



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SHELTON
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2024
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
Live Streamed at www.cityofshelton.org

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Laretti called the regular Board of Aldermen meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Shelton City Hall. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – Present
Alderman Eric McPherson, Vice President – Present
Alderman Cris Balamaci – Present
Alderman Lorenzo Durante – Absent
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Absent
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present

Administration

Mayor Mark A. Laretti
Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel – Present
Kellie Vazzano, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Frances Freer, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Laretti asked if anyone wished to address the board.

Jerry Bloom

24 Fairfield Avenue, Shelton, CT

Good afternoon all. I guess we are going to skip the roll call again. Under Street Committee, I see no items which is disappointing since I have been hoping for the road down at Riverside Park to be paved. It was on the agenda a couple of months ago and you are all aware of this about 18 months ago. It has disappeared. Like I said last time, nothing gets done without a deadline. Would you care to state when it may get done? Hopefully this year?

Also, you have an annual celebration every December where you send out Echo Fire Engine #2, I believe with Santa Claus on the back cruising through the roads and streets here in town at about 5 mph with lights and sirens. That is kind of like illegal. You cannot use lights and sirens on an emergency vehicle unless you are going to or from an emergency. I checked on that. I don't mind you have Santa Claus taking a ride, but please don't use the lights and sirens.

The YouTube frauditors I keep talking about – the libraries have been aware that they are out there. I spoke with the librarian down at the Huntington Library a couple of days ago. She tells me they haven't been there yet, but they dread that day will come. What I suggest is that you all be proactive and send a memo to the libraries and fire departments, etc., that they are limited public forums and when these criminals enter to create a hassle, just tell them to leave. If they don't call the police and have them arrested for trespassing. I will run down a quick list on who you might expect. LIA, Long Island Audit, he went to Schenectady, New York to challenge the Mayor's executive order, got arrested for trespassing. Went to court, had a bench trial, was found guilty and paid the \$350 fine which is a pittance to him. He has a quarter of a million subscribers. He is making beaucoup money. What needs to be done at the state level I would think is to have all of these misdemeanor crimes, like disturbing the peace, trespassing, etc. that involve an electronic recording device to carry a mandatory one-year sentence in jail. That would quickly end this problem. To run down some of who these people are, News Now Ninja, Erie County Career Killer Audits, Detroit Metro Audits, Afroman, News Now Houston, Brooklyn Audit, Cody HighRoller, The Angry Vet, Delete Lawz, Chille DeCastro, Taco Terry, North Carolina Tyrant Hunters, AssElmo, WhiskBoy, Simonboy, Good Guy Audit, of all things, Amagansett Press and his son, Amazing Audits, KC Camera Boy, Rogue Nation, ___ Monkey, MC Press, Direct Pete Press, Tennessee Tyrant Hunter, Furry Potato, Lady Justice Liberty Press, Audit Them, Truthful Audit News. Just a handful of these criminals that are running around the country making money pissing people off.

One final thing, I advocated for the banning of the burqa. I know you don't do anything controversial here, however, Switzerland just banned the burqa with fines to ensue. Something that needs to be addressed, probably nationwide. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anyone else wishing to address the Board. Hearing none, the Public Portion is closed. We will move on to the regularly scheduled agenda. We do have some add-ons.

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

8.9 FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF VANS FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

8.10 FUNDING FOR OUTFITTING OF BUSES FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

10.3C CITY OF SHELTON & IBT LOCAL 145

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 10, 2024

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

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2024.

Seconded by Alderman McKinnon

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: On page 4 there is one correction. Second sentence from the top is repetitive. “Average customer in Shelton” is repetitive. This will be left as written as it was verbatim from a document that was copied into the minutes.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0)

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

Mayor Lauretti: No report at this time.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Alderman Anglace: I have no report at this time.

6– LEGISLATIVE – OLD

6.1 ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

6.1 A.NO ITEMS

7 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – OLD

7.1 NO ITEMS

8 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – NEW

8.1 NOVEMBER STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$10,944.23 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 Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

(Supporting documentation from the Tax Collector is on file with the BOA Clerk or Town Clerk's Office)

8.2 STATE MANDATED HVAC EVALUATION SERVICES AT MOHEGAN SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$7,300 for stated mandated HVAC evaluation services at Mohegan School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: The next several items are all part of the \$200,000 that we agreed to give the Board of Education for capital projects and this is one of them.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.3 STATE MANDATED HVAC EVALUATION SERVICES AT SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$7,300 for stated mandated HVAC evaluation services at Sunnyside School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.4 REFINISHING OF GYM FLOOR AT ELIZABETH SHELTON SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$34,297.00 for refinishing of the gym floor at Elizabeth Shelton School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

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

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Just to note that the lowest bidder did not meet the specifications and was disqualified.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.5 PAINT FOR AUXILIARY GYM AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$1,123.46 for painting of the auxiliary gym at Shelton High School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Per the Charter, any quote under \$1,999 does not have to go out to bid.

Mayor Lauretti: It looks like they are just buying the products and will probably do it themselves.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.6 RESCISSION OF ACTION & REAPPROPRIATION FOR WATER HOOKUP AT BOOTH HILL SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind the action taken at the Board of Aldermen meeting of September 12, 2024 to appropriate \$10,295.25 from aldermanic bonding for Johnson Controls to repair fire department water hookup into Booth Hill School.

Further, appropriate an amount of \$8,296.60 for FCS Fire Protection LLC to repair fire department water hookup into Booth Hill School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I want to point out that I said they should go out for bid. This is months later. You are so worried about the Board of Education – make them manage their money properly and everything will fall in line. My same comments apply to 8.7.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.7 RESCISSION OF ACTION & REAPPROPRIATION FOR FIRE HYDRANT REPAIR AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind the action taken at the Board of Aldermen meeting of September 12, 2024 to appropriate \$22,678.00 from aldermanic bonding for Johnson Controls to repair/replace fire hydrant at Shelton High School.

Further, appropriate an amount of \$15,560.60 for FCS Fire Protection LLC to repair/replace fire hydrant at Shelton High School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.8 UPGRADING CITYWIDE PARK EQUIPMENT – LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the upgrading of citywide park equipment to the capital improvement plan with funding in an amount of \$9,888.48 to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: The only comment that I would make, I don't know if this requires a bid waiver.

Alderman Anglace: It is a sole source vendor that provided us all our playground equipment previously.

Mayor Lauretti: I don't know that I would agree it is a sole source. It is not a big dollar amount. There are so many miscellaneous items that we are buying, I don't know that it would even trigger the bid response.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.9 FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF VANS FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendation of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process and appropriate an amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of vans for special needs students with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I want to tell you that this motion is wrong. This is not what I had intended to ask for. What I had asked for was the appropriation of \$150,000. We already bid on vans, so we have that bid which satisfies that requirement, but as we have done in the past, we bought some vehicles out of auction and I want to do that again and I was going to mix and match a van or two vans with those vehicles. I don't know how it didn't come out this way, but it didn't, but that is the intent here. The vans don't always work well for Special Ed transportation. The SUVs that we have have been working out pretty well. In fact, we bought a used motor and put it in one of our SUVs, an older one that was in very good shape and I think we spent around \$5,000 to do that and sent that down to the bus company to use so that is in service. We wanted to increase the number of runs we were making for Special Ed because that was a big cost driver for their budget last year. I think everybody now believes what we have been saying for the last several years that we can do it cheaper than anybody else and we are, we are proving that. That was the intent of this motion, not to do a waiver of bid for \$150,000. Do we want to restructure this motion?

Attorney Teodosio: I think you ought to.

Alderman McKinnon: The word vans is very vague. It is one van, two vans, three vans, etc.

Mayor Lauretti: We bid three vans. I don't know what that number is and that is irrelevant because I don't think we are going to get three vans. My point is that \$150,000 should suffice, but I do need a waiver of bid for anything we get out of the auctions.

Alderman Anglace: We do need a waiver of bid and we need the money appropriated up front so when we go to the auction you can bid on them.

Mayor Lauretti: We've done this in the past, this is not new. We have done extremely well over the years with this. So, a proposed motion would be, move per the recommendation of the Finance Director to waive the bidding process for auction vehicles and appropriate the amount of \$150,000.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the motion as stated above by Mayor Lauretti. Seconded by Alderman Simons.

Mayor Lauretti: I think that sounds right?

Attorney Teodosio: Are all of the vehicles coming from auction?

Mayor Lauretti: No, it will be a combination.

Attorney Teodosio: You said auction vehicles.

Mayor Lauretti: I did because we don't know what we are going to get. I could get two, I could get three, depending on price or I could get one.

Alderman McKinnon: All from auction?

Mayor Lauretti: No, I am going to buy a van too, at least one van.

Attorney Teodosio: You should say vehicles. If you say auction vehicles you are limiting yourself.

Mayor Lauretti: I think with the discussion everybody knows what the intent is. We bid for vans, we are probably going to purchase a van or two and probably going to purchase some auction vehicles, some 4x4s or SUVs for Special Education transportation.

Attorney Teodosio: So, you are waiving, you have the appropriation and for vehicle. That is all you need.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind the original motion: Per the recommendation of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process and appropriate an amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of vans for special needs students with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter. Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Alderman McPherson MOVED to rescind the motion stated: Move per the recommendation of the Finance Director to waive the bidding process for auction vehicles and appropriate the amount of \$150,000. Seconded by Alderman Simons.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Alderman McKinnon MOVED, per the recommendations of the Finance Director to waive the bidding process and appropriate an amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of vehicles or vans for special needs students with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter. Seconded by Alderman Simons.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.10 FUNDING FOR OUTFITTING OF BUSES FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$21,573.59 for the outfitting (radio, microphones, antennas, etc.) of the 8 recently purchased buses for Shelton Student Transportation Services with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Act.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion: Mayor Lauretti: You know we bought the eight buses. This is to outfit the eight buses.

Alderman McKinnon: If I remember correctly, this is a cheaper cost than we discussed before. \$35,000 was our estimate before.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

9 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW

9.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 NO ITEMS

9.2 ADOPTION OF 2025 BOA MEETING SCHEDULE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adopt the following Board of Aldermen Meeting Schedule for 2025 as attached hereto:

9.2 A Board of Aldermen Full Board Regular Meeting

The second Thursday of each month shall be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Board of Aldermen. Meetings are to be held in the auditorium at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Regular Full Board Second Thursday of Month 2025 Meeting Schedule 5:30 p.m.	
January	9
February	13
March	13
April	10
May	8
June	12
July	10
August	14
September	11
October	9
November	13
December	11

9.2 B Board of Aldermen Public Hearing on Ordinances Meeting

The fourth Tuesday of each month shall be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Public Hearing on Ordinances. Meetings are to be held in the auditorium at City Hall at 7 p.m.

Public Hearing on Ordinances Fourth Tuesday of Month 2025 Meeting Schedule 7 p.m.	
January	28
February	25
March	25
April	22
May	27
June	24
July	22
August	26
September	23
October	28
November	25
December	23

9.2 C Board of Aldermen Finance Committee Meeting

The fourth Tuesday of each month shall be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Finance Committee. Meetings are to be held in the auditorium at City Hall at 6 p.m.

Finance Committee Fourth Tuesday of Month 2025 Meeting Schedule 6 p.m.	
January	28
February	25
March	25
April	22
May	27
June	24
July	22
August	26
September	23
October	28
November	25
December	23

9.2 D Board of Aldermen Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting

The first Wednesday of each month shall be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Public Health and Safety Committee with the exception of January 1st (New Year’s Day holiday) when the meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 7. Meetings are to be held in the auditorium at City Hall at 6 p.m.

Public Health & Safety Cmte First Wednesday of Month 2025 Meeting Schedule 6 p.m.	
January	7
February	5
March	5
April	2
May	7
June	4
July	2
August	6
September	3
October	1
November	5
December	3

9.2 E Board of Aldermen Street Committee Meeting

The first Tuesday of each month shall be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Street Committee. Meetings are to be held in the auditorium at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Street Committee Meeting First Tuesday of Month 2025 Meeting Schedule 5:30 p.m.	
January	7
February	4
March	4
April	1
May	6
June	3
July	1
August	5
September	2
October	7
November	4
December	2

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

10 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.A. REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Lauretti: At this time, I am going to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session and ask that Corporation Counsel join us.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to go into Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:00 pm.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0)

Mayor Lauretti: At this time, I will entertain a motion to end Executive Session.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to end Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman McKinnon. Executive Session ended at 6:20 pm.

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Mayor Lauretti: Let the record reflect that were no votes taken in the Executive Session.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0)

10.1A ULTIMATE FAMILY GOLF CENTERS, LLC HHB-CV22-6074991-S TAX APPEAL

Attorney Teodosio offered the following motion:

MOVE to approve stipulation for judgment in the matter of Ultimate Family Golf Centers, LLC v. City of Shelton, docket number HHB-CV22-6074991-S as to real property at 784 River Road such that the fair market value of the property shall be \$1,800,000.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to accept the above motion as stated by counsel.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

10.2B MOORE V. SEQUEIRA ET AL

Attorney Teodosio offered the following motion:

MOVE to appropriate an amount of \$1,891,500.40 for partial payment of claims arising from the matter of David Moore, et al v. Shawn Sequeira, et al with funding to come from the General Fund Surplus, and further move to authorize the Mayor and Corporation Counsel to direct and administer payment in accord with various specific legal settlements.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to accept the above motion as stated by counsel.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

10.3C CITY OF SHELTON & IBT UNION LOCAL 145

Attorney Teodosio offered the following motion:

MOVE to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Shelton and IBT Union Local 145 affiliated with International Brotherhood of Teamsters Highway and Bridges, Custodians and Park Maintainers for the period between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to accept the above motion as stated by counsel.

Seconded by Alderman Simons.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____

BY: _____

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti