



SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SHELTON, CT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020
Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street
Live-Streamed at www.cityofshelton.org
MINUTES

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B, the Board of Aldermen Special Meeting will be live-streamed. The public may access the meeting on the home page of the City of Shelton's website: www.cityofshelton.org. Members of the public may also attend the meeting in person at Shelton City Hall.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman Anglace called the Revised Special Virtual Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 5:00 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 David Gidwani- Present via Phone
Alderman Stanley Kudej- Present
Alderman Noreen McGorty- Present via Phone
Alderman Cris Balamaci- Present
Alderman Bernie Simons- Present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti- Present

Administration

Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel – present via phone

Public Portion

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Lisa Hurlburt, 10 Overlook Terrace

Aldermen, I would like to call on you to figure out how to help with the school system and the capital expenditures in order to get the kind of system that we need to get the kids learning synchronously. Upgrading the connections will allow the teachers to teach synchronously and keep the kids engaged and learning as they need to be. Currently, the City of Shelton students are only in school live learning 10 hours per week. That is two half days from 7:20 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and that is for the high school. The other schools are on different times. The other three days are spent distance learning or the students are given assignments and work independently on them. They are essentially teaching themselves the majority of the work. As for the younger students their parents have become the teachers and this is unacceptable. Our students are losing valuable time attempting to teach themselves and are falling behind. The teachers are overwhelmed as they are teaching three distinctively different groups at the same time and the majority of the school districts around us have figured out how to teach live classes but not Shelton. Only a few teachers are doing it and the ugly truth is if all the teachers were able to do it and logged on at the same time, the network would crash as our outdated network is unlikely to support the amount of band-width needed. This is where your help is needed immediately. Delaying should not be an option. Help is needed now. The City of Shelton had a \$12 million surplus just a few years ago. Why isn't some of that money available for rainy days issues such as this one? My understanding of having a surplus rainy-day funds is that it's supposed to be used for unforeseen expenditures. These are the things that are impossible for foresee but they need to be handled immediately. We are here, on a rainy day, asking for your help. I have read the entire Charter Revision and I am still failing to see how the creation of the Joint Technology Committee will solve these issues. The wording in the proposed section is that 'technology committee strategy will include a multiyear technology needs of the city inclusive of the Board of Education. The Technology Committee may recommend expenditures to the Board of Aldermen.' The wording indicates that the new committee will still have to come to the aldermen for approval on any expenditures. So why again are we saying that it will solve all the issues? The aldermen will still have to approve the funds in the same manner. An alternate solution could be a line item added to the City budget funding Capital Expenditures for the BOE and the City on a yearly basis. This line item can then be presided over by a Joint Committee and there would be no need to include this in the Charter Revision. We are asking you to step up and take action now. Delaying until the Charter Revision passes is only wasting time. The students of Shelton will most likely lose an entire year of education. The younger grades will struggle to catch up and standardized testing scores will suffer. Action is needed now. We can't wait for election time and if the Charter doesn't pass, what happens then? Our situation is not changed, the students are getting short changed in an education, the school system ranking is dropping and Shelton will no longer be a desirable place for young families to move to. I tried to discuss these issues with both Chairman Anglace and Alderman Simonetti after the Joint Technology Meeting with the Board of Education and Chairman Anglace wouldn't let me speak and kept interrupting me and I ended up pleading with him to let me finish a sentence but that did not happen. Alderman Simonetti couldn't be bothered to listen to me. I stated that I felt the Board of Education was in this position due to underfunding of the budget. He said 'not they are not underfunded' and turned and walked away. My understanding of being an elected official, especially an alderman, is that you are here to represent and listen to your citizens whether or not they have

the same opinion as you. By not even attempting to listen you are showing that you are completely against any opinion but your own and that is not how it should be. You should be listening, considering and seeing how you can help. This does not mean you have to respond favorably to every idea a citizen has but it does mean that it is your responsibility as an elected official to listen. It does not seem that you are upholding your duties to the citizens of Shelton and if you can't listen how is that going to (inaudible) want they want from you. As an alderman, you have a responsibility to help all the citizens of Shelton, not just the ones who agree with your every thought. Please do what is right. Please help the students of Shelton get through this challenging time, step up and put funds toward technology. Do it now, and do not delay.

Elisa Uhrynowski, 7 Spruce Hill Road

So, I was at the meeting last week between the BOA and BOE and there wasn't a public session for us to talk but I also approached both board members on both ends to discuss why this wasn't happening. Why the need to fix a problem that is affecting our students, our teachers, our entire educational system in this district, we are a joke, and it seems like we have to go through all this red tape and I don't understand all the nuances of what needs to be done and I guess it was a misunderstanding that the last meeting was a formality session and it has nothing to do with, ok we are going to do this, this and this, there were no action items to take place. At the end of that meeting we understood that, okay, Alderman Anglace you said, you didn't want to discuss the Charter Revision because that wasn't the purpose of the meeting. You did address that there was a need to fix our problem and also our Finance Director from the Board of Ed, also agreed that we need to fix our problem, so it's like you both took your hands and shook on it and then that was the end of the meeting and I left extremely disappointed not knowing that there was not going to be any action taken except that you guys were going to set up another meeting. Then to that extent, it is was about, well, the Charter Revision is going to be the solution because we will develop this Joint Technology Committee. However, that is a long-term situation, and we have to act not just long term, we always need to look at the long term of things, but right now we are in an emergency situation. Our children are suffering. I have two students at Shelton High School, one that has always kind of struggled and he is dying to go back to school. He wants to go back. He is not getting the instruction he needs in order to learn because of how the hybrid situation is and I realize this is not your responsibility on how education is run. However, you have the capability, you have the power, you have the funds or the ability to pay those funds to help the crying citizens of all our families here. You are the ones that can make this work now, because right now we can't wait for the committee to meet, and go through formalities and then do the Roberts Rules with every single meeting. Do we have time for this? No! For the past year we knew we weren't going to have a typical school year. The Board of Education was aware but for some reason we weren't prepared. It baffles me that how did they not know? It's a relevant question for you guys to ask. By the same token, you are seeing people pleading with you, asking, begging, this is an emergency. A true hearted emergency because if we don't get the technology that is needed right now to support our staff, our teachers, our students, for those who don't have any means, they are going to fall behind. They are going to be less interested; they are going to not only be behind in their instruction but they are also going to possibly become discouraged. There is a lot of mental health issues going on with this. All I am asking is that you really

consider that the Charter Revision should not have a play in this part. The Charter Revision has nothing to do with helping the Board of Education get the funds they need in order to be able to get the technology to get our kids back into school learning so that they can graduate, get a job, and then come back to the town of Shelton. You are investing in your future. That's really what you are doing. Wouldn't you like to see that, to have our students graduate and come to settle in Shelton and bring back their knowledge and reinvest in our city? Think about that. It's not that difficult. We are not in a waiting period anymore. We are behind, we are truly behind. You guys are the only ones right now that can make a difference, truly, truly, make a difference, and I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone else wished to address the Board, being no one, he closed the public portion.

Agenda Items

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

1.1 SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

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

SECONDED by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1.1 NO ITEMS

5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

5.2.1 NO ITEMS

5.3 STREET COMMITTEE

5.3.1 NO ITEMS

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

No Report.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The BOA & BOE FINANCE COMMITTEES met last week to discuss formation of a JOINT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (JTC). We spoke of the pros and cons of appointing such a committee under the current charter and why the BOA had recommended a JTC via a charter change versus appointing one under the provisions of the current charter. We spoke of the benefits of an ongoing technology body to carry over continuity of learning as well as measuring its value to our students, teachers, and taxpayers.

Several parents attended who approached us citing several technology shortcomings affecting their children's learning and asked that the BOA do something about this. This was not on the Agenda and could not be discussed but it did not fall on deaf ears.

I followed up with the BOE Finance Committee members asking them to note and assess these parental concerns, determine the BOE/student needs, and get back to us with recommendations. They agreed to do so!

I also pointed out that the BOE should review its capital request and if necessary, revise it to reflect current needs and conditions.

The BOE must act to investigate, determine a course of action, and then make a request before the BOA can consider it. They are a new Board. They have a new interim Superintendent, a new IT director and a new Finance Director. They have no experienced people with the Shelton School District IT history to help. They face a daunting task!

While we all know that the BOA cannot make education decisions, I think it important to let the BOE know that, as the fiscal authority, we stand ready to work with them to find solutions to their technology needs.

I would also observe that this process would be much easier and faster if we had an ongoing Technology Committee in place to immediately receive, discuss, and decide such issues.

6 – LEGAL REPORT

6.1 NO ITEMS

7– LEGISLATIVE – OLD

7.1 ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

7.1 A. NO ITEMS

8 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – OLD

8.1 NO ITEM

9 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – NEW

9.1 OCTOBER STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman McPherson MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$21,580.82 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 Gidwani.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.2 FUNDING FOR RELEASE OF BOND

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

9.3 FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF FLOORING IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM – LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the replacement of flooring in the Community Center Multipurpose Room in the amount of \$5,269.36 to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding to come from LOCIP.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonettii.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.4 FUNDING FOR PLOW, SANDER AND FLATBED FOR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Alderman McPherson MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$21,498 for the purchase of a plow, sander and flatbed for the Parks and Recreation Department's new truck 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 the motion passed unanimously.

9.5 FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION/TRAILS COMMITTEE BARN

Alderman McPherson MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$98,000 for a Conservation/Trails Committee barn to be located at Route 108 and Nells Rock Road (Dog Park) with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9.6 WAIVER OF BID - USED FORD EXPLORER SPORT FOR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

10 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW

10.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

10.1 A. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-35 OFFICER’S STIPENDS (ORD. #903)

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Sec. 4-35 Officers’ Stipends

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

Fire Chief stipend	\$20,000.00	\$25,000
Deputy Fire Chief stipend	\$10,000.00	\$15,000
Assistant Chief’s stipend, each	\$7,500.00	\$10,000
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) stipends	\$1,000.00	

10.1 B AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCE CHAPTER 14 STREET EXCAVATIONS SECTION 14-51 PERMIT REQUIRED (ORD. #877)

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Sec. 14-51 Permit (a), “No person shall make any opening, excavation or construct any walk, curb, pavement driveway or perform any other construction work within, on, through, or under any public street, highway or public right-of-way located in the city, including a state highway, for any purpose whatsoever, unless a permit has been obtained pursuant to this article from the director of public works or his designated agent. **Said permit cost is \$50.00 for all excavations including the construction of a new driveway. Driveway replacement permit cost shall be \$25.00.**

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.A REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 NO ITEMS

Alderman Simonetti moved to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Special Virtual Meeting.

SECONDED by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Theresa Adcox

Theresa Adcox

Date Approved

BY: _____

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti
