CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Anglace called the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 6:30 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 Eric McPherson, Vice President- present
Alderman Stanley Kudej- present
Alderman Noreen McGo - present
Alderman Jim Capra - present
Alderman Adam Heller - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti- present
Alderman Cris Balamaci – present

ADMINISTRATION

Jack Bashar, Administrative Assistant - present
Attorney Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel - present

AGENDA ITEMS

1. HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT APPLICATION

Alderman McPherson moved to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that Mark A. Lauretti, duly elected Mayor of the City of Shelton, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a certain contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0. Alderman Anglace declared the motion passed unanimously.
2. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

Alderman McPherson moved to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton, in accordance with Section 7.6 of the Charter, that the budget documents submitted by the Mayor on March 22, 2018 be adopted subject to the following amendments/adjustments and that they be accepted as the official budget and mill rate for the City of Shelton for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNT NO.</th>
<th>ACCOUNT NAME</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARKS AND RECREATION 001-1000-622.60-36</td>
<td>New Equipment</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANIMAL CONTROL 001-2300-519.10-02</td>
<td>Part Time Employees</td>
<td>$10,114</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLICE 001-2500-511.40-01</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC HEALTH 001-2900-611.80-22</td>
<td>Valley Health</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OUTSIDE AGENCY 001-6500-414.79-15</td>
<td>Shelton Historical Society</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REVENUES

| GENERAL FUND 001-0000-311.10-00 | Current Levy | $39,374 |

NET EFFECT

TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCREASES ......................... $39,374
TOTAL EXPENDITURE DECREASES ......................... $0
NET INCREASE TO MAYOR'S BUDGET ..................... $39,374
Resulting in a total budget of $124,132,254 for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. The mill rate shall be established at 22.15 mills, with a collection date for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be July 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019 for real estate; July 1, 2018 for personal property taxes less than $5,000 and July 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019 for personal property taxes equal to or greater than $5,000 and July 1, 2018 for the motor vehicle tax with the exception of those that carry their own collection date as determined by statute under motor vehicle supplement. Any tax under $5 will be waived. Also, be it resolved that the Board of Aldermen accepts in principle the Capital Improvements Program as submitted.

Seconded by Alderman Kudej.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace presented his Budget Message:

The Board of Aldermen wishes to thank all City departments, department heads, the Mayor, the Board of Apportionment & Taxation, the Finance Director and his staff, the Public and many others for their input into and participation with the 2018-19 budget process.

Most departments were satisfied with the Mayor’s budget recommendations. The major dissenting view came from the Board of Education as it does every year.

Driving their request for a 3.99% spending increase was a “one-on-one” program and a three-year goal to raise SAT scores into the top 25 percentile of the state. The Board of Aldermen/fiscal authority was not prior consulted nor did we find convincing documentation that the “one-on-one” program had been discussed by the BOE or with the parents or with the Shelton Education Associations or other stakeholders. Further, there was no BOE Plan submitted or policy in place to manage such a program.

There are alternative ways to achieve higher SAT levels. There is no indication that the BOE ever discussed alternatives to this goal. Therefore, we concluded that both goals, as commendable as they may be, need further study and discussion prior to consideration of a multi-year funding plan.

In a letter written to Governor Malloy in 2014, the Shelton Education Association Executive Board is on record opposing related Mastery test goal process. They say, “Anyone who has spent time in a classroom understands the vast amount of variables that go into a student’s success.” They make a convincing point but there is no record of their being consulted on this proposal.

Given the uncertainty of attaining this goal, the fact that money so allocated for this purpose can be transferred to other use at the discretion of the BOE and the lack of definitive, measurable objectives to insure its success, this proposal is highly suspect and not convincing.

Now, let’s look at the positive side of the BOE request. They have absolutely made the case for replacement of Teacher Desk Top Computers and the BOA does recommend that $275,000 of the monies contained in the Capital Projects Account be spent for this purpose.
It should also be noted that the Mayor has allocated $72,700,000 for the BOE. We affirm his recommended spending increase of $1,230,000. We also affirm the Mayor’s allocation of $650,000 for SHS Athletic Complex and remind all that this is in addition to the $690,000 allocated last year for this purpose.

In summary, we affirm with great satisfaction the Mayor’s increase of BOE spending in our 2018-19 operating budget of $2,155,000; a 3% spending increase at a time when the cost of living is hovering around 1.6%-2%.

On the surface, the BOE budget for 2018-19 is listed as $72,700,000. The City side of the budget is listed as $51,432,254 with a total General Fund Budget of $124,132,254.

However, the City side of the budget contains necessary “in-kind” spending made on behalf of the BOE amounting to $10,553,734 (2016-17 data) annually. When added to the unrestricted BOA budget appropriation, one observes that Shelton school services are effectively costing our taxpayers $83,253,734 annually or 67% of our annual budget.

There have been numerous examples of the City reaching out to the BOE in an attempt to lower the cost of their services; the most recent of which has been a proposal to have the City provide bus service. The City agreed to save the BOE harmless from all future bus costs thereby allowing them to concentrate on education issues. I think it fair to say that the BOE found our proposal to be fair but in need at least one year of planning prior to implementation. Therefore, we currently await reply on our latest offer where we agreed to allow $1 per year private leasing of City-owned busses with the transition to City provided bus service being made at that time.

We cannot stress enough the importance of the City and BOE administrations working together. As the fiscal authority we acknowledge and respect the statutory authority of the BOE to make education decisions but we must insist that the fiscal authority be an earlier partner in the spending process; otherwise we will continue to experience implementation differences. As has been said many times, our children deserve no less than our joint and cooperative efforts.

Once again, the Board of Aldermen is proud, privileged and pleased to adopt a budget that allows everyone the opportunity to meet the increased financial demands made upon their limited resources from the state and federal governments while maximizing community services.

Thank you.

Alderman Anglace

After presenting his budget message Alderman Anglace asked if there was any other alderman who wished to comment.

Alderman Capra: I have a few words I would like to say. First, I want to thank President Anglace, Alderman McPherson and all the aldermen for their hard work during this not-so-easy budget process. I have received well over 50 emails and calls from concerned parents...
in my ward asking me to support Dr. Clouet’s proposed budget. I too think it would be a huge honor for the City of Shelton to rank in the top 25 percentile of schools in Connecticut. I want that. However, I am just not sure we are ready yet. Here’s why: In the last local election 78 percent of voter’s base is between the ages of 55 and 100. The seniors dominate the voting base. When myself and alderwoman McGorty door knock during campaign season I would say only about three to five houses brought up education. One household spoke about special education. All the other households stated: Please don’t raise my taxes, I can not afford any more.

While I know many of you sitting over here today will find it very unpopular for me to vote yes on the budget. I do feel a sense of duty to the silent majority of 78 percent that don’t want me to raise their taxes. Maybe someday your age group will change the voting percentage. Consider registering to vote or encourage others to vote. That’s how your voices can be heard.

In regards to the bus situation, it is not our role to dictate how to run a bus company or rather have the idea presented to us to figure out if it’s a good plan or not, but it hasn’t even gotten to that point. My hope is that the City and the Board of Education continue to work together and enough is enough about this inside fighting. You entrust that government will work effectively for all people but this bus dilemma is not doing that and for the very small part that I am playing, I am sorry we are at this point. It truly saddens me because the kids do deserve better than this situation. I’m hoping that once personalities cool off the City and the Board of Education can work together to figure out how to make this less of a mess and if need be we amend this budget. It doesn’t need to be over after tonight.

Thank you,

Jim Capra

Alderman Anglace asked if there were any other aldermen who would like to make a comment:

Alderman McGorty: I just wanted to say that although I was out of the country for the past two weeks, I did certainly take the time once I came back to read all those emails and listen to the voicemails that I received. I spoke with some constituents as well and my colleagues here at this dais table. I agree with many of the things that Alderman Capra noted and many of the things that Alderman Anglace noted. This is a difficult process and I too truly appreciate everyone’s effort and also agree that more effort needs to be put forward. Thank you.

Alderman Anglace asked if any other alderman had any other comments:

Alderman Gidwani: Thank you Mr. President. A lot of parents reached out to me over the budget and the schools regarding the busses. I did not respond to them in an email but I personally called them and asked them what we could do to help solve their problems. I just have two questions. You might have answers, you might not have answers. The ECS funding that we receive from the state. Is there a difference in what we are expecting from the state and what we are receiving?
Alderman Anglace: We have no official documentation from the state, but there are rumors that an additional $650,000 may come our way. I would add to that quickly that two years ago we also had such rumors and it never materialized. They took it back. We were supposed to get $800,000 and we didn’t get it. So, for that reason we haven’t put it in this budget. Just to give you a full response.

Alderman Gidwani: So if we do get the money?

Alderman Anglace: The purpose of the ECS money is to reimburse the city for its contributions towards the education process which I said a few minutes ago is $83 million. So $650,000 is a pittance compared to what we pay.

Alderman Gidwani: Right. My second question is if the Board of Education has picked a bus vendor for our kids is there a cost savings for the propane that we were...

Alderman Anglace: Tonight we are going to limit our discussion to matters concerning the budget. The bus situation is a separate matter as I said in my statement, we have an offer pending with the Board of Education to allow them to use the busses at no cost, for $1, same as what’s currently being done, with the stipulation that at the end of one year that the city, in accordance with their stipulated statement, that we need a year to get ready, we will be ready and we will take over the running of the busses. They have not responded yet to our offer, that’s all I can tell you.

Alderman Gidwani: I appreciate your answers.

There being no other questions or observations Alderman Anglace called for a vote on the adoption of the budget.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0. Alderman Anglace declared the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn at approximately 6:50 p.m.

SECONDED by Alderman Capra. A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Adcox

Theresa Adcox, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: __________ BY: ________________________________
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti