. We have been recognized as Connecticut’s most affordable for a reason. In 2007-08 we saw the mill rate reduction while 2008, 2009, 2010 saw no increase in the mill rate. In 2012 there was a modest increase and in 2013 a modest reduction. Simply put, we, predictably remain a city that is affordable from year-to-year, as this is so important for business and residential property owners alike.

We have achieved cost reductions for the City from the way we purchase our insurance to the way we provide our personal services. Public dialogue has led to constructive suggestions and positive results. I encourage each of you to continue this process.

The budget I submit to you today represents an increase in spending of approximately $2 million. The irony is that despite our grand list growth of .5%, which is the envy of other CT municipalities, it still is not enough to meet the increased funding
demands. Imagine how other towns with much less revenue growth must be coping with this problem.

I have sought to bring equity and fairness to the educational spending process while, at the same time, recognizing legitimate educational needs and making every effort to fund them accordingly, keeping in mind that student enrollment continues to decline; the cost of services does not. My budget increases the Board of Education budget by some $2 million in new operating funds to cover contractual increases and state mandates while also making an additional $500,000 of capital monies available. Education represents the largest demand for new budget money and those of you who have been around for some time know how carefully I look at and scrutinize their budget request. By purchasing school busses we have removed a major portion of the bus contract costs from the education operating budget converting those costs to the City side of the capital budget. These creative solutions have been accomplished without reducing the education budget thereby freeing up education budget money for other uses. Historically, education costs have risen far in excess of the growth of the City Grand List; a trend that cannot continue when the taxpayers are suffering reduced disposable income.

The budget I am submitting for fiscal year 2014-15 is based on revenue projections and expenditures of $117,945,680. It will result in a mill rate of 22.31 mills resulting in no tax increase.

Finally, I would remind everyone that the budget review process is a dynamic, 6-month process where the information available in December may well change and be further adjusted by final adoption in May.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

Thank you,

Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Madar MOVED to adjourn at approximately 6:00 pm. SECONDED by John Belden. A voice vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Presented at the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Apportionment & Taxation, on March 21, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Gannon, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: ___________________
BY: ________________________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton