

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN
STREET COMMITTEE MEETING
August 3, 2010 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 104
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
*MINUTES***

- **CALL OF THE MEETING**

Alderman McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in room 104 at Shelton City Hall.

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- **ROLL CALL**

ALDERMAN MCPHERSON, CHAIRMAN, PRESENT
ALDERMAN KUDEJ, PRESENT
ALDERMAN FARRELL, PRESENT

Others in Attendance

Paul DiMauro, Director of Public Works
Alderman John "Jack" Finn
Ruth Parkins, Chairwoman of Planning and Zoning

Alderman McPherson brought up moving item 2.1 on the agenda before the meeting begins.

Alderman Kudej made a motion to move item 2.1 Sign Regulations P&Z Initial Draft- Discussion to the end of the agenda.

The Motion was second by Alderman Farrell.

All in Favor

Motion Carries.

Alderman McPherson added that Birch Street should not be on the Agenda, it was placed on by mistake. By moving 2.1 to the end of the meeting it will allow more time for discussion on the topic.

- **Public Portion**

There were no members of the public present to address the committee.

- **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Minutes for Approval

Alderman Kudej made a motion to wave the reading and accept the meeting minutes from June 1, 2010.

The Motion was second by Alderman Farrell.

All in Favor

Motion Carries.

2. New Business

2.1 moved to end of meeting

2.2 Performance Bond Release – Dlugas Subdivision

Alderman Kudej made a motion to recommend to the full board to accept the new valley road cul-de-sac 120 feet in length and authorize Planning and Zoning to the release the \$33,000 Performance Bond subject to the Developer of Dlugas Subdivision posting a maintenance security of \$6,600 for one year.

The motion was second by Alderman Farrell.

All in Favor

Motion Carries

2.3 Mary Street

Alderman McPherson stated that Mary Street is on the Agenda because it is in dyer need of repair especially the lower half close to Shelton Avenue. He said that they could continue right down the list to lower White Street.

2.4 Lower White Street by Luther's Garage

Mr. DiMauro said he would take a look White Street and Mary Street before the next meeting.

2.5 Belmont Avenue

Mr. DiMauro said he would also look at Belmont prior to next meeting.

2.6 Woonsocket Avenue

Mr. DiMauro commented this is a little more serious.

Alderman Kudej stated he had been speaking with a resident and apparently there was a sewer or something put down the road a few years back, and it is caving in creating a sink hole according to them.

Mr. DiMauro responded he was not aware of that but was more concerned with the end of Woonsocket. There was a plan that was bounced around for some sort of hammerhead or another means to turn a vehicle around. It will not be able to be addressed in August but Mr. DiMauro is hopeful for later in the year. He will review it again and get back to the committee.

There has been some patch up work, but a lot of catch up that has put some road maintenance off schedule.

2.7 Sidewalks Discussion

Alderman McPherson brought up some areas that really need work and repair. He commented the sidewalk in front of Mr. Butts is really shot there. Where the overgrown trees on Perry Ave were cut back, we discovered there was a sidewalk there and then it becomes a dirt path.

Mr. DiMauro commented that we have a sidewalk on the other side of the street. He doesn't believe that the sidewalk Alderman McPherson has ever been maintained.

Alderman McPherson is concerned about the liability of having a sidewalk not maintained.

Mr. DiMauro commented that the committee knows the procedure, it is up to the homeowner first so he can send out the City Engineer and have him look at the sidewalks then notify the property owners they are not maintaining them.

Alderman McPherson agrees the City Engineer should look at the sidewalks and report back.

Alderman Kudej questions whose responsibility it is when the City plants trees then removes them and it disrupts the sidewalks.

Mr. DiMauro believes, in his opinion, the City should bare responsibility in that scenario.

Alderman Kudej has been contacted by residents from Hillside to Highland. The neighbors want to know when the City is going to take care of the sidewalks.

Mr. DiMauro believes the committee should set up a policy on this type of situation.

2.8 Catch Basin – 52 Stendahl Drive

Mr. DiMauro says he understands it is off road and it is washing down into a grass area.

Alderman Finn addresses the table as he is familiar with the issue and clarifies it is on the City road. He understands the catch basin on the City Road that has a sinkhole is the City's responsibility.

Mr. DiMauro responded he will follow up on it and take care of it.

3. Old Business

3.1 Grove Street Water Problem Update

Mr. DiMauro said the City Engineer went out and said we could crown it to contain the water but I don't necessarily agree with that. We may try

and go through and do a skin coat and see how it holds for the winter. Then if it needs to be blasted we may blast it.

It is a consensus that it becomes a hazard in the winter.

3.2 Black Hills Road Update

Alderman McPherson has received more phone calls on this.

Mr. DiMauro responds he does not have the file on the guardrail and could not find it in the office. Mr. DiMauro believes the City Engineer may have a backup file and he will look into getting that one and taking care of it.

Alderman McPherson commented there is also an area in the 30s where residents took pictures of an area where it is all washed away. There is a 30-foot drop on either side and an erosion problem.

Alderman Farrell commented we have had all this before haven't we?

Mr. DiMauro commented he could not find the file.

Mr. DiMauro and Alderman McPherson will go out to look at the exact area.

3.3 Guardrails at Old Bridgeport Avenue Update/Blacks Hills Road

Mr. DiMauro again commented he couldn't find the file he asked someone to follow up, but not he will.

Alderman Kudej expressed the importance of getting the guardrails put up so no one drives off the road trying to make a quick turn on Bridgeport Ave.

3.4 West Street Update

Alderman McPherson said he added this because he has had numerous calls.

Mr. DiMauro said right now it appears we will be milling and paving Roberts Street. The rest of the North end that were not treated before, we will be looking at doing some skimming and a sealing using a new method with ¼ inch stone.

Mr. DiMauro added the Mohegan Road has been done and should have been completed today. We are still looking at the far end between Booth Hill and the Town line. We also have Longfellow, which will be a complete one. The plan has been drawn for Longfellow and Roberts Street.

Alderman McPherson added that he has received some complaints on West St. The way it was pinched it is going on to one gentleman's property and the other complaint is the manhole is too low and people are bottoming out.

Mr. DiMauro said he had one more update. The milling machine the City is trying to acquire will save the City money and help with the small jobs that companies do not want to come in and do.

Alderman Farrell commented she did have some issues she wanted to bring up like Buddington Road where the road is deteriorating. It is in front of the 3 houses that were supposed to be burned down. Alderman Farrell was concerned that because the houses are supposed to be burned down but have not been yet it would be an issue for road repair.

Mr. DiMauro said he will be happy to go out and look at it. The trucks will not affect it.

Item 2.1 on Agenda – Sign Regulations P&Z Initial Draft – Discussion.

Alderman McPherson asked Chairman Ruth Parkins from Planning and Zoning and Alderman Finn to join the table for the discussion.

Alderman McPherson said he had met with Chairman Parkins, Commissioner McGorty, Commissioner Pogoda and Commissioner Flannery and Mr. Schultz with regards to the draft on sign regulations. What is being asked of the Alderman is come up with an Ordinance in regards to signs that would give what Planning and Zoning is trying to accomplish some teeth. Alderman McPherson has gotten a hold of CCM and they have given 6 examples of other City Ordinances, but he particularly likes Southbury's.

Alderman McPherson asked Alderman Finn to talk about what he was proposing in regards to political signs.

Alderman Finn said he sent it to Corporation Counsel and they believe it should be an amendment in the Planning and Zoning regulations. Alderman Finn read off some of the limitations for the campaign signs such as they cannot be posted on public property, should be removed 5 days after the election, and should not be posted more than 30 days prior to the election. He commented currently you find them on open space and public property. On private property, you would need to owners permission. Alderman Finn commented he has encountered residents who say they never asked nor allowed the signs to be posted on their property during election time. Signs should not be attached to any tree or pole.

Alderman McPherson pointed out UI has a policy and how often do we see the signs attached high up on the pole.

Alderman Finn continued that signs should not obstruct road view for driver safety. He also said they should not be at polling locations though he understands this may be a touchy issue.

Alderman Kudej questioned exactly what that meant.

Alderman Finn said not on the school property at all.

There is some discussion on the removal, who should remove them, and whether the signs would be discarded or the owner could pick them up somewhere.

Alderman Finn says it wastes registrar's time taking the signs down. Alderman McPherson feels it would not be to the benefit of the Blight or Zoning officers to remove it as they have many properties to look at and there are so few of them.

Alderman McPherson brings out there are many different signs to address not just political.

Chairman Parkins commented that P&Z tried to capture signage without signaling out political signs but to incorporate them in the regulations. The regulations are great, but just a guideline unless there is an Ordinance behind it to enforce them.

Alderman McPherson agreed and commented that's where the Board of Alderman come in to create an Ordinance to give the regulations some teeth. Alderman McPherson commented on how long and hard the P&Z subcommittee worked on the regulations.

Alderman Finn commented he wanted an Ordinance for political signs and that including them with the P&Z regulations without an Ordinance would give it no power.

Consensus between the Street Committee and P&Z is to take the regulations from P&Z and work with the Board of Alderman to create a sign Ordinance.

Alderman Finn does not believe the draft regulations are sufficient enough to encompass his proposal.

Chairman Parkins believes that political signs would fall under temporary signs and public.

Alderman McPherson says we can tweak it and add in political signs.

There is some debate as to what is considered political with groups like Y.E.S.

Alderman McPherson said he thinks we can add in political signs to the ordinance for signs but that it will require additional research and common sense.

Alderman McPherson added once we comprise an Ordinance he will review and give it recommendations. Then we will have the enforcement entity in there and any signs on the Huntington Green need a permit.

Chairman Parkins commented we do have City Officials who take these signs down.

There is more discussion going back over the issues stated above. Alderman Finn's only concern is political signs and the group believes they can be included in the current draft for regulations and political signs can have their own part in the Ordinance.

The process is the Board of Alderman need to draft an Ordinance and then adjustments and changes can be made, but they must start somewhere.

Chairman Parkins asked if Alderman McPherson had copies of regulations or Ordinances from other towns.

Alderman McPherson said they were regulations.

Chairman Parkins commented that the subcommittee who drafted the regulations did excellent research and the Board of Alderman should probably focus on Ordinances since the subcommittee did not research them.

Alderman McPherson said he would research Ordinances before the next meeting.

Adjournment

Alderman Kudej made a motion to adjourn.
The motion was second by Alderman Farrell.
All in favor.

Motion Carries

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allyson Burke, Clerk

Tape can be found in the Town Clerk's Office in Room 106 of 54 Hill Street.