



BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF SHELTON  
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2024  
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 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  
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present  
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present  
Alderman Bernie Simons – Absent  
Alderman Benjamin Perry – 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

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Mayor Lauretti asked if anyone wished to address the board.

Jerry Bloom  
24 Fairfield Avenue

I guess we are going to skip the roll call again. Quick question, a couple of quick questions. How do I obtain a copy of the job description for an alderman. What do you all do besides show up here once a month?

I see you have funding for a War on Terror monument. I would be interested to see what that looks like prior to funding be allocated. Also, the selection of the official flag of Shelton. Do you have a draft of what that might look like? Would you care to present that to the public for comment prior to adopting?

I see that the lamps on the library down here, Plumb Library, are still in the state of disrepair as well as the road down at Riverside Park which I was told last year that that would be addressed soon. As we all know, nothing gets done without a deadline. Would anyone care to make a deadline today? No, I didn't think so. Although you did find enough resources to pave the dog park, which was considerably smaller.

The Police Department's parking lot has a couple of signs that say "Police Vehicles Only". However, the frauditors will find a way around that and they have. They go into these parking lots and stick the cameras all over the place and when they are confronted – I am not a police vehicle. They are either shooed away or arrested. What I suggest is that you put a "Restricted Area" sign there. Speaking of frauditors, one of the most notorious of them, AssElmo, what a name, he is on the run. He has a bench warrant for failure to appear in Arizona. He fled the country to, get this, Saipan. That's 7000 miles away. This is the kind of money these criminals make with their YouTube. I see we still do not have an executive order protecting the City from them. I'll just hang out and see what you all have to say.

The Mayor asked if anyone else wished to address the board in the Public Portion.

Alderman McPherson: Mayor, I would like to respond regarding the lights.

Mayor Lauretti: No. We are not going to respond right now. We can do it after the meeting or he can call City Hall during the day to get an answer.

Hearing none, we are closing the public portion. We have one item to add on to the agenda.

Alderman Anglace: To add to the agenda is item 8.5 Agreement with EBM IT Solutions.

Seconded by Alderman McPherson.

No discussion.

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

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

**1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 14, 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 the December 14, 2023 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

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**

Mayor Lauretti: I have no report. I will do that during the course of the agenda.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Alderman Anglace: I have no report at this time. I would like to ask Mr. Bloom if he would stay through the meeting. When we discuss the monument he will get the answer that he sought.

**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 \$8,283.74 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 (7-0).

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

## 8.2 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR END TRANSACTIONS

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$4,509,118 to cover fiscal year 2022-2023 over-expenditures with funding to come from General Fund Surplus.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

### Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I want to give some explanations here. Some highlights. You should have a copy of the breakdown of the overages on the budget. It is pretty obvious that you can see Employee Resources, which is the health insurance, is over by \$1.4 million. A number that was never, ever anticipated, but we have been talking about this healthcare issue for the last couple of years and we will continue to have this discussion going forward. The other big item is the Board of Education budget which is over-expended by \$2.7 million. Of that \$2.7 million, I want to say that \$2.4 of that is healthcare and the other \$300,000 is Special Education. So, you can see that the lion's share of this \$4.5 million is in healthcare overages and Special Ed. Again, we have been talking about this through the budget process last year and it really didn't come as any surprise. I thought the Board of Education would do a little bit better. It has taken a long time to get to the bottom of things over there. I think the saving grace for the Board of Education is that they did make some personnel changes to the BOE that is going to improve things and certainly from a timeliness standpoint and a dollars and cents accuracy standpoint. You will see where it says bus 4020 account is overdrawn by \$237,000. That is the maintenance on the school bus parts. We didn't anticipate, but the fleet is getting a little bit older and again it is cheaper to put money into the equation to keep these buses around a little bit longer as opposed to buying brand new buses. We are going to be doing this in a couple of years anyway. I am hoping that sometime in the coming months we will have a proposal for the Board in terms of a Grant opportunity that will be a Cityshare for us for new buses that we will have to procure. The rest of it is pretty self-explanatory. \$32,000 over the elections that was anticipated. None of the stuff comes as any surprise. You should know that on the City side, there is probably some \$4.5 million of unspent money that will reimburse the general fund and that will net itself up. This is the simplest and easiest way for people to understand what we did. The big fly in the ointment here with our budget is health insurance. As you have heard me say before, in my 32 years, we have never experienced anything like this before. I wish I had a better answer for you, but that is the answer and hopefully we are going to be making some changes that will help remedy the healthcare issue. Any questions?

Alderman Anglace: I am looking for an explanation of the miscellaneous line. Can you give us a breakdown of that? Can you get us a breakdown of where the miscellaneous \$53,800 came from?

Mayor Lauretti: I will have the clerk forward you a copy. That is all done in Finance. Any other questions?

Alderman Anglace: Specifically what is happening with the health insurance and the cooperation between the City and Board of Ed? We would like to see that cooperation that was established last year to continue. The City representatives and the Board of Ed are on a meeting basis, talking basis, one on one and see what has to be done to address the situation because it is really not turning around.

Mayor Lauretti: It is not turning around yet. I will say that the City numbers are starting to make a comeback. Starting to get a little more normalcy. I can't say that for the Board of Education. They have different circumstances than the City does. We are probably in a better position to be able to make changes that will remedy this going forward, but with the Board of Education it is going to be a lot slower because of their contract obligations. We did have a meeting yesterday with the Board of Ed personnel in my office to discuss possible changes and just getting a better understanding of what is driving these exorbitant costs. Any other questions?

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

### 8.3 FUNDING FOR WAR ON TERROR MONUMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$26,790 for the War on Terror Monument to be installed at the Riverwalk with funding to come from the American Rescue Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Let me say that to be installed at the Riverwalk – it is not the Riverwalk. It is the Veteran's Memorial Park is where it is going to be installed. We continue to have difficulty with getting people to change bad habits and those bad habits are calling it the "slab", calling it the "Riverwalk" and calling it everything but what it deserves to be called and that is "Veteran's Memorial Park". So, anything you can do, any time you can do it, mention this so we get it across to people that it is the Veteran's Memorial Park.

I also want to explain, the pictures of the monument here (which will be given to Mr. Bloom), the Veteran's Memorial Committee have approved all this. The sole source provider is Rovelli Monuments. The monument - this represents, this \$26,000 represents two of the three payments. The final payment is \$13,394 and will be paid after it is set at Veteran's Memorial Park. The total cost of the monument was \$40,000.

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

**8.4 CITY OF SHELTON EASEMENTS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve a Grant of Easements between the City of Shelton and United Illuminating relative to the properties listed below, subject to a favorable 8-24 referral by Planning & Zoning.

- 1. DA 6000 - \$14,390
- 2. DA 6001 - \$65,573
- 3. DA 6014 - \$ 8,925
- 4. DA 6044 - \$34,327
- 5. DA 6048 - \$55,386
- 6. DA 6054 - \$60,816

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

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: For discussion purposes, this whole easement issue was discussed at the Board, I want to say maybe a year ago or a little bit longer, when UI had to replace the 100-year-old stanchions that carried the power lines that go through Shelton and eventually across the Housatonic River into Derby and Oxford and beyond. We allowed them to access across City properties. They met with me, I want to say 6-8 months ago, to discuss a more permanent easement and I didn't see any reason not to do it, I think it made sense. We rely on having power and you have to allow the utilities to be able to access the power. I think we have established a pretty good relationship with our Trails interaction and the utility.

Alderman Anglace: Obviously this is a necessary public service that must be met. They have to get in and do things. I reached out and asked the Trails Committee, this Board gave the Trails Committee an upgraded status so that they would be an effective body to discuss things with UI and they have been doing a great job of it. Bill Dyer came in and picked up the data and reviewed it, I imagine with some other people from Conservation and Trails and he came back this morning and gave me a statement that I would like to read into the record.

John, each of these parcels is owned by the City of Shelton with the land use listed as residential vacant land, which we would refer to as Open Space. I am told that that is not accurate in that it isn't really Open Space. It has to be designated Open Space before it is open space. Just vacant land does not make it Open Space. The only parcel, DA 6000, that impacts the Shelton Trails Network, but in a minor way, but no impact on hikers. About 70 feet off North Constitution, the Paugussett Trail, uses the hall road that UI will need to access their towers. The trail then heads into the woods. The area is very open and will do with excellent site lines, posing no problems for hikers. As custodians of the Open Space, the Conservation Trails Committee and the Natural Resource Officer will need to monitor the impacts and

verify the land restoration after the project is complete. They are going to continue to do their due diligence. I take from that there are no serious reservations about this action from the Trails and Conservation.

I would also like to tell you that Conservation would like us to consider that the proceeds from this, consider that they be put into the Open Space Trust Account. I don't know if you want to do that or not, but I certainly wanted to mention it so that you know their feelings. As it was pointed out to me, that is a decision that is up to the Board of Aldermen. There is nothing wrong from a Conservation point of view that I can see that I was made aware of, so it is good news.

Alderman Balamaci: I just wondered, Mayor, did the UI tell us what their future proposed use would be? I know they are willing to pay.

Mayor Lauretti: Just access.

Alderman Balamaci: Just access. Not doing anything.

Alderman Anglace: If they do something that improves the use and results in higher return and value to us, then we should monitor that.

Alderman Simonetti: There was an issue at one point where they were actually blocking the vision of a house with these new poles. In fact, they were to put in two, but they put in three and the person, for real estate reference, the house is now work about \$35,000 less. When they were doing this and Jason and I and several other people were trying to see if they could move the pole one way or the other, they said they would, but then they just didn't do it. They told me that the power that these lines carry does not help Connecticut or Shelton in any way, shape or form, it is going to New York. Just so you know. They are much bigger poles, much higher.

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

**8.5 AGREEMENT WITH EBM IT SOLUTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the proposal and Master Services agreement between the City of Shelton and EBM IT Solutions Provider for software technology services at the Police Department.

Further, authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement subject to final review and approval of the Mayor and Corporation Counsel.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: The reason that it says at the end of the motion, subject to final review and approval of the Mayor and Corporation Counsel that the original proposal contains the agreement. The

agreement was extracted and made part of your packet so you could see it and read it. There are things in here that I think that if the Mayor and Corporation Counsel go through this carefully and feel that any further changes are necessary, we authorize that as part of this motion without them having to come back to us.

Alderman Simonetti: Is this replacing another system or is this a whole new complete system?

Mayor Lauretti: It is not a system. It is a service to maintain the existing system. It was done by an employee who worked for us who no longer works for us.

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

**9 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW**

**9.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING**

**9.1A CONTINUATION OF PRESENTATION & SELECTION OF OFFICIAL FLAG OF CITY OF SHELTON**

*Note: Please refer to July 25, 2023 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes at [www.cityofshelton.org](http://www.cityofshelton.org) as backup.*

Alderman Anglace: It is my understanding that we have to reconvene the public hearing and that will be done on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. At that public hearing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, there will be proposals of what they have. We did show this the last time, the proposals of what they came up with were all displayed. You can see them there. You can come in and give final comments and the Board of Aldermen subcommittee will come up with a recommendation for the Board.

**9.2 ACCEPTANCE OF PLANNING & ZONING REPORT ON TRAINING COMPLIANCE**

Mayor Lauretti: There is really no action for the Board to take here, it is just a notification.

Alderman Anglace: Do they want us to accept it?

Mayor Lauretti: You don't have to, you have it. He forwarded it to you on his stationery.

**10 - EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10.A. REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10.1 NO ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman McPherson MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

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