



Board of Aldermen
Shelton, Connecticut
Regular Full Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 9, 2018, 7 p.m.

CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti called the Regular Full Board Meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order in the Auditorium at 7 p.m. All those present rose 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
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty – not present
Alderman Cris Balamaci – present
Alderman Jim Capra – present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – not present

Also present:

Corporation Counsel Fran Teodosio

Public Portion

Stephen Massi, 20 Sylvesters Way

I am here in support of the Shelton Taxpayers who Support Education group. I have been trying to recall where I saw the information but I know I saw at some point that Dr. Clouet had sent a proposal I believe to the aldermen to fund safety resource officers for all the schools. I can't seem to find the article but I do recall it being sent. I know they sent it outside the budget proposal and I was wondering if you could comment on the status of that and where that stands since the schools are about to open session.

Mayor Lauretti: Well I can speak a little bit about it. We don't normally have dialogue during the public portion. This is the opportunity for the public to speak. I will tell you that I asked the Chief back in April or May to start a dialogue with the Superintendent of Schools regarding security. Educators are supposed to educate. In my opinion they aren't supposed to be proficient in school security, building maintenance or school transportation. The focus is what goes on inside the building so with that said I have asked the Chief to evaluate all of

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the existing schools, including St. Lawrence, to look at upgrades and that dialogue is still going on.

Mr. Massi: Is there an expected resolution for the school year or shortly thereafter?

Mayor Lauretti: It won't happen for September 1st but it will happen during the school year. You may have noticed that we have stepped up our presence at all the schools during the course of the school day.

Mr. Massi: Is there another committee or meeting that we should focus on to hear more about that or is that not part of the public portion?

Mayor Lauretti: It's not public at this time. I am not inclined to tell people what we are going to do in terms of school security and in terms of the technology because that kind of defeats the purpose. I know in this world of transparency that we live in, there has to be a little common sense that comes into play. The goal is to protect people and you can't do that if the thugs know every move you are going to make. It's like years ago they wanted to put a camera up down at the Riverwalk because there was graffiti and damage being done and they wanted to discuss it at a public meeting and I said: 'ok that's great, all the perpetrators know exactly where we are going to put these cameras and they will be shooting them out from the Route 8 bridge.' Just know that there is something in the works to address this issue as best we can.

Mr. Massi: Fair enough. Thank you.

Diana Meyer, 56 Maple Lane

I am glad to see you Mr. Mayor and everyone else here tonight and I just want you to know that we have a group of concerned parents here, the "Shelton Taxpayers who Support Education" and we are going to try and make an effort to show up to a lot of the meetings. I am hoping that you will all hang about after the meeting so we will have some nice dialogue. I know we did that last time and I thought it was really good. Thank you and we hope to learn more.

Mayor Lauretti: I hope you would have that dialogue with members of the Board of Education who spend their money and are free to spend the money because we don't manage what they do. This is not only an issue here in Shelton but it is statewide about how they don't manage money properly because there is no accountability. Parents are not going to hold them accountable for the most part. Parents want to come down here and scold us all the time and say just give them what they want. I had four kids in the school system. My uncle was the principal of Shelton High School and my sister just retired there after 35 years. I was a teacher once upon a time. I see what goes on in the classroom and I understand what doesn't go on these days and the costs associated with it. I am going to start getting a little more vocal too. I purposely sat on the sidelines during the course of this budget season because I knew that this nonsense with this bus issue was going to rear it's ugly head and there is more to come on this issue. I'll stop there. I've gone way too far.

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Ms. Meyer: Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti asked if anyone else wished to speak. There being no one he declared the public portion closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading and approve the following meeting minutes:

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SECONDED by Alderman Capra.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1.1 No Items

5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

5.2.1 No Items.

5.3 STREET COMMITTEE

5.3.1 ACCEPTANCE OF MAGGIE LANE (TURKEY HILL ESTATES) AS A CITY STREET

Alderman Anglace MOVED per the recommendation of the Street Committee, to accept Maggie Lane (Turkey Hill Estates) as a city street from Buddington Road to the cul-de-sac, 665 feet more or less. Further approve the release all of maintenance and surety bonds subject to Planning and Zoning’s requirements in letter to Barry Mucci dated February 23rd, 2011. SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

Mayor Lauretti: This street has been around for a long time and it’s taken an awful long time for its acceptance.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

No report.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

No Report.

6 – LEGAL REPORT

6.1 CORPORATION COUNSEL BILLING

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize a total payment of \$3,704.25 to Corporation Counsel, Welch, Teodosio, & Stanek, LLC, for services rendered per statement dated August 3, 2018 with funds to come from the following Legal Services Account:

Legal Fees	001-1900-411.30-03	\$3,704.25
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SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

7 – LEGISLATIVE - OLD

7.1 No Items.

8 - FINANCIAL BUSINESS - OLD

8.1 No items.

9 – FINANCIAL BUSINESS – NEW

9.1 – AUGUST STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$883.52 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 Capra.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

**9.2 FUNDING FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT NIKE SITE, EAST VILLAGE
PARK AND RIVERVIEW PARK – LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to add the installation of playground equipment at the Nike Site in an amount of \$51,713; at East Village in an amount of \$23,430 and at Riverview Park in an amount of \$15,010 to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding totaling \$90,153 to come from LOCIP. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Gidwani.

Alderman Anglace: I just want to make the point that Parks and Recreation reviewed all playgrounds in the city. This is a representation of what was needed to upgrade those which were in need. The other playgrounds are not in need of upgrading at this time.

Mayor Lauretti: For the record, people should know that the city doesn't get involved with playgrounds at the schools. So, these are playgrounds at city parks. The only time we get involved is if there is a specific request from the PTA or the Father's Club. Over the years there has been requests and we will supply chips or sometimes we will make a monetary donation to help them buy equipment but by and large it's their thing and it's always been that way and that's the way they wanted it. I just want to make sure when you say they evaluated all the playgrounds in the city, they did not include the school playgrounds.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.3 FUNDING FOR UPGRADES TO CHROMIUM PROCESS SITE & GARAGE BUILDING – LOCIP ELIGIBLE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add upgrades to the Chromium Parking lot site in an amount of \$20,000 and upgrades to the garage building located on said site in an amount of \$25,000 to the Capital Improvement Plan for a total amount of \$45,000 to come from LOCIP. SECONDED by Alderman McPherson.

Mayor Lauretti: Let me take the opportunity to explain a little bit about that \$45,000 and what it represents. A portion of it is going to rehab the existing structure on site. It was the only thing left in the demolition. I think Eric came up with the idea to try and mirror it to what the Farmer's Market looks like. I thought it was a pretty good idea. So that's what we are going to do. We are going to put a new roof on it, replace the windows, we are going to sandblast it, and change the electrical service. We use that for a variety of different things but mostly storage. With respect to the parking lot, we are going to phase improvements in over the course of the next year, mostly because the site was filled and I think it's important to allow it to sit for at least a year for selling purposes. When we were doing the demolition, as you know, this is a state and federally funded project, so we were subjected to a lot of their rules and regulations. There is an impermeable barrier that is inside of the site and then filled on top of it. I had asked the state to allow us to put the barrier six feet down as opposed to the standard three. Stan and John may remember this but when we did the BF Goodrich Site we had the same type of impermeable barrier there as well. That's four feet in the ground. The reason I asked for six is because at some point in time, and I am not sure when, or maybe never, there may be a structure on that site. If that's the case, then they won't have to go back to lower the barrier. It's already low enough and below the frost line. So, with that said, to stop people from crisscrossing back we are going to put the sidewalk in on the Canal Street side, the river side of the parking lot. As you know the Spongex building is under rehab right now and then there is a new structure that's going up right next to it, it will be a commercial building. We are going to continue to make more and more improvements with that lot as time goes on. We are putting a sidewalk in on one side right now. The sidewalk is always going to be there even if another structure goes there, that sidewalk will stay. I met them there today with the United Illuminating Company and the City Engineer and our Public Works people because we are going to do that project in-house. The

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goal is to eliminate those telephone poles. Years ago, when we rebuilt Canal Street when we did the Farmer's Market and the Pavilion and the area adjacent to the pavilion, we undergrounded all the utilities and we put in extra conduits. This was some 15 years ago. We put in extra conduits because we anticipated when we got to this point that the rest of those wires and poles would come down and go underground. Dealing with the utility company is like dealing with the state, it takes forever and a day and it's one problem after another. Today was no different but I think I set the tone today for everyone that this is going to happen and that it's going to happen sooner rather than later. The other thing that we are going to do in the lot this year, we are going to put the crosswalk in at the end of the lot. At the end of Center Street there will be a crosswalk that takes you right across the end of the property, not in the parking lot but next to the parking lot to Canal Street. These dollar amounts are estimates. Anything that doesn't get spent will stay as part of the appropriation for other work that we do there next. I probably should have had a map as it would have been a lot easier for you to understand.

Alderman Capra: I want to add that I think that this is great that we are voting on this tonight. Some good lighting is going to go up there and that crosswalk is going to really benefit the people who live there so they can walk over to Howe Avenue and Center Street to go shopping and to the restaurants. I am really happy about this one.

Mayor Lauretti: It's all part of an evolution. You've been at this a couple of years and I've been at it for 27 years and sometimes it's just painful dealing with all the approval processes and the obstacles. Everyone has an idea about how to do something. Needless to say, we are making pretty good strides down there right now. There is an awful lot of financial interest in that area along the river. The next couple months there will be some issues before you to not only talk about, but to decide upon. The whole goal here was investing in the infrastructure so that private money would come. That's exactly what's happening. It's taken a long time but it's happening and happening in a big way.

Alderman Anglace: It didn't take as long as Derby has taken. We have private money building the buildings on Canal Street.

Mayor Lauretti: As you know John we don't worry about what other towns are doing. We worry about what we have to do.

Alderman McPherson: Mayor, people see the difference. This thing with Chromium, you have been to the forefront more than a lot of us have in regards to dealing with the state and federal people removing the Chromium Process Plant, which was absolutely a huge undertaking. They see it now. They see these things happening and they see a lot of these great things. Also in regards to the building. It's a valuable building there for storage and it's great that it's going to get rehabbed.

Mayor Lauretti: I just want to remind everyone that there is a lot to talk about in this area but I think it's important to keep talking about it because it's all part of the equation but the State Office of Historic Preservation is pressing us to rehab these buildings as opposed to knocking them down and that's alright if they are going to be at the table financially. To this point they have been. I have agreed that the last couple buildings down at the end we will

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rehab. We will not knock them down and do new construction. These are some of the impediments. That took about a year and a half to get to that point where we finally agreed on something.

Alderman Gidwani: I just have a question Mr. Mayor, since you are here this evening and it's a pleasure to have you here, any update on Echo Hose Fire Department?

Mayor Lauretti: We will be out to bid shortly. We will have to evaluate where we go from there, whether we continue to invest a lot of money in that building which would not be my suggestion. I think most of us agree that that location has outlived its useful life. It was there in the 50s when downtown was very, very different than it is today. It's just in the wrong place. We have been talking about moving that fire house for about 10 to 15 years. I think that maybe this is going to accelerate this. Ten to fifteen years ago we had set aside a piece of land that the city owns for Echo but we had no access to it and we still have no access to it and we are trying to create the access which is the extension of Constitution Boulevard North, but that is still a couple years away in my estimation. I think we have solved some of their short-term needs in terms of where their trucks are. They are going to be able to retain two of the bays where the bus company was. I have met with Durham and they have agreed to take one bay. As you know that situation is a one-year deal. The city will then take over the transportation. They have other facilities in the area and they really didn't need the extra bay. It kind of worked out good for us. The other thing we might do rather than demo that floor and put a new floor in for several hundred thousand is that we may just shore up one of the bays underneath so that they can use the space to put trucks in.

Alderman Gidwani: Is there a timeline on when we expect to do that?

Mayor Lauretti: I don't want to get tied to a timeline because I got fifteen projects moving right now. I want to say between now and the end of the year. We should know where we stand and what we are going to do with that floor or what we aren't going to do with the floor. My druthers is that we will shore up one of the bays and that will give us adequate space to house the trucks. They can use the rest of the building. Nothing is stopping them from using the other part of the building. It's just the storage and the equipment.

Alderman Anglace: With respect to the timeline question. We have received the engineer's report and we said that the next step would be going out to bid, so that is the next step and you know how long that takes. That's a process that's finite in time to get the bids back but then you have to review the bids and they have to decide on one.

Mayor Lauretti: Again, for the newcomers to the board, we have bid this floor before. This will be the second time. The cost was close to \$400,000 to redo that floor. I don't know what would make anything change ten years later. It now becomes a question of economics, not emotion, economics.

Alderman Gidwani: So, do we move the firehouse somewhere else?

Mayor Lauretti: The firehouse is going to get moved somewhere else. We all agree on that. We agreed on that years ago. It's just a question of getting to a location that we can get to

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and putting up a new structure. I did meet with Frontier a couple months ago. There has always been interest in their building on Bridgeport Avenue. Frontier may be vacating that building. They are an extension of government so the decision could take a long time before that gets made.

Alderman Anglace: The other open part of that question is whether or not the membership and the officers at Echo House are informed about what's going on. From the top down, I have been told they will be informed.

Alderman Gidwani: I have one more question. Actually, I have two more questions since you are here Mayor. A lot of parents have been reaching out to me saying that Milford has splash pads for kids in the summertime with the heat that we have had for the last two months. Is there a possibility of the city building a splash pad somewhere in Shelton for local people to go hang out? You know, young kids with their parents and just having a good time.

Mayor Lauretti: There is always a possibility.

Alderman Gidwani: How do we make it happen?

Mayor Lauretti: We would have to identify a location and the cost associated with it. Where would this go, what would be the most likely place.

Alderman Gidwani: We have dog parks, why not a splash pad for kids?

Mayor Lauretti: Look, everything is a function of money. If it's our goal to have one of everything because someone else has it, ok, but I have never operated from that school of thought. It's open for discussion. Like I said, I have about 15 projects going on right now. I've got that project up at Shelton High School that I want to make sure gets done before September 1st. That's where a lot of my focus is.

Alderman Gidwani: So how do we move forward with a splash pad, obviously it's not going to happen this year because the summer is coming to an end, but maybe we have it on the radar for next year?

Mayor Lauretti: Well maybe you should go to Parks and Recreation and talk to them about it?

Alderman Gidwani: They told the parents to go to you.

Audience Member: I went to Parks & Rec. about putting in a playground for the Mom's Club and they did the same thing. They told me to go and talk to the Mayor.

Alderman Gidwani: It's sad that we go in a circle and everyone comes back to me and tells me that they say go to the mayor.

Mayor Lauretti: Look, Parks and Rec. should at least entertain the discussion and should look into whether it's feasible to put something like that at one of their recreational facilities.

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Alderman Anglace: Is that something they want to do? Is that something Parks & Rec. would recommend be done? If so, where would it be? They need to address it and make a recommendation whether it's feasible. Where would it be done and how much would it cost?

Alderman Gidwani: Mr. President, correct. It's the parents who are the taxpayers in the City of Shelton who are asking for it.

Alderman Anglace: All people in the City of Shelton are taxpayers. That's not the issue. Where is it going to go? What's it going to cost? Who is going to do it? Who is going to recommend or not recommend it?

Mayor Lauretti: Again, my suggestion is to circle back with Ron Herrick and the Parks and Recreation Commission. If they want me to come to that meeting I would be happy to come and participate and give them some feedback. There has to be some type of response from them.

Alderman Anglace: What type of participation would this receive? How much community support would it receive? Those are all issues to be explored.

Alderman Gidwani: John, I believe the parents with the young kids would rather go to Shelton instead of Milford or Trumbull.

Mayor Lauretti: Okay, we have a motion on the floor and we have gone a little far off the topic. This is a discussion for another day.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.4 AGREEMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS AT ELIZABETH SHELTON SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and Acorn Glass, Inc. for the replacement and installation of windows at Elizabeth Shelton School. Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Capra.

Alderman Anglace: The money is already appropriated correct?

Mayor Lauretti: Correct.

Alderman Gidwani: Are these windows bullet proof? What are the windows that we are replacing? It is a big nut that we are paying.

Mayor Lauretti: The windows that are in there now are the original windows that were put in when the school was built. I think it's fair to say we got our

money's worth. With that said, we will have a tempered glass, and I can't answer the question about the bullet proof because I can't recall right now. I can tell you that this project has been going on for about six years. Bev Belden will attest to that fact. It will be a tempered, insulated glass. It will be a tremendous upgrade to what's there.

Alderman Gidwani: Is that going to be done before school starts?

Mayor Lauretti: No. There is discussion right now with the building committee, myself and the contractor and Bev Belden on how it's going to work and how it's going to get done during the school year. They will start it sometime in September. The other thing that the Board should be aware of, and this is a financial issue, but when we did the fortification doors at the other schools in the last couple years we were promised a reimbursement rate. Well we got the check last week, two years after the installation the state finally gave us the check which was for a lesser amount and now the state is saying that the reason that it's a lesser amount is because the reimbursement rate is also predicated on the number of kids in the school system. At some of those schools the number of kids have dropped significantly whereas Elizabeth Shelton has not. We spend \$1.4 million on a new roof at Sunnyside, and we are supposed to get 40 percent back. We aren't going to get 40 percent reimbursement. This just came to my attention and the reason is because, the Board of Education, two years ago should have redistricted so that there is parity amongst the schools regarding population and that didn't happen. I guess it's going to happen now but we are paying a price for it. It's wrong to have one school over-populated and the rest of the schools have all kinds of space. It's wrong to vote on a project with a financial understanding and for it to change because of something that is out of our control. These are things that people need to know about. Redistricting is an absolute must. There is too much of a burden on Elizabeth Shelton School and there has been for at least five years.

Alderman Anglace: Do they have any idea what the reimbursement is projected to be on these windows?

Mayor Lauretti: It's 40 percent. Everything is approved, the state just approved it. Elizabeth Shelton refund will not be a problem because the enrollment is high. Maybe I should tell them to give me more money because enrollment is a lot higher than it's supposed to be.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

**9.5 FUNDING FOR UPGRADED CROSSWALK ON MEADOW STREET
BETWEEN ROUTE 108 & WHEELER STREET**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the installation of an impressed preformed thermoplastic crosswalk on Meadow Street between Route 108 and Wheeler Street to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in the amount of \$5,360 to come from LOCIP. SECONDED by Alderman Balamaci.

Alderman Anglace: Eric did you recommend this?

Alderman McPherson: Yes, I did.

Mayor Lauretti: This the material we put down on Long Hill Avenue. The two crosswalks at Long Hill School, one on Long Hill crossroads and one on Platt Road. I know you had said to me when we put them in, why can't we put them downtown, and it's just that it's an expensive, pricey crosswalk and we should take the opportunity to see if they are going to hold up. Will it be able to withstand the plowing in the wintertime and the cold and the frost and things like that? They apparently have held up pretty well. Meadow Street, up near the high school, is an area that gets a lot of activity mainly because the recreation path is there and people are crossing it constantly. This is a good choice.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

**9.6 FUNDING FOR REMOVAL OF OIL TANK AT THE CHROMIUM PROCESS SITE
– LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED per the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent, to waive the bidding process for the removal of a 10,000-gallon oil tank from the former Chromium Process site and approve an agreement between the City of Shelton and Industrial & Municipal Construction Company. Further add the removal of the oil tank to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$13,200 to come from LOCIP.

Further authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Gidwani.

Mayor Lauretti: These are part of the surprises that you deal with when it's an old industrial area that's about 100 years old. We have been dealing with this stuff for the last 25 years. I can't tell you how many oil tanks we have taken out down on the BF Goodrich Site and Axton Cross.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

**9.7 FUNDING & AGREEMENT FOR PLUMB MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ELEVATOR**

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Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the agreement between the City of Shelton and Tomlinson Hawley Patterson for the installation of an elevator at the Plumb Memorial Library in an amount of \$264,423 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 to effectuate same. SECONDED by Alderman Gidwani.

Alderman Anglace: I don't see an agreement?

Mayor Lauretti: The contract will be our standard form contract that we use. It all went out to bid.

Alderman Anglace: So we don't have the contract but it will be a standard form?

Mayor Lauretti: Correct. It will be a standard form that we normally use. This is a project that has been going on five years. This is the third time that we bid this. I think we finally have a concurrence that the Library Board, the staff and myself about the location of this elevator and how it's going to offer handicap accessibility. It's taken some time but we believe this is a pretty good solution.

Alderman Anglace: We have heard over the years that the Library has a pretty sizable library fund yet we are paying for it out of city funds?

Mayor Lauretti: John, when you and I took office the library endowment was about \$790,000. Today it's over \$2.2 million. They have agreed to start spending some of this money. There are other things that we are going to be doing to the Plumb Memorial Library in the next year and a half in terms of upgrades such as changing the ceiling tiles, lighting upgrades, paint and change the carpeting. They have agreed to do some of that. They also want to dress up their meeting room.

Alderman Anglace: I can accept this because this is a structural change to the building. We own the building therefore we should pay for it but getting them to do some things too to upgrade that library would be wonderful. That's exactly what I want to hear.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.8 ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND SLOPE RIGHTS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE EXTENSION OF CONSTITUTION BOULEVARD

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the Board of Aldermen authorize the Mayor to take the necessary actions to acquire the property necessary for the continuation of Constitution Boulevard.

SECONDED by Alderman Balamaci.

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Mayor Lauretti: So, we talked about Constitution Boulevard a little bit in respect to the fire house. For a memory jog, we funded an engineering firm to engineer the road, from Bridgeport Avenue to the site and to Rte. 108. Here we are about a year and change later and we are ready to move forward with the final design and get some bid documents for construction but before we do that there are two properties that require acquisition by the city but the city has spent the past twenty years gaining the property and the property rights for the extension of that road. This is the last piece. So, some day people will be able to drive from Rte. 110 in South Shelton all the way to Rte. 110 up in White Hills. That's part of the long-term planning that was put in place for many years and now we are just following through with that. This is the biggest link that makes the most sense. This is the link that will allow us to secure property to build the firehouse unless we change.

Alderman Anglace: Just in reference to a question earlier, the property on the map is A, is that the site for the Echo Hose?

Mayor Lauretti: Well not necessarily. If you remember we are going to carve out some acreage along Constitution Boulevard for an emergency service facility. We probably did that 12 or 13 years ago.

Alderman Anglace: All I am asking is A on the map carved out for Echo?

Mayor Lauretti: We haven't determined that. It will be where it makes the most sense. I have got to believe it makes the most sense closer to Bridgeport Avenue so they have that accessibility.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9.9 BROKER OF RECORD SERVICES – WAIVER OF RFP

Alderman McPherson MOVED, per the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent, to waive the Request for Proposal process and approve an agreement between the City of Shelton and Ned Miller Agency, a division of Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage Inc. for the Agent of Record services.

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

SECONDED by Alderman Balamaci.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

**9.10 FUNDING FOR RENOVATIONS TO 58 PERRY HILL ROAD PROPERTY –
LOCIP ELIGIBLE**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the renovations to the property at 58 Perry Hill Road to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$20,000 to come from LOCIP.

SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Anglace: This is city-owned property in need of a facelift.

Mayor Lauretti: Much like we did at 279 Soundview, a property that we own where the community garden is located, that house is now completed and as of tonight we have a renter. The same goal will be for that property right next to the Perry Hill School.

Alderman Anglace: What this does is put the funds in place to do whatever is necessary as we assess what has to be done.

Mayor Lauretti: That has some historical significance and years ago everyone wanted to knock it down and I wouldn't let them. It's a post and beam house. They don't make post and beam houses anymore. They did that a 100 years ago. So at a minimum we are going to try and maintain the structural integrity of the house and I don't know what will happen, maybe we will rent it. I didn't think it was smart to knock it down. Just like I told the Mayor of Derby not to knock those buildings down on 34 because once they are gone they are never coming back.

Alderman Gidwani: John, I have a question for you. We had talked about this before, about signs on utility poles in the City of Shelton.

Mayor Lauretti: We have a motion to approve funding for this item, we can get to your question afterwards.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

11 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 NO ITEMS.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman McPherson MOVED to ADJOURN; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Gidwani: I have one question for you John. We talked about this a few months ago about signs all over utility poles in the City of Shelton, what are we doing about it because there are more signs everywhere in the city.

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Alderman Anglace: The question is not what are we doing about it but what have we done about it. In the past we have had meetings with the U.I. about signs on the poles. There is a state statute that prohibits people from putting anything on the poles with a \$50 fine. The owner of the poles is not interested in enforcing that statute. As a third party we don't own the poles. What can we do?

Mayor Lauretti: I will just tell you from experience the challenge for everyone is always the enforcement of things. Passing laws and patting yourself on the back is what politicians do. Those laws do nothing when you can't enforce them. So, if you are a police department and you got someone complaining about the illegal signs on the pole, where are your resources going to go? Are you going to focus on putting a cop in a neighborhood to catch someone putting a sign up on a pole or are you going to school security or are you going to focus on crosswalk traffic or neighborhood burglaries?

Alderman Gidwani: So, you are telling me we have no authority to do anything about the signs?

Mayor Lauretti: John just told you that the poles are owned by United Illuminating Company and they choose not to enforce them or selectively enforce them and I don't believe it's a good use of police resources to worry about the signs.

Alderman Anglace: Even if we cite people, we first have to investigate who did it. You have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a person did it before you cite them. Then you have to try and collect the fine. You have to spend \$2,000 to collect \$50 that is not even coming to us.

Mayor Lauretti: We've been down this road before. You aren't the first one to ask these questions.

Alderman Anglace: Other things that fall upon those lines are signs on properties. We have control over the signs in the city right-of-way but not on their property. The person who owns the property, if they want to put a sign up, that's perfectly alright.

Mayor Lauretti: Those in and of itself are a challenge, those signs. Three weeks ago, Trumbull was advertising Trumbull Day on Bridgeport Avenue in Shelton. Big four by four signs at the corner of Walgreens and Pet Plus and I had to send Parks up there to take them down. This stuff never ends. Graffiti is another thing.

Alderman Anglace: When it comes to signs in the city right-of-way we have an enforcement officer who will go out and take them down but he would spend his entire week doing that because as fast as you take them down, they put them up. A lot of these signs are nonprofits like the Youth Connection. Whoever has a function they want to advertise it.

Mayor Lauretti: John had a good idea about three years ago and he wanted to do an electric community sign that advertised all of things that he just mentioned. There is one in Cheshire in front of the high school. I thought that was a good idea but will that stop people from

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putting up their signs? Will it stop the Youth Connection down at Center Stage from putting up their signs? They put up their signs all over the place.

Alderman Anglace: We followed up on that electronic sign and the costs was excessive and if you go by the sign up in Cheshire you can't read it. You are going by so fast, and the letters are so small you don't know what it says. You only see what's on at that moment.

Mayor Lauretti: I'm glad you mentioned that. That should be a sign for your to slow down John.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Adcox
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: _____ BY _____

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton