



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SHELTON
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 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 – Absent
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Absent
Alderman Bernie Simons – Absent
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present

Administration

Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel
Thomas Cotter, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Kellie Vazzano, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Frances Freer, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Paul Hiller, Finance Director via Zoom

PUBLIC PORTION

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone wished to address the board.

Tom Harbison
15 Soundcrest Drive

I know we are in the budget season, but one of the things that creates your taxes is your Grand List. I read an article last year about Danbury's efforts to properly account for vehicles that should be registered in Danbury, but were not and not contributing to the Grand List. I was reminded of it when I witnessed a prominent developer who lives in town numerous times this year driving his vehicle with Florida plates, and thus avoiding paying property taxes to Shelton. I would like to read from the article and perhaps you will get inspiration to research what Danbury did and perhaps it is something we could do. This is an article from *The News-Times* in 2023, November 5th.

"Danbury's crackdown on out-of-state plates helps boost grand list by \$460K, says the Mayor. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the city's grand list thanks to a program

implemented last year, designed to address the issue of improperly registered and unregistered vehicles in Danbury.

Mayor Dean Esposito announced last week that over 1,500 vehicles have been added to the city's tax base, resulting in the billing of an additional \$459,000 in tax dollars, since the implementation of Danbury's motor vehicle compliance program in November 2022.

"The goal of this project is to ensure that those living within the borders of the city of Danbury are paying their fair share of taxes by having their vehicles registered properly," he said in a statement.

Danbury's government affairs and communications advisor, Lindsay Seti, said the city implemented the program following numerous complaints — mostly from residents — "about how it was unfair they were paying taxes on their vehicles and their neighbors weren't because they had out-of-state registrations."

Seti said two Capital Tax Recovery vehicles, [I assume that is a private entity] equipped with license plate readers, have been going around Danbury scanning plates — and those registered out-of-state aren't the only ones being targeted.

"Capital Tax Recovery is scanning all plates," she said. "We have found hundreds of vehicles that are registered in another municipality or vehicles that have expired Connecticut registrations."

According to Danbury's tax assessor, Donna Murphy, there are around 18,000 vehicles currently being investigated by the city.

"If we see that you have a vehicle that's registered and we're scanning it three or more times at a specific location, we're starting an investigation to see whether or not that vehicle should be on our motor vehicle grand list," she said in the mayor's Oct. 26 "This Week in the City" video.

Murphy said Danbury has not only cracked down on vehicles registered outside the state and city through the program, but uncovered that "a lot of people (are) driving around with unregistered vehicles."

"In a way, we're helping these people because they don't know their vehicle's not registered, so we're sending them the information so that they can take the proper steps to make sure they have valid registration," she said.

While the tax assessor's office can't force people to update their vehicle registration, Seti said a fee for failing to do so seems to have motivated some.

"We have had a few people file paperwork as unregistered vehicles this year to avoid the \$50 fee in the future," she said.

I think this is maybe something you may want to research. \$460,000 in tax revenue could come in handy. Thank you.

Jerry Bloom
24 Fairfield Avenue

Good afternoon. On the agenda I see in the Finance Committee, no new items, likewise under the Street Committee which brings up a question. If you all intend to pave the road down at Riverview Park this year, I would think that you would be appropriating at least the asphalt. It might be something worth adding to next month's agenda. Also, the fence across the street from the Plumb Library is still unfinished.

Those are domestic issues and we all enjoy living here in Shelton, a nice quiet little town, however we cannot bury our heads in the sand as to what is going on in this country. LBJ, Lyndon Baines Johnson, remember him, once said doing what is right is easy. Knowing what is right is hard. That's a yes and no, especially if you are sitting across the chess board from your opponent. Most of the problems in our country can be readily addressed if people have the guts to do so. Unfortunately, we are living in basically an almost lawless country and our enemies are taking note of this. They are inflaming our youth with revolution and hatred. I have not seen such antisemitism in this country since the KK rallies of the last century. The root of all this, of course, is Islam. If you go back online to YouTube again, an Islamic preacher explains how they will take over the West as they have done in England, Germany, etc. It is only three and a half minutes long and is well worth it. Now we have eleven (11) countries in this world that have banned the burqa. I forget who said it, but it was said a great civilization cannot be conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within. That's haunting.

That's all I have.

Alderman Anglace: Mr. Bloom, just as a point of interest, you mentioned about paving. Paving funds are in the budget but they are under the Public Works Department and they are under a separate account. We don't break out each project individually, just so you understand how it works. There is money in there.

We have some additions to the agenda.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add to the agenda under Financial Business New, Item 8.4, 2025 HUD Consolidated Plan Community Development Block Grant Program and 10.3 under the Executive Session, Federal Lawsuit.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No Discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 11, 2024

1.2 PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES MEETING – APRIL 23, 2024

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

Alderman McPherson MOVED to waive the reading and approve the following meeting minutes: Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting of April 11, 2024 and the Public Hearing on Ordinances Meeting of April 23, 2024.

Seconded by Alderman McKinnon.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: I would like to make a clarification. Item 8.3 of the April 11, 2024 Board of Aldermen Minutes should read – Further move to add the Pine Rock Park Firehouse Roof Replacement to the Capital Improvement Plan in an amount of \$74,750 with \$49,000 to come from LoCIP and \$25,750 to come from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. The reason for that change is so that the full amount of the \$74,750 is reflected in the motion. That is the change.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

No Report.

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 MAY STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman McPherson MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$13,892.82 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 Balamaci.

No Discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

8.2 ADOPTION OF TAX COLLECTOR'S SUSPENSE LIST

Alderman McPherson MOVED that the Tax Collector's Suspense list in the amount of \$55,243.98 be adopted and transferred from the Grand Lists into Suspense per State Statute Sec. 12-165:

2008	\$ 6,754.54
2017	\$ 437.12
2018	\$ 776.41
2019	\$20,790.73
2020	\$16,839.14
2021	\$ 6,352.68
2022	\$ 3,293.36

TOTAL: \$55,243.98

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Balamaci: I would like to bring to everyone's attention that the Suspense is per State Statute. I don't know if the public is aware of that and we have no control over that.

Alderman Anglace: What happens is the tax collector annually reviews the collectability and determines the collectability of each outstanding liability that is owed to the City. She makes a recommendation and in this case she feels that these are probably not collectable or are going to be difficult or impossible and it is giving us a true picture of what is out there that we can collect.

Alderman Balamaci: My point is that I wanted to make it known that it is a State issue. It is not that we can go after them. She makes a sound judgment and I don't think people are aware of that. We can't keep going after them as we are never going to get the money so we are wasting our time and efforts.

Alderman Anglace: We are not forgiving these. We are taking them from the active rolls to the suspense rolls. They can still be gone after.

Attorney Teodosio: For instance, if somebody makes it to the big list and they owe the City of Shelton taxes, Shelton can get it.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8.3 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PINE ROCK PARK FIREHOUSE ROOF

Alderman McPherson MOVED to approve an additional amount of \$2,105 for plywood replacement for the Pine Rock Park Firehouse roof with funding for come from American Rescue Plan Act.

(Note: The new total amount of project is \$76,855 with \$49,000 coming from LoCIP and \$27,855 coming from American Rescue Plan Funds.)

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: The additional \$2,105 is to come from the American Rescue Plan Funds. The question is do we have to revise the original motion made in April to reflect the new total, \$76,855 added to the Capital Improvement Plan. I believe it is appropriate to add. This \$2,105 came about in the normal process of taking off the roof, they found 4x8 sheets of plywood that were rotted and they had to be replaced with new ones. This is where the added money came in. What we want to do is reflect in our discussion that \$76,855 is the total project cost that is being added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8.4 2025 HUD CONSOLIDATED PLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the draft Fiscal Year 2025 Consolidated Plan for Submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Community Development Block Grant Program with a public comment period for 30 days commencing Friday, May 10, 2024.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: I think the clerk has made everybody aware that there is a 100-page document available at the Board of Aldermen Office and I believe that it will probably also be made available in the City Clerk's office. If anybody wants to read it and make comment about it.

My comment is there were two public hearings held. Now there is a 30-day comment period. The two meetings that were held, Paul Grimmer described in detail the process in the meetings talking about the Community Development Plan was about an inch thick and took about an hour or longer to explain it. He did it twice and did a good job and has come up with a plan which is

available if you want to read it. This is something we do every year. The Community Development Block Grant is made available from the Federal Government and we go after it. We have projects.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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 am going to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to go into Executive Session and ask that Corporation Counsel and Assistant Corporation Counsel join us as well as the Administrative Assistants and Paul Hiller, Finance Director.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:50 pm.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

Alderman McPherson MOVED to end Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman McKinnon.

No Discussion.

Executive Session ended at 6:40 pm.

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

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0)

10.1 JOHN MIKO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Attorney Thomas Cotter offered the following motion: The appropriate motion would be to approve the recommendations by Assistant Corporation Counsel with respect to this matter.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the motion as stated above.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

10.2 RON PIOTROWSKI WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Attorney Thomas Cotter offered the following motion: The appropriate motion would be to approve the recommendations by Assistant Corporation Counsel with respect to this matter.

Alderman McPherson MOVED to accept the motion as stated above.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (5-0).

10.3 FEDERAL LAWSUIT

No action.

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 (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____

BY: _____
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti