



Board of Aldermen Shelton, Connecticut Public Hearing on Ordinances August 26, 2004

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman John Anglace opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m., immediately following the Aldermanic Finance Committee Meeting. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. - present
Alderman John "Jack" Finn - present
Alderman Stanley Kudej - present
Alderman Joseph Lanzi - present
Alderman Lynne Farrell - present
Alderman Nancy Minotti - present
Alderman Kenneth Olin - present
Alderman John P. Papa – present

LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF SHELTON – published

Alderman Anglace noted for the record that the Legal Notice has been published in the newspaper.

1. PERMANENT WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The codified ordinances identified as Permanent War Memorial Building Commission section 2-51, 2-52(ordinance # 318), 2-53, 2-54, 2-55, 2-56 and 2-57 are hereby repealed. Further, MOVED that a new ordinance to reestablish the War Memorial Scholarship Committee be issued.

Alderman Anglace stated, we erred on this in the way we went about doing it. Sandy Nesteriak and I – we owe the Commission an apology – we missed the ball.

Alphonse Sabetta, 77 Coram Road
Guy Beardsley, 276 Leavenworth Road
John Formanek, 61 Country Ridge Drive

Mr. Sabetta stated, Gentlemen, we come before you this evening to assure the Board of Aldermen that we, the members of the Permanent War Memorial Commission and Scholarship are in full accord with the changes you want to make in the ordinance.

Contrary to comments that were taken out of context in yesterday's edition of The Huntington Herald. We understand the Herald received the same information that we received on the ordinance change. I was asked for an interview, and I thought it was off the record. But evidently without informing me that I would be quoted, he did put some of my comments, and some of them were not entirely true to the comments that I did make to him. I would like to say we are in accord with what you want to do. You are the fathers of this community, you are the people that appoint the members of the commission. We have no objection.

Mr. Beardsley stated, Gentlemen, in looking at the wording I am a little concerned that we have not added some additional thoughts in reference to the active duty service. For example, most anyone that is a veteran has had the minimum, even now, of two weeks' active duty service, which I don't think would be sufficient to be a member of this commission. A thought that struck me was possibly we could consider adding the idea that there should be some preference given to those, if there is a competition, preference should be given to those who served in a combat theater.

Another thought struck me, possibly that four months active duty service is probably not sufficient to enable an individual to serve best on this commission. That is a concern.

Mr. Sabetta stated, just to clarify, the committee should be comprised of three residents of Shelton who shall have seen active military service. I think we are all in agreement that a person that has served in the military for less than six months - it's hard to - that way in your choices you're slighting veterans who have served for a longer time.

Alderman Anglace asked, would you be suggesting that we have a minimum active duty service requirement of six months?

Mr. Sabetta replied, I think that would be sufficient.

Mr. Beardsley stated, basically, to be a veteran and to receive veterans' benefits is 90 days - we're giving it another three months. These are just some suggestions that we have, you people have to put the ordinance together.

Mr. Sabetta stated, the reason we are here this evening is to make you aware of the fact on record that we have no objection to what you're doing with the ordinance.

Alderman Anglace stated, the first sentence of the second paragraph – the Committee shall be comprised of three residents of Shelton who shall have served a minimum of six months active military service.

Mr. Sabetta replied, yes.

Mr. Formanek stated, in the original text, you have it listed as being a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I think you should open it up to accommodate anyone in any war that has served for six months.

Mr. Sabetta stated, we just want to honor all veterans, not from any particular war or any particular individual. It's all veterans' motto – we're here to serve.

2. WAR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Be it hereby ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton that there shall be a War Memorial Scholarship Committee comprised of five members. This committee shall review the agency funds available and annually and award a scholarship(s) as determined by criteria deemed appropriate by the committee.

The committee shall be comprised of three residents of Shelton who shall have seen active military service. They shall serve staggered terms of three years and may be reappointed. In addition, the City Treasurer and the Superintendent of Schools shall serve for the duration of their election/appointment. The committee shall report their activities annually to the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Sabetta stated, the same comments apply for this. Go ahead and do what you have to do.

3. BENEFIT FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF FIRE PERSONNEL

Amend ordinance #779, Benefit for Surviving Spouses of Fire Personnel to eliminate the words "personal property" taxes.

NOTE: The State allows the City to abate all or a portion of the property taxes due with respect to real property owned and occupied as the principal residence of the surviving spouse of a police officer or firefighter who dies in the performance of such officer's or fire fighter's duties.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other persons wishing to address the Board, Alderman Anglace closed the public hearing at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Regan
Clerk
Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

BY: _____

Mark A. Laretti
Mayor, City of Shelton