

BOARD OF ALDERMEN SHELTON, CONNECTICUT

Public Hearing on Ordinances May 22, 2007

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Aldermanic President John Anglace opened the Public Hearing at 7p.m.

ROLL CALL

Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. - present Alderman John "Jack" Finn - present Alderman Stanley Kudej - present Alderman Kenneth Olin - present Alderman Christopher Panek - present Alderman John P. Papa – absent Alderman Jason Perillo – absent Alderman Randy York - present

Legal Notice City of Shelton

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING:

• ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR

SAID PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007 AT 7 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM AT SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON.

ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST THEREIN MAY APPEAR AND BE HEARD.

MAY 14, 2007

1. Amendment to Ordinance #790 - Salary of the Mayor

Amendment to Ordinance #790

ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR

Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton that an ordinance relating to the salary of the Mayor is hereby amended to become EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2007 in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1. That the Office of the Mayor shall be considered a full-time position equivalent to "Exempt" status as described in the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- 2. That an annual salary of \$95,205.00 be established for the position of Mayor as of November 20, 2007. Such salary shall be further adjusted each year during the third week of November based upon a Cost of Living adjustment as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.
- 3. That the Mayor's **Salary Survey** be updated **in November 2013 and every eight (8) years thereafter by conducting a survey** using the rationale employed by the city Wage and Salary Consultant, using the latest Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Salary Survey data among cities of like population groupings. Further, that the Consultant compares ability to pay, grand list equalization **and internal salary comparison** data to arrive at a recommended salary.
- 4. That the objectivity in the process be achieved by acceptance of the fact that this process is not a science. It is logic applied by a professional Wage & Salary Consultant who will recommend to the Board of Aldermen. The Board will then codify this recommendation in ordinance form, hold a public hearing on such ordinance change and then adopt the final Mayoral salary.
- 5. That the Mayor be provided with Life, Medical, Dental, and Disability insurance. Life insurance coverage will be two times salary rounded to the next highest full one thousand dollars, if necessary. Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage equal to the amount of Life insurance shall be provided. Medical, Dental, and Disability insurance shall be provided equal to the plan being offered to Merit System employees. Mayoral contributions to these plans will be equal to the contribution rate established for Merit System employees. Holidays, Vacation and Bereavement shall be provided equal to that provided to Merit System employees. The Mayor shall, as a pension benefit, be entitled to a City-paid eight percent (8%) of the annual base salary contribution to a 401K or similar type plan designated by the Mayor.

6. If the Mayor has not received a City vehicle, the Mayor shall designate his personal vehicle and be permitted to use the City gasoline supplies. Such decision (use of City or personal car) shall be made at the beginning of each term of office.

All other Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are hereby repealed.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue

Who is going to make the designation as to what vehicle the Mayor will be able to use and be able to fuel?

Alderman Anglace stated, that's an administrative decision, but it will be made, he is going to make that decision. He will use the Gasboy Fuel Management System and make the arrangements with them that that is the only vehicle that he could fuel up.

Mr. Crawford asked, who is going to be verifying what fuel is being used, how much fuel is coming.

Alderman Anglace stated, the Gasboy System records all that.

Mr. Crawford asked, who is going to be auditing it?

Alderman Anglace stated, nobody that I know of. Let me ask you this. You're suggesting that an audit of some type take place to see how much he's using?

Mr. Crawford replied, yes.

Alderman Anglace stated, once he gets gasoline from the Gasboy, those records are available under FOI. And number two, that's all he's going to get from us. We're not buying him a car, we're not paying for the insurance on that car. So there's a vast difference between what he was getting and what he will be getting. All he's going to get is gasoline. Those records are available.

Alderman Finn stated, just so you know it, I requested the gas consumption for the Fire Marshal for January, February and March, and I still haven't gotten it today. They said with the Gasboy that we have in place that it doesn't really record how much and who is using the gas. They have only partially compiled all the information that I requested on the Fire Marshal's vehicle.

[NOTE – This hearing was closed at this point, and then reopened for Ms. Joan Flannery to be able to be heard]

Joan Flannery, 8 Partridge Lane

I just wanted to say that the City is already raising our property taxes out of sight, and now wants to increase the Mayor's salary so he can afford the new tax hike on his own property I guess. I'm wondering if this is a joke. When I came to Shelton in the 1990s, I thought it was very honorable that the Mayor was making \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year for his part-time job, and I thought he was in that position because he wanted to serve the people. But now in 2007 to go from that amount to \$95,000 it is almost a 500 percent increase in his salary. I would like to have a 500 percent increase in my salary too over that period of time, but I don't see that happening. It's not like the Mayor of Shelton has a huge City, like Bridgeport has 139,000; New Haven, 123,000; even Waterbury has 107,000 people. Here in Shelton, I went to www.ct.gov and Shelton has 38,955 people. So he is only a part time position here in Shelton; he's not a full time Mayor like New Haven and Hartford. So I think that his salary should reflect that he's a part-time position. Also on that website, the median household income for citizens of Shelton is \$76,461. Maybe there should be an ordinance saying this should be the limit the Mayor receives. Give him what the average citizen in Shelton receives and then maybe he'll understand everybody's problems in this town and how we can't pay our taxes when they go up. I know my taxes are going up another \$1,000 this year too. I can't afford it. I don't know where I'm going to get it from. I'm not getting a raise, in fact, with my position they make us pay more and more every year for our health insurance so I'm making less salary every year. I don't think that it's right to give the Mayor a hefty increase so he can cover his property taxes. I think he should get a part-time position salary. Thank you.

Alderman Anglace stated, the Mayor's position is identified in the Ordinance as a full-time position.

Alderman Olin stated, it's probably 40-plus and he's doing much more than that now.

Alderman York asked, are we going to change the Charter, because the Charter says it's still a part-time position.

Alderman Anglace stated, that is not pertinent to this hearing. The Board of Aldermen have defined the position of the Mayor by Ordinance as a full-time position.

Alderman Olin stated, I want to say something. We have the school administrators, and I think the lowest housemaster gets \$110,000 or \$120,000 a year. They take care of 5,700 kids. We have a Mayor that has to support 39,000. What is wrong with that?

[Ms. Flannery commented from the audience, without the benefit of a microphone. Inaudible]

Alderman Olin stated, what is this? I'm talking about comparison of salary. Let's bring those salaries down to what you want the Mayor.

[Ms. Flannery commented from the audience, without the benefit of a microphone. Inaudible]

Alderman Finn called for a point of order.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Olin MOVED to close the hearing; SECONDED by Alderman York. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

The hearing ended at approximately 7:10 p.m. and was immediately followed by the Public Hearing on Ordinance – Amendment to Ordinance #765 – Mileage Allowance for use of Privately-Owned Vehicles by Officials on Official Business.

Respectfully submitted,		
Patricia M. Bruder Clerk, Board of Aldermen	Date Submitted:	
DATE APPROVED:	BY: _	Mark A. Lauretti Mavor, City of Shelton