CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Anglace called the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7:15 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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 Jim Capra -present
Alderman Eric McPherson- present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti- present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Tate, Tate & Associates, LLC.
Atty. Thomas Welch, Corporation Counsel

AGENDA ITEMS

1. FUNDING FOR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL – LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman Finn MOVED to add the purchase of the installation of the Civil War Memorial, to be located at the Riverwalk Veteran’s Park on Canal Street, to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of $50,000 to come from LOCIP.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.
Discussion:
Alderman Anglace: We will hold a vote until the end of the discussion. Just to give you some background, Jane Dowty is the project coordinator on this and anytime you have any thoughts, ideas, and suggestions please bring them to her attention. The Landscape Architect on this project is Jim Tate. He is here tonight, and he is going to make a presentation to the Board and to the public, to show what he has in mind to propose on what we are going to do. The $50,000 may not be the absolute budget, but it is $50,000 to get us off of the ground and going. If and when more is needed, then we will come for it.

Presentation before the Board of Aldermen was made by Jim Tate, Tate & Associates, LLC.

Jim Tate: As everyone here may know, I have been involved in several projects for Downtown Shelton, specifically the original design for the Veteran's Park, Farmer’s Market, Veteran’s Memorial, the Pavilion which we call the Belden Pavilion, and also the recently completed Riverwalk section that is behind The Avalon. Part of the Civil War thought process really started several years ago by committee. We have met several times over the past several years with a committee, and a lot of fundraising efforts; there has been quite a history over the past several years.

Just recently this summer, the committee decided to get a stone installed, or to get something similar to what we had at the Veteran’s Monument and let’s see if we can get that started. I met with the Mayor on-site and we decided that it was much better that this was not the same monument; that we were looking for something to incorporate with some other use and really provide for a destination area. Much for the success that we had throughout the City, is that they have become destinations, or multi-functional use spaces and they have been able to do different things at different times for all of our residents. One of the things that we had thought about was to see if we could have a Civil War Monument space, and to incorporate a section of section of the Riverwalk and to extend it to try to couple some funding together.
Just so everyone knows where we are, right now this area is being remediated, that has been for several years. What I mean by that is that there are test wells that are monitoring some of the ground to ground activities occurred several years ago; they really call them gases in the ground that are being monitored. That is all done now and in good shape. (Tate referring to the sketch). Right over here in this area, we have one spot that has recently been tested and that area has always been a trouble spot because when they did the Riverwalk, a lot of the material was already moved in this direction and it is sort of covered; it was probably covered and capped. You can see by the grades here, that there is a slope by the grades that this area has the undisturbed level grade. In order for us to really build in this area we have to re-cap it. It sounds complicated, but what we are really doing is filling it by 3 or 4 feet, and there will be a monitoring well that is put in there. The reason that we are going to do that by 3 or 4 feet instead of leaving it at its current elevation is if we do that more than likely and we are pretty much assured, that we don’t have to go back and have people come back from the state or federal government to re-investigate that on a periodic basis. If we did it any other way, we would have to have a monitoring program and engage the services of environmental professionals to keep track of what is happening. What we would like to do is close it out totally and get this the whole area into a recreation path, which is the extension of the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is behind the Veteran’s Monuments, and this is about a little over 200 feet, so part of our design is to extend the Riverwalk.

We have to watch where this goes in this area; we are in the infancy of this project right now only because based on where the testing is, it may be less expensive to shift this over slightly. Our little design is based on the fact that many of the Civil War battles were fought in and amongst rocks and rocks had quite a role in how these battles were played out. One of the members of the committee did a very extensive study on these battles, and how these rocks played a role on both sides in various parts of the country. They were the natural hiding place, the natural defense that occurred and played such an important role through the whole process so what we are actually wanting to do is to take that design thought and to put that into some boulders that we to try to create a design that may create a space a little offshoot from the Riverwalk to form a destination. What it will include is part of the walkway, a little area around 30 x 16. Then there will
be some seating, which will be lit and engraved. We will have the proper guiderails, proper lighting.

We did a concept sketch and what you can see from the sketch is a cluster of boulders, and the boulders are used as display pieces where we would incorporate some of the same thoughts that we had on the Veteran’s Monument; we are going to incorporate this photo somehow (on presentation display), whether this is going to be in a brass or bronze it is actually inside into the rock. That is probably most likely not the polished stone where you are going to have it carved and engraved out. We do like the engraving because the engraving was actually the process that they used to mark markers back in the day, so part of that would be to mark on one of the stones the Civil War notice and we may actually use the phrase, ‘A New Birth of Freedom’. In which, that was what the committee decided that was the motto that we would use on these stones, and then it would have the gates.

So part of this would have some educational component to this to it. Also, there is going to be a plaque that has the fallen that came from Shelton. The interesting part is that there is a seat shelf here. This actual stone that has been identified, the recently departed Phillip Jones and I have located a stone to be used for the Civil War Monument two or three years ago. The reason that this horizontal stone is important because it came from the Standish Farm, which is next to Jones’ Farm, and one the members of that family was a secretary to Lincoln during this period. That might be a stretch, but it is an interesting turnaround. So several of these stones have meaning behind them; they are not just going to be pulled out of the ground and set there.

The other aspect of it, we are going to do some engraving depending on our budgets and what the committee decides. We might have some kind of monitor, or marker that would be attributed to Phillip and that he donated something of that nature. So that is kind of where we are at, and we are in the infancy of the design process because there are a lot of things that are going on at the same time. The reason why we are asking for the money right now in trying to move this along, it has obviously been a long time and it also because we are trying to get this project done for Memorial Day of next year. It is a
good time during the remediation that is occurring right now, and there is some removal of vegetation. It makes sense that we kind of couple with that and we prep this area for the monument and for the space. In some point we will be back to you, and you will probably see some more refined drawings as things move along.

Alderman Anglance: Anyone have any questions for Jim? What are every ones’ reactions?

Alderman Simonetti: Those rocks are not there now?

Jim Tate: No.

Alderman Simonetti: So you are going to fill in and those rocks are going to be brought there?

Jim Tate: Yes, it will almost be like a retaining wall as part of it.

Alderman Simonetti: So there would not be any statues of any kind; just the rocks?

Jim Tate: Correct, there will not be any statues. If you may recall, there was a statue made of bronze that they were raising money for, to be located on the Huntington Green. It was a fairly expensive structure, and it is unfortunate that they did not follow through.

Alderman Simonetti: Is that money going into this project?

Jim Tate: Yes at some point the money will be involved in this project. We just do not know how to do that yet.

Alderman Anglance: Yes they have offered it to the City. One of the other things that Jim had pointed out was that the though that this group had that this was a destination; it is a learning tool. There are some teachers and people in the school system that has
a fond interest in the Civil War, and in that part of history. It sort of evolved as bringing their kids down to see, and have a place to bring them to explain, show and tell. This is very encouraging; it is picking up a lot of steam.

Jim Tate: If you looked back we should have a nice view of the river. That is also nice because the Riverwalk as a general rule, we do not have many opportunities to really get good glimpses of the river.

Alderman Capra: So you are looking forward to have this done by Memorial Day?

Jim Tate: Yes I am looking forward to having this done by Memorial Day. For all of the stones around, are you going to have the stones in memory of those people?

Jim Tate: No we are not going to have memorial bricks or something like that because we want it to look natural. There are only three to five stones that will be marked; the rest are supposed to look like they really belong in the natural landscape.

Alderman Anglace: So what Jim is asking is that we put up $50,000; we approve $50,000 to get started, to get things moving. The additional monies will be available to the City.

Alderman Simonetti: What is the total cost of the project?

Alderman Anglace: We do not know exactly because the budget is not finalized at this point. He does not know what he is going to run into.

Jim Tate: We have people that thought certain boulders that we could get donated. We know the cost per square foot at the Riverwalk so that is a given. It is not as an expensive project as things go; you are not building structure. The monuments themselves were expensive themselves because we actually went underground as far as we went up, so it was a little more involved.
Alderman McGorty: The ground that is being tested, is it considered for the area that we would have to continue to test for issues?

Jim Tate: The way that works, and I am not the guy to give you the right answers, but Jimmy Ryan is the one and Neil Thurber is our contact. I am working closely with Neil. To answer your question directly, there is a groundwater issue and what happens is that the groundwater will touch or get into an area that presently has some caymanite in it, so the groundwater will reach out to other places. What they do is test the groundwater all of the time to see if it is picking up the leachate out of the ground, and they have found that it has not. That is why they put these monitors in the well, and EPA has one monitoring level and the state has another. The bottom line is that they are all done with that; they had a fairly elaborate system set up where they can test it all and everything checkout out okay. They just do not want to take any chances because it is a recreational area; they want to remediate it like we did the Riverwalk, or with the old Veteran’s Park. The way that was done was there was a material that was filled, and there was a rubber liner that was put on top; then the fill was placed on top of that so when you dug down you would hit this liner. Then you would know you are not able to go further. We are not at that level here; what we are going to do is cap it so we do not have to monitor it again.

Alderman Simonetti: What would you cap it with?

Jim Tate: Just soil, and the last foot would be millings. All of the material that will use has to be tested and our environmental guy, Neil has to okay it. The City is actually going to help us and we are hopefully going to get some sources of material around the City, so I think we may be able to offset that cost a little bit, which can be quite large if you want to do it quickly. The longer the time, a little easier it is because you can find sources of different natural things and put them in place when people need them. We are running out of time on that, so quite frankly we need to start building it.

Alderman Kudej: How many stones are you going to be looking for, Jim?
Jim Tate: I need five base stones, but I will probably end up with seven or eight. We would like to bury half of the stone, so would like to see about 4 feet on the ground. One of the costs of doing this is would be to clean, servicing of that material over there but we are going to play it by ear and we are going to see what we can do.

Alderman Simonetti: Is this stone made out of granite?

Jim Tate: Yes, natural granite stone. The intent is going to look like the stone was always there. If I can pull that off, then I have done my job so it is trying to make it look like it was always there.

Alderman Anglace: I just want everyone to focus on the fact that our approval of the $50,000 tonight is for Jim to go ahead on the project to get it started, get it moving. The target date is tentatively set for Memorial Day for the dedication. One other thing just so you know, I was talking with Jamie Cohen. He came to the Board in respect to Shelton’s participation in the Derby Civil War monument, and he said to us that there was some vandalism and they were going to address the vandalism. He and his committee are finding out how much it would cost. He came to me and he is going to be asking the City of Derby and the City of Shelton to participate up to $5,000 in the cost of that renovation. I suggested to him being budget time that he would put his request in that we get from outside agencies, and we could budget it. We could put in for $5,000 and see what the Board’s pleasure is. I believe he said that he is talking with Derby the same way and I am sure we are willing to do what Derby is doing. I told him that we are doing this project; something different but we are certainly do not want to abandon those Shelton people that gave their all.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At approximately 7:37 PM, Alderman Simonetti MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

2. ANTI-BLIGHT LIEN – 8 MARE ALICIA DRIVE

and invited Corporation Counsel Welch to remain in Room 104 during the Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

At approximately 8:05 p.m. Alderman Finn MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

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

2. ANTI-BLIGHT LIEN – 8 MARE ALICIA DRIVE

Alderman Finn MOVED to accept the sum of $1,000 as a full payment of a blight lien, regarding the property located at 8 Mare Alicia Drive, provided that if the blight conditions and improvements are not made on or before June 30, 2016, that the full amount of the blight lien shall be made in full force in effect.

Further, authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said degree?

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson.

Discussion:

Alderman Simonetti: Does that mean that we continue the $50 from this day, on?

Attorney Welch: Charlene DeFilippo indicated that the blight lien is no longer continuing to accrue.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.
Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn at approximately 7:50 pm. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Gannon, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: _______________BY: ________________________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton