Board of Aldermen
Shelton, Connecticut
Regular Full Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2019

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
Alderman Anglace called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7:02 p.m.
All those present stood and recited the Pledge of 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 David Gidwani – present (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty – present
Alderman Cris Balamaci – present
Alderman Jim Capra – present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – present

Administration:
Attorney Francis Teodosio, Corporation Counsel
Attorney Thomas Cotter, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Ray O’Leary, City Treasurer

PUBLIC PORTION
Gene Kierce, 120 Thoreau Drive

I want to talk to you about something serious and something you may be able to do something about. Almost exactly 40 years ago I moved to Shelton. I moved here from a big city and I moved to a small town, a very friendly small town. I was impressed by one thing when I first moved here and it was that Shelton takes care of their own and they actually did do this. At that time, they built a high school, they built an Intermediate School and introduced a program for trades in the Intermediate School. They built a school for the handicapped, Ripton School. At this time Shelton was being funded approximately 164th out of a 164 towns, so it was one of the least funded cities in the state and yet they accomplished these things. They also built a playground which was intended to be a grammar school in White Hills. It is now a recreation center and the only reason that didn’t get to be a grammar school was because there was a big delay on the approval of the building permit because they
wanted to put a solar pool in, a solar heating system in it. That eventually moved to Shelton center in Huntington as the swimming pool which was also done at the same time. During this period of time, while being one of the lowest taxed cities, Shelton accomplished a lot of things. The one unique thing about it is that they really did care for their own. People got jobs from people just because they needed a job. People got help because they needed help. There was heart in Shelton and that heart lasted a long time and in many places here it still exists. That heart is kind of dying away with our internet and everything else. We are no longer as heartful as we used to be. A lot of our problems stem out of that but are not necessarily that cause but the solution. The problem I want to address here today is one I resisted to do for awhile. There is a vulnerability in our high school for terrorists. Basically, what you have is a system that was installed with all good intent and it’s that all the doors are monitored, they have television reviewing every door and there was a decision made not to alarm the doors because it was felt that the kids would have fun causing the door’s alarms to go off. The problem is that nobody is reviewing the tapes. The idea is that they would be reviewed and then basically anybody violating it would be suspended for a day. Nobody has been suspended. I checked this out with the Principal of the high school to make sure I was right. It is. If you doubt it just walk up to the high school at early dismissal and see kids coming out. They don’t come out all the time, they only come out some of the time. How do we protect the kids? Well we can go and monitor it but that’s after the fact. We aren’t going to know that someone left the door open and a person got in until after it happened. Basically, the kids will have great fun triggering the false alarms. The problem is that we’ve got to have the thing that we used to have called responsibility. The principal can be responsible and is responsible and she is doing a tremendous job. She made the wrong decision on how she utilizes her resources by not monitoring it. They really should and I hope that it will be corrected instantaneously. The problem is we’ve got to do something better. The people who are directly affected by the terrorist incidents are the children, the teachers and the administrators. Yet we basically have not really got to the people. What we really need to get to is back to the old way in that you are responsible for everybody in Shelton. We 40,000 strong protect our kids. We, one at a time, don’t do a damn thing. We’ve got to get back to the old system in that we take care of each other. We work together and we go towards our goal. This place has accomplished miracles with that philosophy. We have the lowest tax rates, we have a great city, we have a great police force, we have everything but we gotta keep it up and somehow, we have to convert everybody into we take care of each other and that’s really all I am asking. We have to stop being “me” and start being “we”. I don’t know how you can do it but I think we ought to preach it.

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Being none, he closed the public session.
Alderman McPherson MOVED to add to the agenda the following the items:

9 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – NEW
9.7 FUNDING FOR TENNIS COURTS AT SHS–LOCIP ELIGIBLE
9.8 FUNDING FOR PARKING LOT AT SHS–LOCIP ELIGIBLE
9.9 FUNDING FOR REFURBISHMENT OF CITYWIDE ROADS–LOCIP ELIGIBLE
9.10 OVEREXPENDITURE FOR PLANNING & ZONING

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

1. REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Seconded by Alderman Kudej.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Minutes can be viewed on the city website: www.cityofshelton.org

5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1.1 NO ITEMS

5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

5.2.1 NO ITEMS
5.3 STREET COMMITTEE

5.3.1 NO ITEMS

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

NO REPORT.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

NO REPORT

6.0 LEGAL REPORT

6.1 CORPORATION COUNSEL BILLING

Alderman McPherson MOVED to authorize a total payment of $4,618.45 to Corporation Counsel Teodosio Stanek, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated March 4, 2019, with funds to come from the Legal Fees account 001-1900-411.30-03.

Seconded by Alderman Kudej.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

6.2 ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL BILLING

Alderman McPherson MOVED to authorize a total payment of $2,778.00 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Thomas Galvin Cotter for services rendered per statement dated March 7, 2019, with funds to come from the Legal Fees account 001-1900-411.30-03.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.
7 LEGISLATIVE - OLD

7.1 ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

7.1 A NO ITEMS.

8. FINANCIAL BUSINESS OLD

8.1. NO ITEMS.

Alderman Gidwani arrived at 7:15 p.m.

9. FINANCIAL BUSINESS NEW

9.1 MARCH STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman McPherson MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of $127,938.25 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.

Further move to approve the over-expenditure of the Statutory Refunds Account 001-0000-311.13.00 through the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Alderman Anglace: The statutory refund account, we originally appropriated $149,000. Year to date we have spent $103,155. We have a balance of $45,845. This March request is asking us to reimburse $127,938 so that would put us in the hole for $82,000. The reason for this is, you know the Fountain Lake development, the old U.I. building? It was $90,000 paid twice. The money came in but we have to give it back. I just thought I would update you on the numbers.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.2 AGREEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WAVERLY ROAD BRIDGE

9.2 A. Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the amendment to professional services agreement between the City of Shelton and Cardinal Engineering Associates, Inc. for inspection services for the
replacement of the Waverly Road Bridge over the Farmill River. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the same.

Seconded by Alderman McGorty.

Alderman Anglace: Counsel could you explain to the board why we are going to Cardinal Engineering?

Attorney Teodosio: There was, I guess you could say a failure, in regards to the first contractor retained by the city. Cardinal Engineering was one of the contractors who originally submitted responses to the RFP’s and they were contracted afterwards by the administration and were willing to go forward and that’s how they are now part of the project.

Alderman Anglace: This is for inspection services.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.2 B. Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and Nagy Bros. Construction, LLC. for construction services for the replacement of Waverly Road Bridge over the Farmill River. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the same.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci

Alderman Anglace: We are not appropriating the money at this point. We are just approving the contract.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.3 FUNDING FOR PINE ROCK PARK FIREHOUSE–LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the winterizing of the building to the rear of the Pine Rock Park Fire House to the Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of $4,400 with funding to come from LOCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Capra.
Alderwoman Anglace: I think everybody saw the second page of this and what the members did. They are really asking us for just a small share of the total cost of the projects but it’s a great result. You saw the pictures. They winterized a building that was originally put up as a place to store things and with all their needs they had to winterize it and they did a great job. The city got away cheap for $4,400.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.4 AGREEMENT FOR CONSTITUTION BOULEVARD EXTENSION ENGINEERING SERVICES

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and DeCarlo & Doll, Inc. for professional/engineering services for Constitution Boulevard Extension. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate same.

Seconded by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Anglace: If you recall this is a transition. The original engineer is no longer on the job and they are going with the second one which is DeCarlo and Doll. There is enough money in the account. There is over $60,000 left in there so they can continue on with the work without needing any appropriation from us.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.5 AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK AT 6 BRIDGE & 131 CANAL STREET

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and The United Illuminating Company (UI) in which the City agrees to install two (2) splice chambers with frames and covers, Vista switch vault with doors and associated conduits (Conduit Bank System) provided by UI in the right-of-way (ROW) of 6 Bridge & 131 Canal Street, all as further detailed and explained in a proposal from United Illuminating dated February 15, 2019.

Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the same.

Seconded by Alderman Gidwani.

Alderman Anglace: Just by way of background, this has been before us before. What the mayor is trying to do here on Bridge Street is to get the utilities underground.
There have been several negotiations and meetings with the U.I. regarding who is going to do what and who is going to pay for what and it took several intense meetings to get to this point. The city is going to trench it and put in some of the conduit and they are going to pick up all the costs. This is a step in the right direction. Some of the other proposals downtown are also going to be discussed, keeping in mind, underground utilities which will eliminate the poles.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.6 FUNDING FOR FIRST LEGO LEAGUE TEAM TRAVEL EXPENSES TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FESTIVAL IN APRIL

Alderman McPherson MOVED to authorize the Mayor to appropriate funding in an amount of $5,000 towards the Shelton Public School’s First Lego League Team’s travel expenses to the World Championship Festival to be held in Detroit in April with funding to come from Youth Programs Account #001-6100-624.79-21.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Anglace: There is a lot to be said about this. I spoke to the Superintendent of Schools, I spoke to the Principal, and the feedback I got is that the kids have worked real hard to get this far and not to see them go would be a disaster after putting in all that hard work. The Mayor was right up front and said that we are on board and he said he knew the aldermen would be glad to contribute. This is the result of that and I think it's money well spent.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.7 FUNDING FOR TENNIS COURTS AT SHS–LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the refurbishment of the tennis courts at Shelton High School to the Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of $150,000 with funding to come from LOCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Anglace: Let me fill you in. We were notified that we received our 2019 Locip allocation of $313,935. We already have $248,342 in the account unspent. That brings us to a total of $562,277. This is the first of three motions to spend part of this. They are all items associated with multi-year projects that we have been involved with. The first one, the high school tennis courts, as you know, we have been going back and forth and our role is to put the money up. The administration’s role is to carry it out and get it done. I don’t want to lose any time getting the money up for the
job so they can proceed. With good weather coming, I don’t know what they are going to do but we will have done our job.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

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**9.8 FUNDING FOR PARKING LOT AT SHS--LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the refurbishment of the parking lot at Shelton High School to the Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of $100,000 with funding to come from LOCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Alderman Anglace: The parking lot as you know, we started working and got some of it done last year. They had to stop because they found too much stuff buried in the center part of the parking lot and they have to dig it up and replace the dirt. I am not sure when they are going to start but I want to have the money there so that they have no excuses and they can get going as soon as the weather breaks. There is a rumor that with this nice weather the asphalt plants can open up as early as next week. They are going to have to do some digging up there, so let’s put some money in place and then hold their feet to the fire to get it done. As you know, we have partially funded this before and we want to see it done.

Alderman Simonetti: We plan to do it. It’s a mess and I think we are going to use our people so we get it done for less money. We have the machinery.

Alderman Anglace: That is an administrative decision, how they are going to do it and who is going to do it. Anybody that is interested in talking further about that, my suggestion is speak to the Mayor or speak to Paul DiMauro because they are the closest to it.

Alderman Capra: Mr. President, I would just add on that, we did speak briefly before the meeting, about how it is an administrative decision whether we do it in-house or whether we go out to bid and have it outsourced. This is just a request and I will speak to Paul DiMauro and the Mayor, but if we don’t have a good time frame to get it done then I would request that we go out to bid and actually have someone come and do the job so it gets done in a reasonable time. We don’t want to have something like this delayed. That is just something I wanted to say for the record.

Alderman Simonetti: If I may, I agree with Alderman Capra. I think the timing has to be that there is enough time to not only dig up the lot and put the new asphalt down and let it sit. It’s got to get hard so you may need to wait until Easter week break or something like that. It needs three or four days to get hard.
Alderman Anglace: That’s the other thing we don’t know. We don’t know how much time they are going to need to do this. We don’t know whether they are going to do it during the school year, on weekends or on a break or if they have to wait until the end of the school year. Like Jimmy said, he is going to talk to Paul. If he talks to Paul, then Paul can give him more insight.

Alderman Gidwani: Mr. President, I just have one question. Also, I apologize for being late. Are we doing the whole parking lot or are we doing piece by piece?

Alderman Anglace: We have already done some of the parking lot. This is the center section of the lot that has to be dug up because apparently, like when many houses were built years ago, people pushed all their stumps over and they buried them. Now many years later the stumps are rotting and you get sinkage. So, they have to dig it up and put new dirt in there and whatever else is appropriate.

Alderman Gidwani: So, are we doing the whole parking lot?

Alderman Anglace: Yes, the whole parking lot will be done.

Alderman Gidwani: Okay. Thank you.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

9.9 FUNDING FOR REFURBISHMENT OF CITYWIDE ROADS–LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the refurbishment of city-wide roads to the Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of $100,000 with funding to come from LOCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Balamaci: Are we going to get a list of which roads are being repaired?

Alderman Anglace: No. I don’t have a list now. We can ask for one if you’d like. Usually what happens in the early spring Engineering and Public Works sit down and prioritize. I don’t know if they have done that but if you want me to ask I would be happy to do it.

Alderman Balamaci: I am just curious if they are roads that are traveled heavily versus side streets, etc.?

Aldermen Anglace: I would be glad to ask if they have such a list available. If they do I will get it.
Alderman Kudej: I would like to see that list. I also want a list of what roads are going to be worked on because we seem to miss certain areas.

Alderman Capra: I think, piggybacking off what Stan has to said, I think it’s important if we have this extra money to put into roads and sidewalks, and if it’s something that may be delayed again, maybe we could get some bids and have a private company come in and get it done this year. We don’t make that decision but that is just my request. I just want to get that on the record.

Alderman Anglace: To be honest with you, another approach to this would be for the Street Committee to discuss it at their meeting. I think that’s an appropriate place to do it. It would be much better.

Alderman Simonetti: Although $100,000 sounds like a lot of money, but some of the roadwork we are doing is replacing, lifting and moving drains so that they work more properly so you get the water off the roads quicker so that money could be used for moving those kinds of things.

Alderman Anglace: If the Street Committee looks into this what you are going to find, and I will give you an example, in my ward, at the beginning of winter, we were called down to Pochong Trail in Pine Rock. It was a drainage problem and that drainage problem was run-off water from the street into yards. It has to be tended to. Public Works and Engineering has to figure out how to go about this whether or not it’s just going to take a curb to direct the water down into the catch basin or how they are going to do it but you can’t put a curb over a driveway so they are trying to figure it out. These are the type of things that we are referring to that add to the process. It’s not just going out and paving roads. It’s tending to all these little projects as well. As time permits, they just get in there and they do it. Catch basins are the same thing. Usually they save the catch basins up to the end of the year just before winter breaks. When you get out there you hear and see what they have to do with a project. It’s not so simple to just come up with a list.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Alderman Anglace: Let me finish the financial evaluation of what we just did. We just appropriated $350,000 for three projects which leaves us in Locip $212,000, so such things have been brought up by the Board, things like the sidewalks down on the Chromium Process property and things like refurbishment of the building at the Chromium Process site. We have $25,000 already appropriated for that but if we need more, we have another $212,000. So, if you got some ideas and projects that you think are worthy, we have $212,000 left. We don’t want to sit on it too long.

Alderman Gidwani: Mr. President, can we use the Locip funding for mulch at our playgrounds?
Alderman Anglace: No. Let me take that back. Instead of saying no, I would have to check with our Locip coordinator to be sure. My sense of it says no but I could be wrong.

Alderman Gidwani: I would really like to see the mulch at our city playgrounds where the kids play in the spring and summertime, not be this big where you can actually stab someone with a piece of mulch.

Alderman Anglace: Dave, with respect to the playgrounds there has been discussion at this level or at other levels regarding playground mulch. In fact, it was State Representative Jason Perillo who brought this to our attention because he brought his child down to one of the playgrounds. This issue has been addressed. Parks & Recreation bought a special screen for the Beast, you know that machine that does the mulching? The screen makes it smaller and playground size. That has been addressed so if you are seeing mulch that’s too big then let Ron Herrick at Parks & Rec. know. Let him know where it is and he will address it. It’s on the books.

Alderman Gidwani: Okay. Thank you.

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**9.10 OVEREXPENDITURE FOR PLANNING & ZONING**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the over-expenditure of the Planning & Zoning Administration Account #001-0900-414.30-01 through the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Anglace: This is the account from which the Planning and Zoning Consultant, Tony Pancio, is paid. It has a balance of $1,130, so the consensus of the Finance Director and the Mayor was to authorize an over-expenditure for the rest of the year because they are going to continue his services which are imperative.

Alderman McGorty: Do we have an amount?

Alderman Anglace: No. What we do is just like we do with over-expenditures for elections. We just authorize an over-expenditure and the last month of the year it’s transferred when they have surplus. The activity in Planning and Zoning has been going through the roof and it seems on track to continue that way.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.
10. LEGISLATIVE – NEW
10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING
10.1 A. NO ITEMS

10.2 APPOINTMENT TO ANTI-LITTER COMMITTEE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve Joseph Welsh to the Anti-Litter Committee effective immediately.

Joseph Welsh
4 Millbrook Road
Shelton, CT 06484
Tel. 203-402-0768

Seconded by Alderman Capra.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:45 p.m., Alderman McPherson MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items:

11.1 LINDBERG WORKER’S COMPENSATION
11.2 DOBBINS WORKER’S COMPENSATION
11.3 POTENTIAL LITIGATION DISCUSSION

SECONDED by Alderman Capra.

Alderman Anglace invited Corporation Counsel Teodosio and Assistant Corporation Counsel Tom Cotter to remain in Executive Session for Items 11.1 and 11.2 and invited Treasurer Ray O’Leary to participate in Item 11.3.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 8:20 p.m., Alderman Simonetti MOVED to return to regular session; SECONDED by Alderman Capra.

Alderman Anglace noted that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.
A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

11.1 LINDBERG WORKER’S COMPENSATION

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to approve the permanent partial disability award payment to Thomas Lindberg in the amount of $24,746.64.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

11.2 DOBBINS WORKER’S COMPENSATION

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to approve the permanent partial disability award in the amount of $44,833.25 to claimant Edward Dobbins.

SECONDED by Alderman Capra.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

11.3 POTENTIAL LITIGATION DISCUSSION

No Action.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn; Seconded by Alderman Gidwani. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Adcox

Theresa Adcox, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: ____________ BY: ___________________________

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti