



BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF SHELTON  
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023  
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON CT  
*Live-Streamed at [www.cityofshelton.org](http://www.cityofshelton.org)*

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### **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Lauretti called the regular Board of Aldermen 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 – Present  
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present  
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present via Phone  
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present  
Alderman Kevin Kosty – Present

### **Administration**

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

Mayor Lauretti: Before we get into the Public Portion and regular agenda, we have a presentation tonight. We are going to swear in a Deputy Chief and I will come down to the floor and ask Kevin Stratton to join me.

Tonight, we take this opportunity to swear in a Deputy Chief for the Shelton Police Department, a position that has been vacant for many, many years. I am happy to say that we have someone that I think has risen to the occasion and will fulfill the duties to the best of his abilities, beyond his abilities. Kevin Stratton comes to us as a retired State Police Officer of 25 years. He has numerous accolades through the State Police and for the benefit of anybody watching or listening, I have to tell you the State of Connecticut does an awesome job in investing in State Police personnel in this State and it shows and is worth it. Now we are becoming a recipient of all of the efforts that the State has put in through Kevin Stratton and it is my pleasure and my honor to present him with his badge.

Kevin, please raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear you will perform your duties to the best of your ability as Deputy Chief of the Shelton Police Department, so help you God.

Kevin Stratton: I do.

Mayor Lauretti: Congratulations! I know you are a man of few words but take the opportunity to say more than a few here tonight!

Kevin Stratton: I am absolutely amazed at the showing we have tonight. It just shows the support I am going to get from the Shelton Police Department. I come here having experience with the State Police. It is not a retirement job for me, it is another career. I look forward to serving you all. I know we have an open-door policy and anything I can do to make your job easier and better and make you great leaders in the future, I am here to help you and support you. Thank you.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mayor Lauretti asked if anyone wished to address the board.

Jerry Bloom  
24 Fairfield Avenue

You all skipped the roll call. I understand that the road down at the Riverside Park is going to be paved soon. The lamps on the Plumb Memorial Library are to be replaced soon.

Real quick, if you all would do me a favor, sometime tonight between now and the next meeting, go onto YouTube and sign the petition to demonetize and regulate First Amendment Auditors. Also, while you are there, on YouTube, Frauditor Gets Called Out on National TV for the original Connecticut incident is worth watching. It is less than 10 minutes long. Also, we want to demonetize DMA, Denver Metro Audits Channel. There is a petition on YouTube that you all can look up and sign on that. Also, glad to hear that the libraries are limited public forums and I was saddened to learn yesterday that the Three Bridges Coffee Shop is closed after 8 years. Very sad to hear. This is a list of the frauditors. I am not going to go through them all, there are dozens of them here, and they are roaming the country. Not only the country, they have been to Guam, Puerto Rico and travel to Europe and Canada. It is a spreading disease, if you will, and I keep harping about this I know, but there is something we can do about it. I was hoping for an Executive Order from you, Mayor Lauretti, but you are not interested it seems. Thank you.

**PRESENTATION BY THE VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

Milt Harrigan: Good evening. I am the recording secretary for the Veterans Memorial Committee. We just wanted to give you a brief presentation. If you have any questions, please stop me and let me know. Joel Hurliman is here with me, he is the Vice Chairman of the Committee. The other members of the

committee would be Dave Gallagher who is the Chairman, Sara Bacchiocchi, Dennis Salzer and Ray O'Leary. John Anglace is the Alderman who is our Committee Liaison, Jim Tate is the Landscape Architect that coordinates a lot of work that we have been doing and then there is me, Milt.

The original mission of the committee was to identify military monuments in Shelton that could be relocated to Veterans Memorial Park. This all started down at the Permanent War Memorial. We saw the Eagle was down there and if you drive by there at 40-50 mph you are not seeing anything that was going on down there. The Eagle was moved which I will cover later. Then there were some other monuments down there as well that were relocated. We want to also identify monuments in Shelton that are in disrepair and in need of restoration. We did identify some and we did have them cleaned up. Then we wanted to discover what the location was of the Lieutenant John Smarz and the USS Thresher monument. There was always something going on that there was a monument. As it turns out, it was more of a plaque of some sort that his sister had. We finally tracked it all down. Then to develop a park security plan for Veterans Memorial Park to deter vandalism and crime.

Part of the rest of the mission was we wanted to make Veterans Memorial Park a destination place for not only Shelton residents but to visitors to Shelton so we could utilize and attend public functions or just to walk through and see what was going on. Also, part of the mission was for Veterans Memorial Park to be a site to educate our school students and everyone, of our country's rich history and Shelton's founding history through these very important monuments and the story behind each of these monuments. Finally, the mission was to establish QR code technology at the entry point to Veterans Memorial Park as well as at each of the monuments. Each one has a different story. Instead of putting up a bunch of signage and things like that, we worked with Kellie Vazzano and we started putting together the QR codes for each of the monuments.

A little chronology of the committee.

- The committee was originally incepted and came to be in April 2022.
- In May 2022 the Eagle monument and the War Memorial monument located on grounds of Permanent War Memorial were identified and relocated to Veterans Memorial Park. The Committee starts work on selection of photos for the new Global War on Terrorism monument. The plaque granite monuments that are down there now for WW1, WW2, Korean War and the Vietnam War, there is going to be another one that is going to be installed down there for the Global War on Terrorism. We designed all that, sent it to the manufacturer and we are in the process of waiting for it to come in.
- In July 2022 the War memorial in front of Plumb Library was cleaned, the flagpole was painted, and the landscaping was refreshed.
- In September 2022 the Committee decided to have the extra War Memorial Monument moved to Sutter-Terlizzi American Legion Post 16. The reason for that was all of the names that were on that monument were the same ones that were on the Eagle monument. Instead of having two of them down at Veterans Memorial Park, we took that monument and had it moved up to Sutter-Terlizzi. Once the monument was in place up at Post 16 it was cleaned up and now you can read it. Also, in September 2022 the committee designed a new monument in the memory of Lieutenant John Smarz and the USS Thresher. The committee coordinated its efforts with Judy Smarz Douglas, Lieutenant Smarz' sister. The committee moved forward in the development of

a security plan for Veterans Memorial Park and to also have a flag or banners put over at the Civil War Memorial that is down there. If you are over on Canal Street and looking over you really wouldn't know that there was a Civil War Memorial there. So, we designed banners and will have those installed on the two lampposts that are on either side of the memorial.

- In April 2023 the Lieutenant Smarz & USS Thresher plaque arrived at City Hall.
- In May 2023 the Eagle monument was relocated to Veterans Memorial Park from the Permanent War Memorial.
- In June 2023 the Lieutenant Smarz & USS Thresher plaque was secured to a stone at Veterans Memorial Park.
- In August 2023 a security plan was implemented at Veterans Memorial Park with the assistance of the Shelton Police Department.

#### Going forward

- There is going to be a dedication ceremony of the Lieutenant Smarz/USS Thresher monument on September 20<sup>th</sup>, next week, at Veterans Memorial Park.
- The dedication of the Global War on Terrorism monument will probably not take place until the Spring of next year.
- We are going to be installing the banners on the two light poles at the Civil War Memorial.
- We are going to finish the design and installation of entry sign into Veterans Memorial Park. It will kind of show what is going on there.
- Finally we are going to finish the install of the QR codes at each of the monuments.
- We want to work with the Board of Aldermen to convert the Ad Hoc committee to a permanent committee instead of an Ad Hoc committee.

Joel Hurliman: Also, there are a couple of monuments which are duplicates, such as the one at the Police Department. We elected to have that one remain there. That was the first Vietnam War Memorial monument. They are supposed to get that cleaned. There is also another monument at the Huntington Center Green which pertains to people who were residents of that section. That one should remain where it is because it is more pertinent there, but that also needs to be cleaned. With the addition of the Global War on Terror monument, that will be the last monument, I hope, we are going to put in at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Mayor Laretti: Thank you, if there are any questions we can do it at the end of the meeting. Joel, What year did the Thresher go down?

Joel Hurliman: April 10, 1963. This April was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At least we are going to have the dedication within the same year.

#### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

##### **1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

##### **1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2023**

##### **1.2 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 17, 2023**

- 1.3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING – AUGUST 24, 2023
- 1.4 BOARD OF ALDERMEN JOINT SPECIAL MEETING WITH CRC – AUGUST 28, 2023
- 1.5 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 31, 2023

*Minutes can be viewed on the city website: [www.cityofshelton.org](http://www.cityofshelton.org).*

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of:

- 1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2023
- 1.2 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 17, 2023
- 1.3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING – AUGUST 24, 2023
- 1.4 BOARD OF ALDERMEN JOINT SPECIAL MEETING WITH CRC – AUGUST 28, 2023
- 1.5 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 31, 2023

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0)

**5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

5.1.1 NO ITEMS

**5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

5.2.1 INCREASE LIGHTING ON POLE #192 ON CENTER STREET

Alderman Balamaci MOVED, per the recommendation of the Public Health & Safety Committee, to authorize the increase of lumens on Pole #192 at Center Street from 81 watts to 121 watts in an amount of \$363.89 per year with funding to come from Street Lights Account #001-4600-716.35-03.

Seconded by Alderman Kosty.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: So why are we making it brighter?

Alderman Balamaci: That area is high density on certain days of the week and it is for public safety issues. The increase would be \$115.50 a year.

Mayor Lauretti: Are there a lot of incidents at that intersection.

Alderman Balamaci: It is not an intersection. It is a concentration of where some of the clubs and restaurants and things like that are.

Alderman McPherson: It is kind of darker there and the Police Department thought it would be good do that that to increase. It is just one level up from the current level lighting now.

Mayor Lauretti: I understand that, but if you start picking a spot where you want to brighten things up, other people are going to say the same thing.

Alderman Balamaci: That area has had some altercations in the past, especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and incidents. Predominantly from 10 pm to 3 am but an uptick from 12 am to 3 am.

Alderman Anglace: The new lighting is very focused. The old lighting used to spread over a bigger area. This lighting is very focused. When you have an area where people congregate, you need more brightness. That is what we are trying to do, to increase the lumens to get a brighter and bigger area of focus.

Alderman Balamaci: LED lights, as John said, go straight down, they don't go triangular.

Mayor Lauretti: So now they are going to congregate somewhere else that is less bright. Okay, if this is what you want to do. I have to tell you I am not a believer that this is going to solve anything just because experience tells me that. I remember a few years back there was a neighborhood and one guy wanted a streetlight on the cul-de-sac. The guy said okay, you want to brighten up the neighborhood so they can see the cops coming.

Alderman Anglace: The other guy said I don't want it shining in my windows.

Alderman Balamaci: This is the downtown area where I think it is warranted.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### **5.3 STREET COMMITTEE**

#### **5.3.1 NO ITEMS**

### **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Lauretti: I have 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 STATUTORY REFUNDS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$13,184.53 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 (8-0).

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

**8.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF SHELTON & DERBY-SHELTON ROTARY CLUB – SHELTON DAY – OCTOBER 1, 2023**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign an agreement between the City of Shelton and the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club to acknowledge the partnership between the City of Shelton and the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club during the Shelton Day activities to be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Seconded by Alderman Kosty.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Just to say, thanking the Rotary Club for stepping forward once again and having this Shelton Day. They do a marvelous job.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**8.3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEED RESTRICTIONS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED per Connecticut General Statute 8-30j Shelton Affordable Housing Plan, to deed restrict as affordable housing the following city-owned, residential rental properties: 56 & 58 Perry Hill Road; 279 Soundview Avenue; 27 Old Town Road, and 45 Grove Street.

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

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I don't see Blacks Hill Road on here. We are not doing that?

Kellie Vazzano: We are not. Blacks Hill Road, as discussed prior, the deed restriction would be for 40 years and if you were to, at some point, because it is proximate to the Constitution Boulevard project, that if we were to have alternate plans for that property, that we would have to then substitute it with another City owned property and at this time we would not have another property to substitute it with.

Mayor Lauretti: If anything was going to change up there, it would go from residential to commercial or manufacturing.

Kellie Vazzano: And you would not be able to do that without substituting another City owned property to not lose that unit. Once you establish it under 8-30g to be Affordable Housing, if you are to discontinue the use, you have to substitute another property for it to continue to get the credit.

Mayor Lauretti: So, you forfeit the credit.

Kellie Vazzano: You have to substitute one for one.

Mayor Lauretti: So, what you are saying is that once they are in the affordable category, they have to stay there no matter what.

Kellie Vazzano: For 40 years.

Mayor Lauretti: You have to love the State. I was unaware of this.

Alderman Kosty: Is it 8-30g or j?

Kellie Vazzano: 8-30j is what the Affordable Housing Plan is under. 8-30g is the Affordable Housing Covenant Language.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

#### **8.4 FUNDING FOR MOHEGAN SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount not to exceed of \$40,685 for Mohegan School Roof Replacement Engineering Services 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.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**8.5 FUNDING FOR MOHEGAN SCHOOL & LONG HILL SCHOOL WINDOW REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$70,376 for Mohegan School and Long Hill School Window Replacement Engineering Services (Bid #24-02) 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 Simons.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**8.6 FUNDING FOR INSTALLATION OF BASE FOR THE ‘WAR ON TERROR’ MONUMENT AT THE RIVERWALK – LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the base for the “War on Terror” Monument to be installed at the Riverwalk to the Capital Improvement Plan in an amount of \$5,900 to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**8.7 HAZARDOUS TREE CUTTING SERVICES AT VARIOUS CITY LOCATIONS – LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the following hazardous tree removal services to the Capital Improvement Plan in a total amount of \$17,625 with funding to come from LoCIP.

1.	156 Wooster Street	\$ 1,300
2.	50/60 & 77 Hillside Avenue	\$ 5,200
3.	49 Belmont Drive	\$ 375
4.	Long Hill Cross Rd. & Wells View Road	\$ 1,600
5.	Earl Street	\$ 475
6.	Sunnyside Boat Ramp Rd.	\$ 775
7.	96 Grove Street	\$ 700
8.	33 Hilltop Drive	\$ 475
9.	52 Willoughby Road	\$ 575
10.	40 Clinton Drive	\$ 650
11.	65 Perry Hill Road	\$ 5,500
		\$17,625

Seconded by Alderman Kosty.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**8.8 FUNDING FOR HOUSATONIC RIVERWALK STEAP GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$14,000 for Extension of the Housatonic Riverwalk STEAP Grant administrative services performed by the Shelton Economic Development Corporation with funding to come from Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99.00.

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

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion: Mayor Lauretti: Kellie, is this not eligible under the Grant funding? There is going to be plenty of money left over.

Kellie Vazzano: Correct. This is the kind of Grant that you are not allowed for administrative services to be paid through the Grant.

Mayor Lauretti: So, what happens to the balance of the money for the Grant? Where does that go?

Kellie Vazzano: There is a continuation of the project where we do need to raise part of the walk to match the existing topography of it. We are able to do the continuation under the contract to include that within the Grant. It will be almost fully expended including the match by the end of the project.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Mayor Lauretti: I think on Tuesday we need to have a little more discussion on this deed restriction issue. I am not really clear about what we should be doing with some of these properties, i.e., Perry Hill Road next to the school. If a veto was effective and not overturned, that would make this motion null and void. I just want to make sure that I understand fully the ramifications of doing this. Of course, the State has a habit of doing things that push you in a corner and make people not want to do them and this may be one of them.

**9 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW**

**9.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING**

**9.1 NO ITEMS**

**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 and Assistant Corporation Counsel join us.

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6 p.m.

Seconded by Alderman Kosty.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0)

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

Alderman Anglace MOVED to end Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

Executive Session ended at 6:10 pm.

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

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0)

**10.1 EDWARD DEPTULA WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

**10.2 JOHN MIKO WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

No actions taken.

There are no more items to come before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Simons MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Donna Fonda*

Donna Fonda  
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti