



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

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman Anglace 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 – Present via Zoom
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Absent
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present

Administration

Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel – Present
Kellie Vazzano, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor

PROCLAMATION HONORING IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Alderman McPherson read the below on behalf of the Mayor:

WHEREAS, the month of March is Irish-American Heritage month, a time when we celebrate the many achievements of Irish-Americans and acknowledge the incredible contributions they have made to the fabric, culture, strength, and prosperity of our nation; and

WHEREAS, from the earliest days of our nation, Irish-Americans have been proud, determined, tough, and hard-working. They have embodied that tenacious spirit that drives us forward as a nation; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate our country's strong relationship with Ireland and its people as Irish-Americans have played a vital role in our nation's history and have made remarkable contributions to all aspects of our nation's development and growth. Irish-Americans have spilled their blood to preserve our freedom and way of

life, including the more than 150,000 who fought to save our Union in our nation's darkest years during the Civil War. They have helped preserve our nation's most sacred values of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Irish-Americans have risen to the occasion with dignity, distinction, and honor to help move our nation forward; and

WHEREAS, this month we salute their efforts that have helped shape the values and all that makes our nation great. We honor the countless ways Irish-Americans have enriched our nation, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. We pay tribute to the formidable Irish spirit and resilience of Irish-Americans and their contributions to our nation, community and our way of life.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor of the City of Shelton, do hereby proclaim the month of March as **Irish-American History Month**.

This is issued under my hand and official seal of the City of Shelton.

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

PUBLIC PORTION

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone wished to address the board. You have five minutes and please keep your remarks directed to City issues.

Jerry Bloom
24 Fairfield Avenue

Pertaining to the War on Terrorism Monument that is now down in the Park, the dates are 2001 to 2021. Who won that war, by the way? It is ongoing and will be going on indefinitely as long as Islam is in the world. It is a perpetual state of Jihad.

Alderman Anglace: I will respond as that question has come up with the Veteran's Memorial Committee and Kellie, are you able to respond so everybody knows the answer.

Kellie Vazzano: I believe it was explained to us that the date of 2021 was when the United States declared that that specific war, the War on Terror, had ended.

Jerry Bloom: Could you please tell me who won that war?

Alderman Anglace: Mr. Bloom, it appears that the final act of that war was the withdrawal from Afghanistan by the United States where we left hundreds of thousands of dollars and hundreds of thousands of people who worked with us in fighting that war, Afghanistan people, we left them behind.

Jerry Bloom: We did the same thing in Vietnam as I recall. FYI, as far as I recall, the War on Terrorism began at the Munich massacre in 1972. Anyway, I want to commend Public Works for finally repairing the damaged fence outside the library and the lamps have been, I suppose, made functional again. I don't know what they are doing down at the Community Center and Library down in Huntington, it is all gutted. Over the past year I don't recall anyone talking about refurbishing that library. It seemed to work fine for me. Also, last month, you mentioned the intent to purchase an earth moving device and I did mention that there is a tractor/backhoe on the playground behind the Community Center. It is still there. I don't know why you need to purchase a new one. Finally, last July, Alderman McPherson sent me a letter telling me that the Mayor was aware of the road at the Riverview Park playground and that it was going to be repaired. That was eight months ago.

Alderman McPherson: As you know, we have had a lot of rain over the summer. We got behind schedule. I have been told it is going to be done. Again, we lost a lot of time last year because of the horrible summer we had to be able to do the roads.

Alderman Anglace: During the winter the asphalt plant is closed.

Jerry Bloom: Hopefully it will get done this year.

Alderman McPherson: I have asked for it to have priority. I will continue to work on it as well as my colleague.

Alderman Anglace: Just to belabor the point. It isn't a question of us not wanting to do it, but a question of being able to schedule it and get it done, weather permitting. That seems to be the major reason for the holdup.

Jerry Bloom: Riverview Park, as you may know, used to be named Indian Park according to the painting down at the Post Office. It is also an ancient Indian burial ground. It is all playground now and would be nice if a little plaque commemorating it was there.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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

Alderman McPherson MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024 Board of Aldermen regular meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0)

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

No report from the Mayor.

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 MARCH STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman McPherson MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$16,461.27 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 Simonetti.

No Discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

8.2 RELEASE OF DRAINAGE EASEMENT AT 65 FAR HORIZON DRIVE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve the release of the drainage easement along the southwesterly boundary line at 65 Far Horizon Drive as shown on attached Parcel Map 170-28 subject to a favorable 8-24 referral from Planning & Zoning.

Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate the release.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Kellie Vazzano: I would like to report that this did receive a favorable referral from the Planning & Zoning Commission last evening.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8.3 WAIVER OF BID & FUNDING FOR TWO USED ENGINES

Alderman McPherson MOVED, per the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process for the purchase of two used engines for the Highways & Bridges Department in an amount of \$25,962 with funding to come from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman McPherson: The letter from the Finance Director is attached.

Alderman Balamaci: I am assuming the engines are different and that is why the costs are different? One for \$9200 and the other \$16,000. I know they are different vehicles.

Alderman Anglace: We reached out to several businesses for quotes. We are trying to get quotes on new engines and used engines primarily because the vehicles are used and we have the mechanics in place. If we get a used engine that is in decent shape the mechanics can keep it running. If we have to buy new our mechanics can put it in. Before pulling the trigger on this, we are trying to get ready, waive the bidding as we already have several quotes. The Purchasing Department has the quotes. There are more out there that they are trying to get. They want to be able to move on it as soon as they can. As the quotes come in to assess the situation and get the vehicles back on the road.

Alderman Balamaci: When I reviewed this, I see the engine type, but I guess it is a different type of vehicle. They didn't give as much detail.

Alderman Simonetti: One vehicle is older than the other by seven years so there would be some changes.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8.4 RESCISSION OF ITEM 8.2 FROM THE 10/11/2023 BOA MEETING AND REAPPROPRIATION FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE

Alderman McPherson MOVED to rescind “Item 8.2 Funding for Student Transportation” passed at the October 11, 2023 meeting.

Further, MOVE to appropriate an amount of \$325,000 for Student Transportation Maintenance with funding to come from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: When you rescind the item from 8.2 from the October 11, 2023 meeting, that is going to bring \$45,000 back into the Contingency General Account. We are appropriating \$325,000 to be spent from the American Rescue Plan. The point being that while you are spending it out of the American Rescue Plan funds, we are going to put back \$45,000 into the budget to the Contingency General Account.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8.5 FUNDING FOR NIKE SITE COMPLEX REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

Alderman McPherson MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$20,000 for repairs and replacements at the Nike Site Complex with funding to come from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Seconded by Alderman Simons.

Discussion:

Alderman Balamaci: I wonder if we could get a balance of how much is left in the American Rescue Plan. I know we get it periodically.

Kellie Vazzano: I will get it for you.

Alderman Anglace: I spoke with the Assistant Finance Director. There is roughly some \$2 million in there that has to be spent before the end of 2024, I think it may even be November 2024, I’m not exactly sure. My understanding is that the Mayor has earmarked a project for that but he has not shared it with us yet. What are the repairs?

Alderman Simonetti: It does not say. I think we should ask for them to give us a list of repairs.

Alderman Balamaci: It says for a safe playing environment for the children.

Alderman Anglace: It says to make it a safe playing environment for the children of Shelton Little League. It says they have taken care of some of the tasks already but need some assistance to complete them. They are going to put it towards the capital improvement project which is currently taking place. No one knows what that is.

Alderman Simonetti: I can call him and find out. Darrin Besescheck, League President.

Darrin, we are in a meeting and we have your request for \$20,000 in front of us. Unfortunately, they did not give us a list of what was done for the \$20,000. I will put you on speaker so you can tell us what you did.

Darrin Besescheck: We replaced the fencing at the Nike site. That \$20,000 we requested from the City was used to replace Nike 2, the left field line and right field line as well as the outfield fence. That pretty much completes the complex except for the bullpens which are still left. We did the other work previously ourselves from money we got from fundraising. It is basically those three things on the second field and then we are done.

Alderman Simonetti: You put in metal fencing.

Darrin Besescheck: Yes, the chain link galvanized fence on field 2. It is 5' tall and does not need the plastic cap. The original project we did, we did the other fencing up to each dugout, but we couldn't afford to do any more and wanted to get it finished before the season because we are having the State Tournament this year.

Alderman Simonetti: Can you tell us approximately how many feet you did?

Darrin Besescheck: The outfield fence was approximately 220 on each side and outfield fence was I think 400+/-.

Alderman Simonetti: Over 800 feet of fencing?

Darrin Besescheck: Yes. I don't have the exact figure in front of me.

Alderman Simonetti: Did it go out to bid?

Darrin Besescheck: Yes. The original quote went out to bid. We had pricing from Fence Builders USA and one more company in Orange. The original project went out to bid. This one here we just gave to Fence Builders USA because he gave us the best price the first time and he also from Shelton and played Shelton American, is a local guy. I can email you the invoice.

Alderman Simonetti: Did the invoices go to finance already?

Darrin Besescheck: No, I put them on the League credit card.

Alderman Simonetti: Just check with finance. We are trying to approve the money now. Did they do any drainage work?

Darrin Besescheck: Not them, we did some other drainage work. Our landscaper did drainage work on field 1. We have it scheduled on field 2 coming up. We are getting outfield drains in field 2 because the water table is so high out there.

Alderman Simonetti: Have you talked to the Mayor about this? About the fencing?

Darrin Besescheck: He is the one who said to send in for us to request the \$20,000.

Alderman Simonetti: Thank you Darrin.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

9 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW

9.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 NO ITEMS

10 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.A. REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Anglace: At this time, I will entertain a motion to go into Executive Session and ask that Corporation Counsel and Assistant Corporation Counsel join us as well as the Administrative Assistant.

Alderman McPherson so MOVED at 6 p.m.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No Discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0)

Alderman Anglace: At this time, I will entertain a motion to end Executive Session.

Alderman McPherson so MOVED.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Executive Session ended at 6:05 pm.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Alderman McPherson: Let the record reflect that were no votes taken in the Executive Session.

10.1 TAX APPEAL – 100 PARROTT DRIVE, LLC

Attorney Teodosio: I offer the following motion: Move to approve stipulation for judgment for the tax appeal affecting 100 Parrott Drive, as suggested by the Shelton Tax Assessor.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the motion as outlined above by Attorney Teodosio.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (7-0).

10.2 DISCUSSION REGARDING CONDEMNATION CASES

No action at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____

BY: _____
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti