



BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF SHELTON  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 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 Special 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 – Present  
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present  
Alderman Kevin Kosty – Present via phone

### **Administration**

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

### **1. WAIVER OF BID FOR NEW OFFICE TRAILER AT TRANSFER STATION – LoCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendations of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process for the purchase of a new office building and building materials at the Transfer Station and further add to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$8,845.00 to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Just by way of background, the waiver of bid is because I have been trying to get this trailer replaced for about a year and a half. We went out to bid twice on this and I was hoping that the dates would have been supplied to you that we did go out to bid as I asked for that. Fran, I want you to talk to Mike Kanios about why we don't have that information, but I want it supplied to the Board so that they know that we did go out to bid and we had to bidders. The narrative that they put in here is they said that it was hit by some type of truck. That is not the reason that we are replacing it. We are replacing it because it is probably 30 years old, it is outdated and out of compliance with OSHA Standards. This is the first thing that meets the public eye. We have public employees that work in it. It is kind of like an office for them. We have a computer and communication equipment stored in there and we need a better facility there. So it has nothing to do with the fact that it was hit. I don't know why, for the life of me, that they put that there. Fran, I want you to convey my sentiments to Mike Kanios about this. I had a lengthy conversation about the reason we are asking for the waiver and it wasn't really articulated here.

Alderman Anglace: It does not clearly state what they are replacing it with. It says trailer, but the building that is described here looks more like a building versus a trailer.

Mayor Lauretti: It is not a trailer, it is a building, a shed-type building.

Alderman Simonetti: I have been there many times, inside the trailer and it really needs to be replaced, there is no doubt about it.

Mayor Lauretti: I'm sorry, I stand corrected. If you look on the bid summary, 42-18 and R42-18 it was rebid twice and there were no bidders. I'm glad this is here because it is important for you to understand that. With this pandemic and issues with supply chain, we have asked for a lot of waivers in the last year and a half. Any other questions?

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

## **2. FUNDING FOR CITYWIDE ROAD REHABILITATION**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$1,226,774 for the rehabilitation of roads citywide with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: A quick narrative, a quick discussion on this. This money is going to be for all of the above as it pertains to roads. There may be some drainage issues, there may be some curb replacement, there may be some patch work, there may be some total reconstruction. It runs the whole gamut. Sometimes when we appropriate money for a specific reason, this is for all of the above. This is probably going to be just one of two requests that we are going to be making for road reconstruction and rehabilitation.

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

### **3. FUNDING FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$200,000 for Board of Education maintenance projects with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Funds.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Again a quick narrative here. This is something we have been doing for the last three or four years. We have taken these capital improvements and projects out of their budget. It is unfortunate that at budget time that things like this don't get talked about, how much money we actually give to this Board of Education. People want to talk about per pupil expenditures. Things like this oftentimes don't get included in the formula. It looks like, oh Shelton does not spend enough money on their kids. I have always disagreed with that. I think it is important for us to continue to talk about this because this is the first of three funding requests that we are going to be giving them outside of their budget in the course of between now and when school starts.

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

**4. FUNDING FOR CONCESSION STAND PATIO AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL'S FINN STADIUM**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$20,340 for the construction of a concession stand patio at Shelton High School's Finn Stadium with funding to come from Contingency General Account #001-9900-900.99-00.

Seconded by Alderman Simons.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Again, to reemphasize that the kind of money we keep putting into the Board of Education and warranted it is. We have talked about the reason we are doing these things is because it is necessary. Some of this stuff is original construction from 40 years ago, like the concession stand. We have spent probably close to \$200,000. Again, I know that the people who use the facility, the track and field facility, understand and appreciate what we are doing, but sometimes it gets lost in the discussion at budget time. Again, this is number two for additional funding outside their budget.

Alderman Anglace: What I understand is this is seed money to get the job done. They are selling bricks and we will be reimbursed this \$20,340. It is a fundraising thing.

Mayor Lauretti: So they said. Time will tell.

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

**5. FUNDING FOR CHROMEBOOKS FOR SHELTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the purchase of Chromebooks for the Shelton Public School System to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$344,700 to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Again, to belabor the point, because it needs to be belabored, tonight is a total of about \$570,000 in additional money outside of the Board of Education's budget that is going to benefit the school system. Again, I asked for a five-year history of Chromebooks that we have paid for outside of the budget. I have to believe that it is well

over \$1 million. I am going to ask Theresa to forward that history to you so that you have it and you can remind parents about what you do in addition to giving to the Board of Ed.

Alderman Anglace: What we do outside the spotlight. There is one person in the audience. They are not here to listen to what we are doing or what we might do.

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

Mayor Lauretti: I just want to bring up one other point. In addition to what we have just given the Board of Ed, we are also going to be funding \$250,000 for the Pay to Play. So now we are up to \$800,000 outside of their budget appropriation. I think what I will do is email a copy of this meeting that we put on our City website to everybody who was here in the audience that night.

Alderman Anglace: Especially on the Board of Education.

Alderman McKinnon: I hope that the people who are on Facebook and everything else corrects what they have done online, misrepresenting what is going on.

Mayor Lauretti: They are not interested in doing that. That does not suit their goal. They know exactly what they are doing. This is an election year and they are just playing that game. Again, nothing we haven't seen before.

Alderman Simonetti: Let's not forget that the only Board members that voted for the full budget for the Board of Education were the Republicans. The Democratic Board member voted against it. I'm talking about our Board, the Board of Aldermen. We all voted for it, just one voted against it. On the side of the Board of Education, yes, two Board members from the Democrats did not vote for the budget. They had some reason that they couldn't understand that we were moving forward.

**6. FUNDING FOR HVAC REPLACEMENT AT PLUMB MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an additional amount of \$10,000 for the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning unit replacement at the Plumb Memorial Library with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

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

*Note: First appropriation for the replacement was made July 8, 2021 in an amount of \$137,600*

**7. INTEREST FORGIVENESS REAL ESTATE TAX**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the forgiveness of interest on real estate tax for 60 Woodland Park in an amount of \$13,347.82 through June 30, 2023.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Why is the interest being forgiven?

Kellie Vazzano: According to Connecticut General Statute 12-124, a municipality can forgive interest for the poor and insolvent. This is an insolvent estate.

Mayor Lauretti: It is an insolvent estate and under State law you are allowed to do it. Insolvent means you are not going to collect it anyway.

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

**8. OPEN.GOV PURCHASING MODULE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the agreement between Open.Gov Inc and the City of Shelton for cloud-based software procurement software services in an amount of \$23,454.37 with funding to come from contingency general account.

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

Seconded by Alderman Simons.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Ray, would you give the Board a quick version of what this module is going to do.

Raymond Baldwin: First of all, I want to thank you. About a year ago you approved funding for the Open.Gov project for electronic permitting. I am happy to report that next Thursday we are going to be going live with that. I would like to publicly thank our staff in the Engineering Department, the Building Department, Planning & Zoning, all of those people, the staff in there worked very, very hard to get this online. We are looking forward to that.

Now we are moving to the next step, which is procurement, which is somewhat of a challenge. We are hopeful that this program, we know this program, will streamline our purchasing system by allowing us to electronically post our RFPs, RFQs, our bids, to be able to track all our bids throughout the system and more importantly to keep reports for the State and Federal Governments which is very important when you receive money from the State and Federal Government for grants. This does it all. We have a consultant on staff that is going to help us out who has experience in this system. It won't take us a year to get online as it did with the land use boards. I want to thank Kellie Vazzano for helping negotiate over the last few months with Open.Gov to get the price down so the City is actually saving \$17,000 initially and overall about \$33,000 on this program.

Alderman Simonetti: There will be a fee every year now or is the only?

Raymond Baldwin: It is a fee going forward for the module, yes, for the programming. It is in the contract; I think the first three years is goes up. I think it is in your packet. Year one is \$23,454, then it goes to \$24,000 and then \$25,000.

Mayor Lauretti: This hopefully should eliminate some man hours that we have had in purchasing since the beginning of time. It becomes very costly to have employees. Hopefully this is one of those technological programs that will help save some money.

Alderman Simonetti: You can also find information much quicker I would think.

Raymond Baldwin: Absolutely. You will be able to track all of your bids throughout the entire process. Nothing gets lost in the system. It is easy for the users to use. It is easy for the bidders to look at and it will attract more bidders throughout the system that can sit there in their office and submit the bids that way.

Alderman Simonetti: They can submit a bid and it will be sent privately until you open them?

Raymond Baldwin: Until you open them, right.

Alderman Simonetti: They will be assured that no one else can get at it and pass the bid on to someone else.

Raymond Baldwin: There will be a hard cutoff so people can't come in and say well I hand delivered it at 5:01 when it should have been 5 o'clock. Now it is electronically posted and you have it right there in the records. If they are late, they are late.

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

**9. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CLERICAL UNION CONTRACT – LOCAL 1303-238, COUNCIL #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the Administrative Clerical Union Contract with the City of Shelton as negotiated and ratified by Union Members of Local 1303-238, Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretto to sign any and all necessary documents.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretto: I am not sure there is much discussion required here. The big thing it is a three-year contract with a 2% increase for three years in a row which is pretty favorable for the City. I do want to note that there are some people in this bargaining unit that only make \$47,000 a year. In an attempt to try to get them to a better place financially, that is why we are doing this.

Alderman Kosty: The line in Section 1 about, if increase in premium costs in any one year exceed 8.5%, employees shall pay it through payroll deductions, is that based on what the insurance actually charged us in the previous year or how much we put in the budget for next year?

Mayor Lauretti: If you read the contract, it speaks to what our insurance cost was for the entire year, not what is budgeted.

Alderman Kosty: Okay, since last year is going over, we would have to go over again for that to kick in on the employees?

Mayor Lauretti: That's correct. The reason that number was selected was because in the first 29 years we had never even come close to that in health insurance costs. It is the point that I tried to make in the auditorium the night of the budget meeting when people at the Board of Ed think that every year is the same and you spent \$10 million one year, you are automatically going to spend it next year. That is not the case. That is why the 8.5 number was selected because I never thought we would get there. Of course, I never thought that we would have a pandemic either and that has had a lot to do with driving the costs, supply chains and inflation. Plus a change in leadership in Washington I might add.

Frances Freer: Before the vote is taken, I just want to make a note for the record that there is a typo in Section Article 15 under the July 1, 2025 2%, it says except classification levels A through H. It should be A through G. I just want that correction noted for the record.

Mayor Lauretti: The last point that I want to make is that all of these brain surgeons on Facebook that want to talk about union busting and the fact that why the Teamsters don't have a contract is really because they are irrational. They are not fair and they have created this whole scenario. We haven't gone through this with any other Union in my 32 years except for now. So tell me what is different? It is the leadership at the Union and I don't have any problem saying that publicly. That point needs to be said.

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

## 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 (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Donna Fonda*

Donna Fonda  
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti