Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7:00 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

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

Administration:

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor City of Shelton
Attorney Thomas Welch, Corporation Counsel
Attorney Ramon Sous, Asst. Corporation Counsel

PUBLIC PORTION

Claudia Post, 7 Hickory Grove

My girls go to Mohegan School; ages 7 and 9 so they have 10 to 8 years respectively in the school system. With the proposed budget cuts that we have in Shelton and with the proposal by the Board of Education, we are asking respectfully for the Board of Aldermen to consider retaining our current funding. Specifically, for Mohegan, if we lose some of our funding or do not stay at the status quo, some of our math and reading specialists will be eliminated and the hours that they spend with our kids can be eliminated as well as our library and media specialists. We only have a part time media specialist. My girls specifically have had a direct benefit, as a result of our specialists. My youngest extremely struggled with her reading and our specialists have been able to target her needs for education, to set the foundations for her math and reading for the future. So I respectfully ask that you consider the Board of Education budget and retain our current funding. Thank you.
Mayor Lauretti: I would like to make a general comment about the education funding. This is an issue that has gotten many parents around the State of Connecticut very concerned. I do not think that there are many people in this state that agree with the Governor’s approach to the budget - I certainly do not agree. I think from my standpoint; my budget will reflect the status quo in terms of funding; that is what I will do. We will go from there because it is anyone’s guess what Hartford will do. My suggestion is that you petition the state legislators. I do not necessarily mean the state legislators that represent Shelton because they get it and they understand; it is the other ones that need to hear from everybody. They created this problem and they need to fix it. They cannot push it on to us, and say to us to pay the bill that they created when they have not solved the problem. That is not fair in anyone’s world, especially when it comes to dealing with a budget that affects everyone’s lives. It is not just education, it is all of the non-profits, it is all of the special needs people around the state that get funding in one form or another. They need to fix the problem before they start to ask us about a shared sacrifice; that is my position. If you look at what the State of Connecticut gives cities like Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, as an example they get anywhere from $7500 per pupil. We in the City of Shelton receive $400 per pupil. Quite honestly I am okay with that, but to go any deeper is very wrong. You can count on me being very vocal statewide on this issue, with the budget. Normally I do not tell people what my position is before we get there, but this year is very different. The circumstances are very different. Rest assured that my numbers will reflect what we currently have in place. For years, I have taken after the Board of Education about their spending, about how they spend their money and how it does not get to the kids. We are in a place where it is working, and it is working good. Every year, we make more and more improvements. We are going to continue that because Shelton may be the island in Connecticut; we are in a position to do that less the state legislature. That is my story and I am sticking to it.

Would anyone else like to address the Board?

*Tom Stanchfield, 55 Old Dairy Lane*

I want to first thank all of you for your continued dedication to the City. I know many of you have been on the Board of Aldermen and Mayor for many years. I thank you for our leadership continued through these hard times. I just wanted to quickly talk about the education. I am very proud to say that I went through the Shelton school system. After I graduated college I moved out of the state, but then it took me about 10 years to get back here. I had a lot of choices of what city I would like to live in, but I had convinced my wife to move out to Shelton because not only she saw the education that I had received when I went through the system, but also as many of you that know my mother, with her dedication to education as well. With also the great developments and great improvements going on the City. I thought there were a lot of opportunities for us to set roots here and raise a family.

I have two sons that are going through the school system now. They currently attend Elizabeth Shelton, first and second grade. I have a newborn of seven weeks old, so he will
be eventually going through the school system too. I can’t tell you how excited they are when they go to school, and how happy they are with their teachers. The teachers that we have at Elizabeth Shelton are amazing. With the very few resources that they have, they make use of it. My kids love going to school everyday; they actually have a school set up in our living room in which they play school at night. When I was leaving to come here, my son was having class with my younger son and yelling at him because he had to get his blue ticket from the principal’s office. I can see the impact. They do not just go to school for the 7-8 hours per day, they come home to do their homework and they really understand what is going on. To hearing, Mr. Mayor, your commitment to the status quo, I am hoping that the Board of Aldermen will take that modest increase that the Board of Education proposed for this year’s budget, and to really think about it seriously about the impact that we have on our students in the system. Most likely, a lot of them will stay in Shelton after graduation, or move away and come back. We want to grow these people, we want to make them our future aldermen, maybe as future mayors. I think we really need to show them a commitment as well, that we care for their education and want them to come back to our city 10 to 15 years from now, to start raising their children and to have them go through the same school system. I thank you for your time.

Mr. Simonetti, I am looking forward to another Christmas caroling on Old Dairy Lane. We thank you very much for the community spirit that you bring to our community up there, so thank you.

Kristen Campbell, 26 Sunrise Circle

I am the mother of three children enrolled in Mohegan School. I am here tonight to urge you to support and fund the Board of Education’s proposed budget. I trust in the Board of Ed in their planning a program for the students in Shelton. I applaud their decision in hiring Mrs. Tuckner, to lead our school as principal. I am so happy for the teachers that we have at Mohegan School, and their dedication to their students. I also the love the time that I get to spend with the other families at Mohegan School. My children have made such wonderful friends, and it is such a wonderful community to be a part of. Together as parents, we often fundraise and spend countless hours volunteering and raising money for our school. We bought things like technology; we have been committed to building a playground, and maintenance. This is all at no cost to the city. When I hear that Shelton is rated 162 out of 166 in expenditures per pupil, it just gets me very upset to think that our city would invest so little in our students. I know that you have heard this before, but we need to invest in our future as the prior gentleman had said. We need to invest in our students, so I am urging you to fully fund the Board of Education’s proposed budget. I am also aware of the state cuts that are coming down from the state, so that is why we need to further look at fully funding the Board of Education’s budget. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti: I want to respond to one point that you have made. Again, I normally do not do this, but I cannot resist it because if you have been at this for as long as I have then you can appreciate where I am coming from. All of my kids went through the Shelton school system, my brother’s kids and my sister’s kids. My uncle was the principal of
Shelton High School, and my sister and sister-on-law teach at Shelton High School. Not only am I vested in the school system, but I know what is going on in the school system. I have heard this for years and years about how little we spend on education in Shelton. I would say to people, if you had the opportunity to send your child to a school that was #2 in the State of Connecticut, as opposed to #159, where would you send them? #2 is Hartford, #7 is New Haven, #13 is Bridgeport, so my point is that there is no statistic out there that says the more money you spend on education, the better results you are going to get. It is quite the opposite actually, in my view. I think years of budgeting will support this; this is my position. We, in Shelton, do a much better job in how we spend our money. Our results are as good as most people, if not better than most in my view.

There has been a lot of us, myself included, that went through the Shelton school system, who have done very well for ourselves. The President and CEO of Citicorp Worldwide is a Shelton High School grad, as an example. I will not go on and on to belabor the point, but I am okay with spending money if we are going to strengthen the student-teacher-parent relationship. If we do that, then I am all in. The State of Connecticut in its infinite wisdom makes us spend money on things that are meaningless to getting a result. Not only in education, but in many areas. I am not moved by that statistic because as a school system, I think we have proved otherwise.

Kristen Campbell: If I can respond to that, I work in a school system in Westport. I understand that we are not Westport, and that our taxes are not as high as Westport. I can see the difference in the education that their students are getting. We are not a poor community; we do not deserve to be 162 out of 166. I am sorry, we don’t. We are not a poor community; we are very wealthy in this community and our children do deserve to be invested in.

Mayor Lauretti: What happens if we become #57? What will change?

Kristen Campbell: We are working as families on building maintenance. We should not be doing things like that.

Mayor Lauretti: No you shouldn’t.

Kristen Campbell: Our students need to be brought into the 21st century, as far as technology. We had raised money last year for technology hubs that our students would not have otherwise. The students only have the media specialist two days per week; we need a media specialist at Mohegan School; it is only two days per week. We need more in that area; we are weak in that area. Thank you.

Jeanine Meeker, 59 Rocky Rest Road

I have lived in this town for 13 years, and I have a kindergartener with me this evening. I wanted to speak on the technology portion. Basically, at Long Hill School where my daughter attends, has Chromebook carts. They have to share these carts amongst several different grades, so you have one cart that is being used for one day in one classroom so that
means the other students are not able to get the benefit of technology that will make them CEOs of companies. Without access to things that are common knowledge to most kids, they are going to be behind. That 162 is going to be pushed from 162 to 166 or 167, depending on what that number is. We cannot afford to let that happen. This is not just a matter of money; it is the future of every kid that comes through this town. Without technology, without spending money to invest in proper spaces to hold that technology; I do not think there is a proper media center at Long Hill School which I do not think there is. I do not think they are getting the right access that they need to excel, and to make themselves what they can be. It is not just everyone has the same opportunity, I do not think that is necessarily true when you look at Shelton. You have how many schools in the district? How many schools get the same level of stuff? If you are going to start amortizing things like technology across ten different schools, you really have to think about it. That budget is going to be stretched thin, but it needs there to be stretched. You have all of these developments that are coming into town, which those are taxes that you can raise on those developments. There is no reason that Scinto can get a free pass for those things; they should be paying their fair share and like other developers who come into this town like Toll Brothers, etc. There is no reason why this money cannot be found to fully fund the Board of Education’s proposal, and that the increments that it also notes. Thank you.

Jennifer Sanborn, 8 Steep Brook Lane

I have my second grader with me, and I also have a fifth grader who is at the high school doing the Lego League. I am the PTO Treasurer at Long Hill School, and I can speak on our behalf that last year we funded $4000 worth of Chromebooks for our students to have. This is the parents’ support and parent involvement buying Yankee Candles, buying chocolates so that money can go back to the students, who gave $4000 for Chromebooks. My daughter required to be on the computer 45 minutes per week, and there are only 3 computers in the classroom. Maybe that cart comes around once or twice, so she can get that time in but she is required to be on the computer for 45 minutes in the classroom. So when she is a third or fourth grade student taking tests on the computer she will have that experience. Technology has changed because the testing has changed. It is not a pencil and paper; it is all on a Chromebook. The PTO last year also spent $14,000 on the playground at Long Hill School to improve that. We had to pay for the mulch because the mulch that we did receive from town had cushions from couches, and wood with nails so the PTO again funded $14,000 for the playground, at the school for the students. I am just asking that you support the Board of Education budget proposal for this year. Thank you.

Hirdesh Upadyay, 143 Summerfield Gardens

It has been 4 years for me in Shelton. I was coming from Milford, and it was a really tough decision moving from Milford. It was the low taxes that attracted me to Shelton. I knew that the schools were good in Shelton, I knew that it would be improving but I see that the system is not moving forward. If the funding is the only thing, then I think there should be more funding. Where is the technology? Everybody is saying the same exact word: technology. The kids are not up to the technology; they do not have the resources for the next generation. I am happy that my kids are here. I want them to be raised here. Shelton is
competing with other towns like, Trumbull, Newtown, Easton. Those towns do have a higher tax bracket; they do generate larger revenue but it doesn’t mean that we can say that since Shelton is low in tax that we can ignore the education. No one would like to come to Shelton if the schooling system goes bad. My decision was based on education. I would like more families to come to Shelton, and it would be really great if cuts were not made.

_Joe Lenti_

I am speaking on behalf of my granddaughter who attends Mohegan School. It just boggles my mind and maybe you can explain this to me why Monroe and Trumbull get $2000-$3000 more than Shelton does? I do not know if you can, or not. It just boggles my mind that one city gets so much more than another city does. Also we are in a technological world. Everything is computers, wireless. Everything you see, that is what the kids are learning. They get much more education than they did before. When I grew up it was radio and television. Now it is huge technology- they need teachers to teach them that, teachers to help them understand where this is going. This is what we are here for. We want to see our kids and our grandchildren get a fair shake, and that is all we are here for.

_Jessica Mitchell, 208 Lenore Drive_

I do not have any children in the school system. My daughter is going to be starting in the fall, at Elizabeth Shelton. A little bit about me: I moved to Shelton eight years ago, 23 years old with my husband. We bought a house; it was my dream home and I picked Shelton because of the low taxes. I came from Stratford, which did not have good taxes. I teach college English, so I am going to talk a little about our high school. Please, you need to invest in technology. I know everyone has been saying it, but I cannot push it enough. I teach college English, I teach it online. I teach for Philadelphia University, Southern New Hampshire University, and for Post University. These students are not ready for online education, so I am begging you not to cut the budget, but to keep it as they have said very well. I do not know it because I am not involved in it like they are, but I just want to put it out there as an educator in higher education. We really need the technology to prepare them to go on. I had families that graduated from the Shelton school system, and quite sure that they were ready to go into higher education. Thank you.

_Jamie Crenwick, 27 Longmeadow Road_

I am an educator in a different town. My question is for Mr. Mayor: My boys go to Mohegan School; ages 9 and 6 and they are very happy there. We have had tremendous teachers there, and they do a lot with very little. They are asked to implement certain programs, like the Columbia Writer’s Workshop Program, or the Reader’s Workshop with little professional development. I work in Monroe, and we have had years and years of professional development to implement these programs. We have people that come back on a yearly basis, 3 to 4 times per year to instruct the teachers so they can give direct instruction to the children. Our scores resonate that. I know in Shelton that our scores are high too, and I agree with you, Mr. Mayor, I know that the expenditure per pupil is not everything so I am not really going to talk about that. We talked about tech hubs at Long Hill, we talked about
tech hubs at Mohegan, playground mulch both at Mohegan School and at Long Hill. We talked about the library media specialists. Our library media specialist is there 2 half days.

I know in Monroe they do have full time library media specialists for each of their elementary schools. So, that person is not there to check out books, but they are there to implement technology into the classroom, to get the students ready, to teach them to put on a web show, to teach them to travel through the Internet safely, to teach them how to get sources for papers and things of that nature. At Mohegan School, our PTO funded one-third of the mechanical basketball hoops that all of our town’s rec programs use. We were asked to split that cost between the Board of Ed, the Mayor’s Office and ourselves, and we kindly did that because we knew our kids would use that as well.

So, Mr. Mayor, you said we should not be paying for the mulch and we should not be paying for the maintenance. Where is that money going to come from? If we are in a bare bones budget right now, it seems like the Board of Ed puts this budget to the Board of Aldermen to say we will do it for this minimum amount. Where are we getting the money for all of the extras for our kids?

Mayor Lauretti: I will tell you that when a budget is approved, they move money around and it gets spent in several different places and then they return money. As an example, they returned $1.1 million.

Jamie Crenwick: Who is they?

Mayor Lauretti: The Board of Education. So when you stand up here and tell me that you cannot get playground mulch, I cannot help you. I do not make those decisions. If you called me up as a PTA representative and asked if you can help with me with something. Nine times out of ten, I am going to do it; I have been doing it for twenty-six years. They asked me for money for the basketball hoop at Mohegan School; they asked me for a dollar amount and I gave it to them. The Robotics Team is going to St. Louis; they went last year. They asked me for money and I gave them $5,000.

I do not make all of those decisions, so I do not know how they are managing their money. Since 2009, the Shelton school system has lost 900 students. That is not insignificant, but every year their budget goes up by millions. There is something wrong with this equation, so I cannot give you specifics on how they spend their money / do not spent their money but when I see things like that it is a big question mark in my mind. I have been going through this a lot of years at budget time.

Lauren Neves, 22 Cobblestone Drive

I just wanted to make a couple of responses to some of the points that you had made. You mentioned that the CEO of Citicorp went through the Shelton school system. He is 56 years old now, so that was 38 years again assuming that he went straight through graduation. The climate has changed for education; everyone in here has mentioned that technology is of the utmost importance and that was not in existence 36 years ago. The other point that I wanted
to make was that I want to challenge your loss of 900 children within the school system. I would like to make the argument that we lost those 900 children as a result of people moving out of Shelton because the school system is not where they need it to be. People are moving to other towns, and their tax dollars are going to go towards an education that believes in the kids. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti: 900 kids, look at the budget books. It is their enrollment numbers that they send to the State of Connecticut every year. It is not my number.

Jackie Hanish, 6 Old Dairy Lane

Thank you for your time tonight, and thank you for your service to our community. I recognize that this is a hard time for both, Shelton and the State of Connecticut. However, it is important to discuss the importance of supporting education and achieving the reasonable goal of pulling up our test scores to the top 25% of the state. We must remain competitive; high performing schools draw people to a town. The higher our demand, the higher our real estate value. All demographics would reap the rewards of higher property values. Reality is as Tom has mentioned before, Shelton residents who tend to grow up here, tend to stay here. Our children are the future of Shelton; future business owners, taxpayers and city officials. It is so important to provide them with a solid education, so I respectfully recommend that you support the Board of Education’s modest budget proposal. Thank you.

Joe Welsh

Good evening everyone. I am a Mohegan School parent, and it has been the best school for my kids to move up through the grades in. I am here as a volunteer for the school because when certain things are not funded, there are no programs available people step up just like a lot of the volunteers that are involved in our schools. The PTO make things happen; they have the fundraisers to raise funds to do stuff. The reality is that the money is not there, and it will not be coming from the state. We need to look at this and try to solve a problem. There are definitely ways to save costs from energy efficiencies, LED lighting. The money that might be able to be saved there can offset some of the problem. It is not going to be millions, but I think that every little bit counts. If people work together, the Aldermen, the Board of Ed, concerned parents, maybe we can solve this and come with a way to fund everything and then some. Then look in areas that money may be wasted or spent foolishly. I do not have any other suggestions than that, but I think we should all try to work together as a town to accomplish it. I think that money does help things but sometimes throwing money at things is not always the best solution. Maybe it is worth looking into a committee that can identify things and cost savings, but everyone that wants better for our kids need to step up to the plate. They need to get involved, whether you are on the Father’s Club, PTO, coaching, Science Day; those are the things that are priceless. When folks step up to do that, it does make an impact on our kids because I have seen it with my own and I have seen it
with others. Thank you for your time, and maybe we can work something out as a community.

Christina Nuzzer, 199 Stonehedge

I have two boys in Mohegan School. I am pretty sure that Mrs. Tuckner never goes home, her car is always there in the parking lot. I think I want to ask you a question, rather than tell you because you already heard we want more money for the school, we want to figure out something different, our kids are not prepared. The reality is my boys are probably going to be prepared for technology. I have been in Shelton for twelve years, I work in Shelton and I have a technology based job. My kids knew computers long before they got to school because they get that from me. I get that maybe that is unusual demographic across the board from Shelton, but I think you all know Shelton really well. You have grown up here, your kids went to school here. I think you know the struggles that the parents brought up tonight. Clearly there are a bunch of parents here that care an awful lot, and I think every parent in Shelton cares. I would like to ask you, what do you think we should be doing in an environment when the Board of Ed is returning $1 million back to you? We have a budget, we passed the budget and the budget is not being spent, so as parents or as aldermen and the Mayor or as residents of Shelton, what can we do? Clearly we want to do something. I think coming here and telling you that only you are doing it wrong is not helpful to us, nor to you. I think I am begging for advice. Where do I go not to give you back $1 million?

Mayor Lauretti: Historically, the Board of Ed has given back a lot of money in some years, some years we received little back. I want to assure you that everyone hasn’t been living under a rock for the last thirty years. We get the technology; that is easy. Supplying money for technology is easy. If they had submitted a request to me tomorrow, for $250,000 for technology, I would probably go right along with it. I do not make those decisions. I am not involved in their day to day activity; only when they ask me to do something like help out with their Stem Labs at Shelton High School, which we are working at right now. It happened for the last two months, or this past year we took the initiative to put a fuel cell into Shelton High School that will save around $100,000 by everyone’s estimate, in their operating budget. Although it did not get started in September, so we are probably around 6 months behind the curve. A few years back we did dual fuel in four of the elementary schools, Shelton High School, Perry Hill School, because natural gas was cheaper and a good way to heat buildings, and environmentally it was the best thing that you can do. From that standpoint, things have gone very well trying to affect savings in the operation portion of their budget.

We just did doors in a few of the elementary schools, where Elizabeth Shelton School will get new windows hopefully this summer. There are two other schools that we are committed to doing. So there is a variety that we do with them, but we do not make their day to day decisions on how they implement their budget to affect education. Unless I was directly responsible for making those decisions, like I am involved with for the City, I would be happy to talk to you about. I could’ve sat up here tonight and not said anything, but as you know I’ve seen this system evolve over the years. I have heard these comments time and time again over the years. I cannot solve a lot of that stuff for you, and just throwing a
lot of money at a situation I do not do that with anything. I told you earlier that if we are going to put money towards the student-parent-teacher relationship, then I am all in because that is the core of education in my view. Some of you do not know, but once upon on a time in another life I taught high school in Bridgeport so I think I understand a little about education, and suggesting that we do not think that the kids are our future is a little insulting. We did not get to this point, with the success of the city for not paying attention. There are some things that we can control, and some things that we cannot control, and I cannot control the day to day operation of the school system.

I will tell you that there have been a few superintendents that come into a system that each have a different vision about how it should be done. Then they go and someone else comes, and I think that upsets the apple cart for a little bit for a lack of a better term when there is a lot to be said for consistency in any system, over the course of time so things can be predictable and stable. As well as being able to evaluate the results that you are either getting or not getting, and make changes based on that. So the technology part is easy. We can write out a check for a couple hundred thousand dollars to get the technology in those elementary schools. It is not a problem for us. When you see budgets when enrollment is falling off the charts, and yet the overall request is millions more every year, from my standpoint it would be irresponsible if I did not question that because I do that with everything. I do that with the police department, the fire department. I think that makes people pay closer attention, to maybe get a better result. It is no fun being me sometimes because you got to be the bad guy. It is not fun for me to sit up here and disagree with all of you. So I respond to things that I can control. Playground mulch is another easy one; we can do that in our sleep. Maybe you received a bad load from the city, so tell someone and we will take it out of there and get you the right stuff. If I do not know that this stuff is happening, then I cannot respond to it. I hope I have answered your question.

Paul Skeffington, 30 Sportsman Drive

You said it is easy to give us $250,000 for what we are asking for.

Mayor Lauretti: No I did not say that.

Paul Skeffington: You actually did say that.

Mayor Lauretti: This board would have to approve it but they have done that historically in the past when the request has come down outside their budget.

Paul Skeffington: If it is easy then can we make it happen?

Mayor Lauretti: It needs to come from the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Just you and I, and everyone having this dialogue is not going to make it work.

Paul Skeffington: But if it is easy, then how does it happen? How can we actually make it happen? If things were easy, then I would think that you can push them through.
Mayor Lauretti: I will clarify that the decision for me to support that is easy.

Paul Skeffington: Then the process by which we have to actually make it happen to put it at your desk so you can sign it. How?

Mayor Lauretti: You have to go through the Superintendent of Schools.

Paul Skeffington: Okay, so that is not an easy process?

Mayor Lauretti: Well I do not know.

Paul Skeffington: Well you are the Mayor.

Mayor Lauretti: Well, are you asking me to be your representative with the Superintendent of Schools?

Paul Skeffington: Well I am just asking you about the process so that I can better understand it.

Mayor Lauretti: You need to talk to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, and tell them that you are not happy with the level of technology.

Paul Skeffington: Will that, then come across your desk?

Mayor Lauretti: In the past, that was the way that it worked. If we have stuff that has ran its course and outdated, then I am in support of changing that and updating it. I am not, and I have not in the past supported putting it into their operating budget. One year they use it and one year they do not use it. Then, in the next year it goes towards something else.

Paul Skeffington: So if the money is put back; I heard the number of $1 million, and it goes back in from their education budget, what happens to that money? Can that not be earmarked with what we are looking for?

Mayor Lauretti: It reverts back to the city, to the General Fund.

Paul Skeffington: What happens? What does the General Fund do with it?

Mayor Lauretti: At budget time we approve a budget, and then monies are withdrawn from the General Fund to support the budget.

Paul Skeffington: If one million dollars were to come back in, and if $250,000 would help us with what we are asking for, if there is any way that we can use that as a stipend or as an earmark to fund what we are looking for. Again, I am out of step with the things that we would need to do, but actually how can we make that happen?
Mayor Lauretti: When people come down here and say to me that we do not have technology for our classrooms, and I am sitting here and I know that is ridiculous. There is no way that you should not have it in this town. We can certainly afford to do that, and we have in the past, done appropriations during the year to support technology. We have done it a lot. If that request comes in from the Superintendent of Schools, and says we would like to upgrade here, can you help us out? Nine times out of ten we had done that, but I do not go through the schools and say what do you need.

Paul Skeffington: So it takes us to petition the Superintendent to make sure that he actually listens to us and does it?

Mayor Lauretti: I am sitting here, thinking to myself that I am getting demonized because there is not enough Chromebooks at Long Hill School, and I know they returned $1.1 million last year. I am not going to throw them under the bus for doing that because in years that have gone by, they did not do that. They encumber monies two to three months before the year is over, so it looks like it has been spent but it was not spent. There has been a lot of gamesmanship that has gone on with this budgeting process, particularly with the Board of Education. It is not just here in Shelton, it is all over the state and that is part of the problem in my view.

Paul Skeffington: So my last question is, our efforts here tonight to talk to the Board of Aldermen is futile. It is useless. Should we be going directly to the Board of Education?

Mayor Lauretti: You should; you should start with them because under state law it is their authority that once they receive a budget, they can spend it however they want. I cannot tell them how to spend their money.

Unnamed member of the audience: So does that mean if they ask for it, they get it?

Mayor Lauretti: Not all of the time.

Unnamed member of the audience: At the same time they put forward a budget for the following year for a certain increment, so they are clearly asking for money. We are just here to make sure they get the money. Also thank you for full day kindergarten.

Unnamed member of the audience: I do not want to leave it on that note. We are just coming here as concerned parents, so maybe we are hearing different stories. So if they gave back $1.1 million last year, and we do not have a full time media specialist in any one of the elementary schools, I do not understand why is that?

Mayor Lauretti: I am not sure that I can answer that. I am not involved in their day to day decision making, or their board making.

Unnamed member of the audience: I do not know so I am just asking: as the Mayor, as the Board of Aldermen, you have a vested interest in our students obviously. I know that you
give countless hours of time that you give towards this organization and for our town. When they come back with $1.1 million, does that get questioned at all?

Mayor Lauretti: No one is going to complain about getting that kind of money back. Some years, they sent back $3 million; 15 years ago, so it is hard to predict.

Unnamed member of the audience: So if we go back to the Board of Education and we say that Mr. Mayor and the Board of Aldermen said that you gave back $1.1 million last year, are they going to say that number is accurate?

Mayor Lauretti: It is not me saying it; it is in the audit report. I am not making this stuff up. When I said there was 900 less students in the school system than there were in 2009, that is their numbers that they submit to the state.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue

I am speaking to you as a grandparent. My granddaughter went through Sunnyside School. Now she is in her third year of college; she is hoping to study to become a teacher.

Mr. Anglace, they should be awarding you for the amount of time that you put in, and what was the project that you served on for the Board of Education? The Technology Committee. Everything has been upgraded from the time that you served on that. Let’s get to the figures: the Board of Education did not turn back in $1.1 million. What my recommendation is to the citizens, would be to go and to attend a budget of the Board of Education. There is one item that has struck me, to say that I want to know to more about. What is this, the money that was expended on the fuel cell? What was it for? Is it producing 100%? The BOE can solely answer that question for you.

Number 2: Each year, the accountants for the city make up an annual financial report and you should be reading that. It would show what was given back by each individual department. I would like to know why the Board of Ed did not expend $198,228? Yes we could be putting a lot more to the Board of Education, but there has to be certain ways of doing it. I want to see the kids today being generated to be able to go on into the educational system when they get out of high school. As well, to be able to go and possibly come back to Shelton.

Mayor Lauretti: What you did not tell them was that there was around $870,000 in the excess cost share grant through the Board of Ed, for Special Ed that was not spent.

Debbie Wurms, 7 Turning Leaf Lane

Me too, I have seen the back and forth over the years. When can we work together? When can we have the school board and the Board of Aldermen work together, where it is not just us parents trying to figure out who to go to, for when and for what? Is that too much to ask?
Mayor Lauretti: Believe it or not, it happens quite a bit until you start talking about money, when they start transferring money in other places. Or when they start spending $17,000 to put a rock garden in, at the front of the Board of Education building.

Debbie Wurms: Was that this past year?

Mayor Lauretti: No this was a couple of years ago.

Debbie Wurms: I know that we have mentioned 15 years ago, 5 years ago and I can appreciate that and I do not question you. In terms of moving forward, and for these families that are trying to move forward from that and try to get it to work together. As you can all imagine being a parent in Shelton, it can be really frustrating not knowing where to go, to who and for what. Someone asked before how do we go about this process. The question was not asked, so the next gentleman came up and we got a little more clarity that we need to go to the school board. It is hard because we get mixed messages. They never gave money back, they give money back… it is a negative when they are not giving money back, and it is a negative when they do give money back. Okay, in each individual year there are differences, but it seems that the years that I have been here has always been this struggle between the two groups. We as parents are not saying, what you are saying is wrong and we are not saying what they are saying is wrong. We want to get past that, we want to get to our future and to understand on how to move forward and how to get everyone together. Can we have a meeting between the Board of Ed and the Board of Aldermen, where the parents can be there so we can get through some of this? If you go to the Board of Ed, they will say that they are not getting the funding that we need. If we go to the Board of Aldermen, they say we are giving them money; they are not using the money and they are giving it back.

I agree and I am sure that it is true on all sides, but as a parent we want to get to the future. We are really just trying to get to a place where everyone can get together for our children. Nobody is up there; nobody is making you the villain. Nobody is making anyone the villain. We are just parents that truly care about our children and are trying to move forward. Is it possible to have a meeting like that? Or are the two parties not allowed to be together to solve these problems?

Mayor Lauretti: It is not like that has not happened before in the past, because it has. For the life of me I cannot understand why there isn’t more consistency about it. There is not because some of the personalities change and have a different way to approach things. At the end of the day it is about our kids, of course it is. If you can get the state of the classroom and let teachers teach, and the administrators do their job and hold them accountable you would probably get a better result.

Debbie Wurms: My question is specifically not about that. It is about here and trying to get these problems solved. You say that it has happened before. Can it happen again?

Mayor Lauretti: I meet on a regular basis with the Superintendent of Schools at his request, and we do have a dialogue about things that he thinks that are important. He is new in the
equation and has a different approach, different philosophy than the last person, but even with the last person it went well for a long time and then it went off track.

Debbie Wurms: Can we get a meeting in place to have some parent involvement, whether it be heads of the PTO, along with the principals and yourself and Dr. Clouet? Would that be possible to have these discussions?

Mayor Lauretti: I have done that in the past.

Debbie Wurms: Right, can you do it again?

Mayor Lauretti: I can, I certainly can.

Debbie Wurms: So how do we go about setting that up?

Mayor Lauretti: Again, I would encourage you to work with the Superintendent of Schools.

Debbie Wurms: To schedule a meeting?

Mayor Lauretti: Yes.

Debbie Wurms: So can we tell him that you would be open to it?

Mayor Lauretti: Yes, of course. We have had a dialogue in the last three to four months about technology. I cannot recall exactly what it was but I know there is a request coming, whether it is going to the high school, whether it is going to the elementary schools? A few years back with the other Superintendent of Schools when they wanted to do all day kindergarten they bought technology for all day kindergarten, but they did not have the technology for grades 1 and 2. I said to the Board of Ed, why are we doing that? You are going to start your curriculum at Grade K, then they are going to get to Grades 1 & 2 and there is going to be a void. Yet Grades 3, 4, and 5 have it. I cannot control that, so the only thing that I can say to them well that is pretty dumb. There has been a tremendous amount of dialogue that people like yourselves are not aware of.

Debbie Wurms: So for me it is not all about technology; it is about Special Ed. It is not my kids because I am fortunate enough where they do not have to take advantage of it. I have a lot of friends and neighbors that do. I know there are a lot of cuts coming from there, and who knows what’s coming from the government which are appalling. That is where we need to step up as a community until that gets fixed. You say that you are working to try to fix that but until which time that is fixed, we as a community work as a commitment to our children, need to figure out sadly how to make up for that deficit because they cannot go by the wayside. If they do, so does our future. I know that you believe in our children’s’ future, and I do not think that anyone meant to leave you with an impression that you do not care because I know that you care.
Mayor Lauretti: You mentioned Special Ed. That is a hot topic everywhere because the cost of Special Ed is baring every school system. One of those costs comes with transportation. I told the Superintendent that we should be taking that transportation, and doing it in-house; I’ll buy you the buses because the cost is exorbitant. If you have to spend $100,000 to transport one kid to one school per year, there has to be a better way to do that.

Debbie Wurms: If some of us try to contact Dr. Clouet to tell him we suggest this, and that we have spoken to the Mayor and he is up for this continued dialogue with parent input, we can safely say that you are up for that as well?

Mayor Lauretti: Yes.

Debbie Wurms: Thank you.

Jackie Hanish: This is my first aldermen meeting, so I wanted to give you a heartfelt thank you because we can appreciate the dialogue. We might see things a different way, or have a different understand of something based on other inputs. I think this gets us, as parents, thinking as the overall process. As a parent of three children in Shelton, my goal here was to certainly share our passion for taking care of our children. Never to imply to make you think that you do not care. I want to publicly acknowledge that our children go to Elizabeth Shelton. In the fall we had a situation with mulch; we called the Mayor’s Office and you sent a gentleman over to help us spread our mulch. I want to acknowledge that relationship was there. I really do not want to end this on a negative note. We are really in this together for our children. We know that you value Shelton, we know that you value our children. We just came here to reinforce the message of how important it is; certainly to not imply that it is not important to you.

Mayor Lauretti: Let me just leave you with this thought and we close this dialogue. It is easy for someone else to say we cannot do “X” or “Y” because he did not give us the money. It is easy to say that. Until you can appreciate the complexity of the budget and how monies get transferred on a monthly basis through their budget, then you really cannot appreciate where I am coming from and I do not expect you to because you are in a different category than I am. I will leave that as food for thought. Since the new Superintendent of Schools came in, we have had an unbelievable amount of dialogue. I do think that he is on the right track, and I do think that he gets it. He knows the shortcomings of what state law does to education. It actually impedes its progress.

Mayor Lauretti closes the public portion at approximately 8:05 P.M.

Add-On

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

EXECUTIVE SESSION
11.3 ANTI-BLIGHT LIEN – 241 RIVerview Avenue

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

1. Special Full Board Meeting – February 16, 2017
2. Board of Aldermen Workshop – February 21, 2017

SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: In the Board of Aldermen Workshop of February 21st, please add Rick Schultz to the list of attendees.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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 – None presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Alderman Anglace presented a report:

The Governor’s proposed 2017/2018 budget is cause for serious concern in Shelton, and among other CT communities. Our concern is the Governor’s proposed reduction of $3.8 million in ECS funding, and asking the state legislature to adopt a budget requiring Shelton to pay one-third of teachers’ pension funding and uncertainties of future state funding of the remaining two-thirds of the teachers’ pension funding is troubling.

Teachers Pension funding was removed from the local collective bargaining process, and substituted by state law which the state agreed to fully fund but has only partially funded, creating a serious unfunded liability which threatens the retirement hopes of many CT teachers. Despite the Governor’s invasive tax increase, sales tax increase, gas tax increase, and so many others, the state under Governor Malloy has continued to underfund teacher retirement payments and now he is trying to pass the buck to local municipalities.

What is at stake here in Shelton? With the status quo of the FY ’18 budget, we will face a 1.5 mill tax increase if the teachers’ pension liability costs are added to our burden. Currently, Shelton pays 91.6% of our education costs and the state pays 8.4%. The Governor’s proposals if enacted, make Shelton’s share of the education cost 97.2%, with the state cost at 2.8%. One has to ask how can they do this and get away with it, while the CT constitution provides that the state, not the municipalities shall provide every student a free K-12 education. What the Governor has proposed is unbelievable, unconscionable and maybe even unconstitutional. There are many other ways that the state can keep its commitment to our teachers without passing the buck to municipalities. Among them, are to reduce the number of political appointees with their six-figure salaries, and reducing the size of the state bureaucracy. Also, they can change the law requiring commitments that the state now admits it cannot fund. Freeze the current teacher retirement plan, and substitute it with a defined contribution plan going forward, just as the private sector and other municipalities have already done.

Our job is not to tell this incompetent Governor to run the state. Our job is to protect the taxpayers of Shelton. To that end, we should look into engaging special counsel to advise us of our options and our right to pursue legal measures to safeguard Shelton’s interest. In so doing, I would suggest that the Mayor pursue this remedy on our behalf and if warranted, seek co-sponsors for a potential lawsuit. This issue should be continued to be discussed after our budget deliberations because there will be changes.

Unless you direct me otherwise, I will work with the Mayor to pursue this remedy and if warranted, will ask your approval for legal action. Thank you.

6.0 LEGAL REPORT
6.1 CORPORATION COUNSEL BILLING

Alderman Anglase MOVED to authorize a total payment of $2,264.85 to Corporation Counsel Welch, Teodosio, and Stanek, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated March 1, 2017, with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

- Legal Fees 001-1900-411.30-03 $1,773.75
- Foreclosure Fees 001-1900-411.50-01 $ 41.25
- Court Costs 001-1900-411.80.84 $ 449.00

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

6.2 ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL BILLING

Alderman Anglase MOVED to authorize a total payment of $1,287.00 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous for services rendered per statement dated March 1, 2017, with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

- Legal Fees 001-1900-411.30-03 $1,287.00

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was made and the motion passed unanimously.

7 LEGISLATIVE - OLD

7.1 ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING
7.1 A - PROPOSED ORDINANCE – RESTRICTING THE OPERATION OF TERRAIN VEHICLE AND MINI MOTORCYCLE

PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2017

ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE OPERATION OF A DIRT BIKE, ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE AND MINI MOTORCYCLE

A. Definitions.

(i) All-Terrain Vehicle means a self-propelled vehicle designed to travel over unimproved terrain.
(ii) **Dirt Bike** means a two-wheeled motorized recreational vehicle designed to travel over unimproved terrain and not designed for travel on a highway.

(iii) **Mini-motorcycle** is a vehicle that (1) has no more than three wheels in contact with the ground; (2) has a manufactured seat height of less than 26 inches, measured at the lowest point on top of the seat cushion without the rider; and (3) is propelled by an engine having a piston displacement of less than 50 cubic centimeters.

(iv) **Motorized Recreational Vehicles (MRV)** means snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, dirt-bikes and mini-motorcycles.

(v) **Snowmobile** means any self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice, except vehicles propelled by sail.

B. The use and operation of any Motorized Recreational Vehicle on City property is prohibited.

C. Any person who violates the above provision shall be subject to a penalty of $1,000.00 for a first violation, a penalty in an amount of $1,500.00 for a second violation and a penalty in an amount of $2,000.00 for a third violation. In addition, the operator or owner, or both, of an MRV shall be responsible and held accountable to the City of Shelton for damage to trees, shrubs, crops, trails, fences or other property caused by operation of such MRVs on land of the City of Shelton or where consequential damage has resulted from such operation.

D. In addition, the City of Shelton may seize such dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle snowmobile or mini-motorcycle for a violation of such Ordinance and same shall be forfeited to the City of Shelton. Any dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile or mini-motorcycle ordered forfeited pursuant to such Ordinance shall be sold at public auction conducted by the City. The proceeds from such sale shall be paid to the City of Shelton Treasurer who shall deposit such proceeds into the General Fund of the municipality.

Atty. Welch: After the Public Hearing, you had asked for comments from office and the Police Department. We did have the opportunity to meet from the Police Department, and as a result of that meeting we were going to make a number of changes to the proposed ordinance. Therefore, pursuant to the Charter you can only carry this for two months. I am going to ask for a vote to reject it, and we will have a revised ordinance for next month. That can go to public hearing next month and action in May.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to reject the proposed ordinance: Restricting the Operation of Terrain Vehicle and Mini Motorcycle, which is included by reference.

SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.
8 FINANCIAL BUSINESS OLD

8.1 NO ITEMS

9 FINANCIAL BUSINESS NEW

9.1 MARCH STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of $14,011.61 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.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.2 FUNDING FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ECHO HOSE FIRE HOUSE FLOOR

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of $4,500 for engineering services for Echo Hose Fire House Floor with funding to come from Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00.

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Mr. Mayor, I would like to request a copy of the report when it is available.

Mayor Lauretti: Okay.

Alderman Finn: Mr. Mayor, I understand that the services have already been completed and the report has been submitted to your office. Hopefully we can have the copy pretty soon.

Mayor Lauretti: You know that for certain?

Alderman Finn: Yes, we were told that.

Mayor Lauretti: Okay because I was there today and went through everything through my files and I did not see anything.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
9.3 FUNDING FOR LIGHTING CONVERSION PROPOSAL FOR HUNTINGTON FIRE HOUSE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate up to $15,000 for the lighting conversion proposal for Huntington Fire House with funding to be provided by bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Mr. Mayor, can you please explain this as there was no backup.

Mayor Lauretti: Last year, we had received a grant credit from UI, in the amount around $35,000 or $40,000. We were able to use that for projects such as this, so the commissioner at the fire house approached me about making some renovations at the fire house. So, that was one of the projects that they wanted to do, to change all of the lighting fixtures in fire house, in the bays and upstairs. As well as changing some of the electrical circuits as well. It will be up to current standards and codes, and at the end of the day there will be a savings affected in terms of our electricity consumption because a lot of the fixtures are extremely old. Some are original issue and some are twenty years old. We have done this in other city buildings, and this is next.

You should also know that we are out for an RFQ to do lighting installations in our schools, and in some of the city buildings. You might remember that we did this building two years ago, we have gotten energy audits back from the firm that did it to show that in this building, that in the last two to three years we reduced the energy consumption by 16%. We also know that by doing this, we will see some considerable savings in the schools. Some of the lighting fixtures are extremely old, the fan motors and ceilings do not work any more because they are outdated. This will give us an opportunity to update some of these things.

Alderman Finn: I would like to point out that the firemen will be doing the work themselves. They have a licensed electrician, and we should commend them for taking care of their own home.

Mayor Lauretti: I am not sure if that is entirely going to happen. It is a topic of discussion right now. They do have a licensed electrician, which is important.

Alderman Anglace: On the subject of energy conservation, there are discussions taking place between the Administrative Assistant and myself, Mayor and the UI to transition all of our street lights to LED lighting. That is a project that UI is doing throughout their entire district. We are trying to get moved up in the priority list.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
9.4 **FUNDING FOR FINAL INSTALLATION OF MAYBECK PROPERTY PURCHASE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate the sum of $100,000 as the final installment for the Maybeck Property Purchase with funding to be provided by bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: This is the final payment; the property will be closing.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.5 **EXTENSION OF FUNDS FOR HOUSING REHAB PARTICIPANT**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the cap of $25,000 for the Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Project and approve an extension of funds for the Housing Rehabilitation participant located at 25 Geissler Drive for a total cost of $28,550.

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.6 **PARKING LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF SHELTON AND YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the parking license agreement between the City of Shelton and Yankee Gas Services Company regarding the lot on Howe Avenue as shown on Assessor’s Map 118-31.

Further, move to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement.

SECONDED by Alderman Finn.

Discussion:

Atty. Welch: On page 2 of 10 the monthly fee, I was hoping to have the exact number this evening. Currently we lease from Yankee Gas, the parking lot that is adjacent to the Farmer’s Market next to the Conti building. The cost for this additional lot will be based whatever we are paying based per square foot. It will be pro-rata for this site. It will be less
than what we are paying there, but it will be basically equivalent there. This license agreement mirrors that license agreement that we already entered.

Mayor Lauretti: There is going to have to be some upgrades to this lot, in terms of fencing. I am not sure what we will do in the form of lighting, or surface treatment. We may handle that in house, but that will all be our responsibility. This whole lease agreement came about because of the request for more parking in the downtown area. With all of the development that has taken place, and in particular on Center Street the parking is limited but the establishments are doing well and busy. So, we did a study last year on the block between Center Street, Coram Road and Route 110 when we gave Matto the approval for the building that burnt down. We talked about a master plan and a long term plan for those two blocks. Some of you may remember about talks of a parking garage in that area- we can agree that is a few years out and we are not yet quite at that point yet where we are ready to do that. That will be a significant financial commitment that we will need to make at another time, so in the interim I thought it would be in our interest to lease this extra lot and create a shuttle service between the downtown area and the parking lot, to supply additional parking needs.

I have had a lot of discussions with the merchants on Center Street, and we will be reconvening on how that shuttle service would operate, what kind of revenue it would generate, how it would pay for itself, what our involvement as a city would be and what the downtown business associates’ role would be. Unfortunately if you had a blank piece of land and were planning, you can pick and choose where you put things.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

10 – LEGISLATIVE - NEW

10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

CHAPTER 10.1 A. AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 4 ARTICLE II

FIRE DEPARTMENT SEC. 4-35 OFFICER’S STIPENDS (ORD. #895)

Public Hearing to be held on March 28, 2017

Sec. 4-35. Officers’ stipends.

The stipends for Fire Department Personnel shall be as follows per annum:

- Fire Chief stipend $20,000.00
- Deputy Fire Chief stipend $10,000.00
Assistant Chief’s stipend, each $7,500.00
Custodians (4) stipend, each $5,000.00
Fire Prevention Coordinator $5,000.00
Quartermaster stipend $5,000.00
Recruitment officer stipend $5,000.00
Director of training stipend $5,000.00
Training assistants (4) stipend $1,000.00

I0.2 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2017 
UPDATE TO 2006

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the Board of Aldermen does hereby endorse the draft version of the above subject document with the following recommendations:

1. Set a maximum number of apartments for the Bridgeport Avenue development area subject to review from time-to-time based on LIP growth in the area. Apartments are a mixed use that supports the LIP zone. As such, they have a place but without a limited maximum number, they add to the area congestion and infringe on the previous approved development and tend to over saturate the existing grand list planning decisions.

2. Open Space strategies to achieve a balanced community can and should be improved by setting a priority properties designation list and working to acquire same before development applications are received. This would be a good tool to use to ensure that our trails and other open space objectives are being met, especially in high demand development areas.

3. There is a need for better traffic/parking flow in the downtown area. To this end we need to create a City/business use of our parking resources in conjunction with use of pedestrian movement from and to places of business during peak use business periods thereby offering the public safe and convenient movement throughout the downtown area.

4. Limit Bridgeport Avenue commercial service applications to those providing essential LIP service by limiting LIP to PDD zone changes to those applications with a maximum 5 year build out. PDD application changes for longer build-out periods are subject to too many uncertainties and variables with the possibility that the approving body may not be the body who later acts on changes to the original concept plan.

5. Give equal consideration to applications for zoning change weighing perceived future use needs against expectations of established single family investors whose
life savings investments were made based on expectations of former P&Z decisions where future growth is based on P&Z established property zoning.

6. Recognize that development is not an exact science; that there are past, present and future stakeholders where all need to be at the table to protect their investment and quality of life expectations.

7. The current P&Z application process (public hearing) needs better use of technology to level the playing field for greater public participation. To that end the Board of Aldermen is open to investing in a process to better inform all parties. In this regard, third party assistance to P&Z would be appropriate and is encouraged.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Finn: This is only going to be a recommendation to Planning & Zoning to go into the new plan of development for the city. They do not have to adhere to this at all; they can do what they want to do. You need to recall what happened in 2006: we had approved the master plan of development and three days later they changed the zoning, to allow 175 boat slips at Murphy’s boat yard and condos. Those never came about and the condos developed along the Housatonic River. They also changed the zoning along Bridgeport Avenue; it was supposed to be for commercial and it is not for commercial. They do not even follow the plan. The only reason why this is in front of us is because the state requires it, to upgrade our plan every 10 years. That is the only reason why it is in front of us. We are going to approve this, send it to Planning & Zoning and Planning & Zoning is going to do what they are going to do anyway.

Alderman Anglace: Yes that is the short of it. They are still going to take our recommendations under advisement, and that is all that we can do.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed with one opposition by Alderman Finn.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**11.A REQUEST TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 8:30 PM, Alderman Anglace MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following item:

**11.1 CITY OF SHELTON VS. IVERSON**
11.2 CITY OF SHELTON VS. DEBENEDET
11.3 ANTI-BLIGHT LIEN – 241 RIVERVIEW AVENUE

and invited Corporation Counsel Welch and Assistant Corporation Counsel Sous to remain in the auditorium during the Executive Session; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

At approximately 8:35 p.m. Alderman McPherson MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

11.1 CITY OF SHELTON VS. IVerson

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the resolution in the case of the City of Shelton vs. Iverson as presented, and authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti be the authority to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said resolution. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

11.2 CITY OF SHELTON VS. DEBENEDET

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the settlement between the City of Shelton vs. DeBenedet, Docket No. CB-16-5011978-S, in accordance with the memo from Attorney Ramon S. Sous, dated February 23, 2017, and authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said same.

11.3 ANTI-BLIGHT LIEN – 241 RIVERVIEW AVENUE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the sum of $15,000 as a full and final payment of the anti-blight lien, in the case of the City of Shelton vs. The Grass is Greener, LLC. SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Alderman MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Gannon

Brittany Gannon, Clerk
Board of Aldermen

Date Approved:___________________ By: _________________________________

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti