Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Aldermanic President John F. 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 - absent
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 – absent

Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous

Public Session

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

Linda Casella, 26 Mayflower Lane

What I just wanted to say tonight is that I wear three different hats in the City of Shelton. Number one I’m a voter and a taxpayer; two, I’m a mother of a three- and four-year old; and three, I am a speech language pathologist employed by the Shelton Board of Education. No matter what hat I’m wearing, I am in full support of full-day Kindergarten.

We say we have a half-day Kindergarten program that is effective. But a school day is six hours and 30 minutes. Our Kindergarten students come to school for two hours and 48 minutes. During this short time we have to factor in a 25-minute special which is Art, Gym, or Music; we have to factor in 15 minutes for snack time which is their only social time. We also have to put in about 10 minutes for one Kindergarten teacher to get over 20 students ready for the day-end dismissal – that’s packing backpacks, zipping coats. We also have to factor in another 10 minutes of one Kindergarten teacher taking over 20 students to the bathroom. With all that said, our Kindergarten students are actually only being educated less than two hours a day.
If we had a full-day program it would give our children the ultimate gift of 18.5 more hours of academic instruction per week. It would make a huge impact.

Since I work for the Board of Education I thought it would only be apropos to do a little mini-lesson for you all.

[Mrs. Casella placed a handful of candy bars on the table]. What I have here are $100 Grand bars. Not only do these $100 Grand bars represent one of my favorite candies, but they also represent the small portion of surplus money that the City of Shelton has. What I’m asking for you guys to make happen is to put all these candy bars together, give this one to Mr. Lauretti – the end result - a huge Payday for the educational success of all our students. They deserve it.

John Figoras, 11 Daybreak Lane

I am also a taxpayer and a pretty well educated person that feels that education cannot be stopped. We want as much of it as possible. Where you begin is with the Kindergarten people. I think Shelton is one of the very few towns in Connecticut that do not have a full-time Kindergarten program. I am appalled by that; I feel very, very bad for our children. I don't know what was said before but I am very proud. Full-time Kindergarten. let’s give them every chance we have. We have enough single mothers that are in town trying to raise their families and keep a full-time job so they can afford to live here. I think our taxes are very reasonable compared to many, many other towns. I feel this is the beginning. Let’s give these kids what they deserve – a full-time Kindergarten as a start. Thank you very much.

Molly Oestreich, 16 Golden Hill Lane

My family and I moved to Shelton about two years ago from out of state and we chose Shelton and Fairfield County based on the community feel and the attention we received while checking out the elementary school where my boys would attend. The Principal took the time out of her busy daily schedule to give us a tour and answer any questions that we had. My oldest is currently a first grader at ESS. Although he is doing okay, I think he would have been better off with a full-day curriculum. He is currently scoring lower than he should for his DRA and has struggled with reading since starting at ESS. My son also, just on a side note, had three years of preschool, which a lot of kids do not have. With the current expectations of the Kindergartners, to know, right now, and the new common core standards, and the cutoff date of December 30th, I am especially worried for my upcoming Kindergartner. Not only will he be in a class of ages ranging from four to six, he will be expected to achieve the same grades and standards as those neighboring town schools with almost four hours less a day, 20 hours less a week, and almost 600 less in the 180-day school year. For Shelton it is a necessity to change into a full-day Kindergarten as already it is in all of Fairfield County.

Recently at the PTO meeting in ESS, the Principal spent a good portion of the meeting discussing the importance of full-day Kindergarten. It is evident here that the parents
want full-day Kindergarten and the administrators want full-day Kindergarten. We don’t know why our lawmakers can’t make it happen.

Knowing what I know now would I have chosen Shelton to settle down in two years ago? Probably not. I just please hope that you find a way to work with the Board of Education. Whatever the reasons are that there’s no agreement to make sure that the future of our generation of kids and their education is top priority. As we all know there are pressures put on standards now that are way bigger than years ago. We need to help them have a good jump start. Thank you.

Lori Mckeon, 54 Philip Drive

I started a Facebook page a couple of days ago, it’s called “Shelton Taxpayers for full-day Kindergarten”. Within 24 hours we had over 100 people sign up on that Facebook page. We currently have a petition of over 500 signatures of Shelton taxpayers for full-day Kindergarten. I want to make it clear, we are not trying to fight for funds that need to be used for security and safety, or for pay to participate. I believe, as well as all of those folks that signed the petition, and all of those folks that are members of the Facebook page, that Shelton has the money to get rid of pay to participate and to implement full day Kindergarten. We are literally talking about less than $1 million to do both of those things.

I do appreciate and understand that you folks have given money outside of the Education budget for Promethian boards and for other things for the school. I’ve made sure that that Facebook page does reflect that. But at the end of the day, the Board of Education is a not for profit organization. They do need your funds, which you get from all of us as taxpayers. I certainly hope we can work together. There only seems to be a couple of things that you all are in contention with, such as costs for buses and propane, there is some angst about cell phones that were purchased. Let’s look at the big picture. We want our administrators to be available 24 hours a day. They need cell phones in order to do that. Let’s get beyond the petty arguments and what has happened in the past. Let’s move Shelton forward. Ask for help if you need it from parents and tax supporters; that’s why we’re here. But it’s time to make this happen. Let’s give the Board of Education time to train their teachers for full-day Kindergarten and get the curriculum in place. Let’s not wait until May 30th to make this decision; let’s move it along. Thanks.

Martha Parkins, 15 Serene Drive

I am a mother of a 3 year old and a 5 month old, and also a Shelton teacher. I teach first grade at ESS. I can tell you first hand as a first grade teacher how important it is that our Kindergartners have full-day Kindergarten. Already in first grade they are coming in with deficits because there is just not enough time in the half-day Kindergarten to get everything that they need done. I ask that you please fully fund this so that we can have full-day Kindergarten in Shelton. Thank you.
Nicole Bunaskavich, 3 Horse Stable Circle

I have four kids. I have two that have already gone through Kindergarten. I have one that’s in Kindergarten this year. I’ve seen the changes in the curriculum. I’ve seen it from my first, to my second, and now my third. I see her struggling to keep up. I think we’ve adopted Common Core, which was designed for a full-day curriculum, but yet we’re expecting them to do it in a half-day. I think that the need is there; the money is there. We need to do this for the kids because they are going to continue to fall behind as we’ve already started to see. We’re going to be looking at paying for remediation to bring them up to par and to be scoring on those standardized tests like we’d like to see. I also understand that because we have Common Core we do get rebates back from the State and from the government to meet the standards. So we’re getting money back, we’re doing Common Core, we’re doing what we’re supposed to do, but we’re expecting these guys to do it in a half-day program and it’s not fair. I’m in support of full-day Kindergarten and I hope that we can make this happen.

Agenda Items

Add-Ons

Alderman Papa MOVED to add the following to the agenda,

9.5 FUNDING FOR MASONRY BY FRONT ENTRANCE OF PLUMB MEMORIAL LIBRARY
10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING
10.1 A AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES ARTICLE II. NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SECTION 12-16 THROUGH 12-19
10.2 NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION

SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

1. Special Meeting – March 6, 2014
2. Regular Full Board Meeting – March 13, 2014
3. Special Meeting – March 18, 2014
4. Special Meeting – March 21, 2014
5. Special Joint Meeting Board of Aldermen/Board of A&T – March 21, 2014
6. Public Hearing on Ordinances – March 25, 2014

SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.
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

None presented.

6.0  LEGAL REPORT

6.1  Corporation Counsel Billing

Alderman Papa MOVED to authorize a total payment of $2,325 to Corporation Counsel Welch, Teodosio, Stanek and Blake, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated April 3, 2014, with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

| Legal Fees         | 001-1900-411.30-03 | $2,325 |

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

6.2  Assistant Corporation Counsel

Alderman Papa MOVED to authorize a total payment of $262.50 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous for services rendered per statement dated April 1, 2014 with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

| Legal Fees         | 001-1900-411.30-03 | $262.50 |

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

7  LEGISLATIVE - OLD

7.1  Items from Public Hearing
7.1.a Proposed Amendments To Code Of Ordinances - Garbage, Trash And Refuse, Chapter 6 - Sec. 6-5, 6-10, 6-12, 6-67

Alderman Papa MOVED to adopt the amendments to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 - Garbage, Trash and Refuse - Sec. 6-5, 6-10, 6-12, 6-67, which is included by reference.

Further, move that this ordinance be published in summary form with a full copy available for review in the office of the City Town Clerk.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Anglace stated, I’d like to call to your attention on page 21 of the backup – you’ll note item 4 says “a fine of $500 for the fourth and subsequent violations...” I highlighted that and also on page 15 another reference to a $500 fine. By State law we cannot fine more than $250. I request the Ordinance be adopted with those changes.

Alderman Kudej MOVED TO ADOPT WITH THOSE CHANGES; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 6-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 6-0.

8 FINANCIAL BUSINESS OLD

No items.

9 FINANCIAL BUSINESS NEW

9.1 April Statutory Refunds

Alderman Papa MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of $388.45 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 Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.2 Funding for Howe Avenue Fire Victims

Alderman Papa MOVED to transfer $5,000 from Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00 to Team Account #001-6500-414.79-01 for Howe Avenue Fire victims; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.
9.3 **Funding for Permanent War Memorial Renovations**

Alderman Papa MOVED to add renovations to the Permanent War Memorial to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of $32,000 to come from LOCIP; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.4 **Funding for Pine Rock Park Firehouse Restroom Renovation**

Alderman Papa MOVED to add renovations to the restrooms at Pine Rock Park Firehouse to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of $11,000 to come from LOCIP; SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.5 **Funding for Masonry by Front Entrance of Plumb Memorial Library**

Alderman Papa MOVED to add the refurbishment of masonry at the entrance of the Plumb Memorial Library to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of $4,350 to come from LOCIP; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

10. **LEGISLATIVE - NEW**

10.1 Items to Public Hearing

A PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 22, 2014

10.1.A Amendment to Code of Ordinances Article II. Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Section 12-16 through 12-19

**Article II. Valley Council of Governments**

12-16 City authorized to join.

The City of Shelton shall be a member of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in accordance with Section 4-124i through 124p, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes.

12-17 Mayor to represent City.

The representative of the City to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall be the Mayor.
12-18 Powers and duties.

The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall have such power, purposes, responsibilities and duties as defined by the general statutes of the State.

12-19 Financial commitment.

Membership in the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall in no way bind the City to any financial commitments or obligations except as may from time to time be provided by the annual budget. meeting of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

10.2 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Resolution

Alderman Papa MOVED to ADOPT the following Resolution:

Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton:

RESOLVED, that the City of Shelton, hereby acting by its Board of Aldermen, hereby adopt and ratify a resolution dated December 17, 2013 from the Valley Council of Governments regarding the Voluntary Consolidation of the Central Naugatuck Valley and Valley Planning Regions and Redesignation of the combined Planning Region by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

Further, the City of Shelton, hereby acting by its Board of Aldermen, hereby adopt and ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Elected Officials, the Valley Council of Governments and the City of Bristol and the Town of Plymouth.

Further, that the City of Shelton shall amend the Code of Ordinances Sections 12-16 through 12-19 to change the name of the Valley Council of Governments to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

Now, therefore, be it ordained:

12-16 City authorized to join.

The City of Shelton shall be a member of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in accordance with Section 4-124i through 124p, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes.

12-17 Mayor to represent City.

The representative of the City to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall be the Mayor.
12-18 Powers and duties.

The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall have such power, purposes, responsibilities and duties as defined by the general statutes of the State.

12-19 Financial commitment.

Membership in the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments shall in no way bind the City to any financial commitments or obligations except as may from time to time be provided by the annual budget. meeting of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

DISCUSSION:

Alderman Anglace explained, this resolution gives us the interim authority to proceed with the transition. We were in the Greater Bridgeport Council of Governments region. The State has revamped the COG districts and they put us into the Naugatuck Valley with some other cities and towns. We are going through a transition period. We need this Resolution in order to make decisions and do things in the interim.

Alderman Finn stated, we’re sending amendments to Section 2-17, 2-18 and 2-19 to public hearing, yet tonight we’re asked to pass a resolution that include those sections. How can we pass this without going to public hearing.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Sous explained, the resolution can be passed. The other is a change in the Ordinance just to add the words “Naugatuck Valley.”

Alderman Anglance explained, by State law each of the member towns are required to adopt an ordinance. We have no standing, no authority, and cannot participate until we do that. In the interim the law provides that we can pass a Resolution to set up all the framework until such time as we pass the Ordinance. The Resolution authorizes the Mayor to represent the City in discussions; without that he can’t do anything on behalf of the City.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

11 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:31 p.m., Alderman Papa MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

11.1 Property Purchase
11.2 Eldridge v. City of Shelton
11.3 Hazard Mitigation Plan
and invite Assistant Corporation Counsel Sous to remain in the Auditorium during the Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman McGorty. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

At approximately 7:48 p.m. Alderman Papa MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

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

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Property Purchase

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve the contract between the City of Shelton and Lupe A. Maybeck for the purchase of 10.78 acres more or less, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in said contract; and further,

MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate this; and further,

MOVED to allocate the sum of $200,000 with funding to be provided by bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter as the first deposit required pursuant to the terms of said contract; and further,

MOVED to authorize the sum of up to $500 for a title search also to be provided by bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

11.2 Eldridge v. City of Shelton

Alderman Papa MOVED to adopt the letter dated 4-1-14 from Attorney Kevin Blake; SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

11.3 Hazard Mitigation

Alderman Papa MOVED to approve payment of $11,711.41 to FEMA regarding Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program concerning 137 Indian Wells Road, Shelton, with funding from Unappropriated Funds; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

DISCUSSION:
Alderman Anglace suggested AMENDING the motion to change the funding source from Unappropriated Funds to Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to AMEND the Motion to change the funding source from Unappropriated Funds to Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 6-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman McGorty MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _____________________________

DATE APPROVED: ________________________BY: _____________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton