



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SHELTON
SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2026
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
Live Streamed at www.cityofshelton.org

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 Bernard Simons, Vice President – Present via Zoom
Alderman Lorenzo Durante – Present
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present
Alderman Bryan Lizotte – Present
Alderman Michael Duncan – 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
Grace Zweig, Finance Director
Ray O'Leary, Treasurer

ALS AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

In Honor of ALS Awareness Month

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive and fatal neurodegenerative disease that gradually robs individuals of the ability to walk, talk, eat, and breathe; and

WHEREAS, thousands of new ALS cases are diagnosed each year, with someone diagnosed and someone lost to the disease approximately every 90 minutes; and

WHEREAS, most people diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years after diagnosis, and there is currently no known cure; and

WHEREAS, military veterans are at a greater risk of developing and dying from ALS; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the ALS Association continue to advance research and support efforts to improve quality of life and pursue a cure; and

WHEREAS, ALS Awareness Month serves to raise public awareness, honor those affected by the disease, and encourage support for research and advocacy efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor of the City of Shelton, do hereby proclaim the month of May as ALS Awareness Month in Shelton and call upon all

Americans to support ALS research, advocate for increased funding, and stand in solidarity with those affected by this devastating disease.

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

May 20, 2026
Shelton, CT

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor

1. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the following resolution:

Be it RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shelton, in accordance with Section 7.6 of the Charter, that the budget documents submitted by the Mayor on March 19, 2026 be amended and such budget as amended be adopted as the official budget and mill rate for the City of Shelton for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Revisions are as follows:

	MAYOR			BOA
MILL RATE	15.42			15.51
CHANGES TO MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET				
REVENUES	MAYOR	INCREASE	DECREASE	BOA
CURRENT LEVY	122,961,278.00	736,694.00	0.00	123,697,972.00
EDUCATION COST SHARING	8,905,756.00	356,230.00	0.00	9,261,986.00
MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT FUND	0	135,076.00	0.00	135,076.00
	131,867,034.00	1,228,000.00	0.00	133,095,034.00
EXPENDITURES				
BOARD OF EDUCATION	80,809,827.00	2,100,000.00	0.00	82,909,827.00
GROUP INSURANCE	5,500,000.00	0	(250,000.00)	5,250,000.00
LONG TERM DEBT	3,019,640.00	0	(562,840.00)	2,456,800.00
LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST	280,722.00	0	(92,689.00)	188,033.00
SCHOOL BUS PAYMENTS	600,000.00	0	(72,000.00)	528,000.00
FIRE TRUCK PAYMENTS	0	434,667.00	0.00	434,667.00
MOHEGAN SCHOOL ROOF PYMT	0	220,862.00	0.00	220,862.00
BUS PARTS & REPAIR	500,000.00	0	(100,000.00)	400,000.00
BOE SPED REG SCHOOL	300,000.00	0	(275,000.00)	25,000.00
CONTINGENCY - GENERAL	300,000.00	0	(175,000.00)	125,000.00
		2,755,529.00	(1,527,529.00)	92,538,189.00
Mill rate calculation:				
		Total Other Revenue	Total Expenditures	Current Levy Mill rate
		24,068,001.00	147,765,973.00	123,697,972.00
				15.51

Resulting in a total budget of \$147,765,973.00 for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. The mill rate shall be established at 15.51 mills, with a collection date for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be July 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027 for real estate; July 1, 2026 for personal property taxes less than \$5,000 and July 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027 for personal property taxes equal to or greater than \$5,000 and July 1, 2026 for the motor vehicle tax with the exception of those that carry their own collection date as determined by statute under motor vehicle supplement. Any tax under \$5 will be waived. Also, be it resolved that the Board of Aldermen accepts in principle the Capital Improvements Program as submitted.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: This budget season was not without its trying times for everyone. We hope we have learned from it and can share with you some dialogue to improve the process going forward. I will be direct and hope not to offend anyone as I make reference to specific situations. The original Board of Education budget request asking for over \$10 million in new money, more than a 12% increase, was an ill thought out wish list. It raised serious concerns among the budget-making authorities, especially the mayor, who responded with a no-increase Board of Education budget. Later, we were informed that the Board of Education had made a mistake. When asked for a revised budget, the fiscal authority was given information which caused more confusion. With so many people involved and in watching the budget making process, this confusion did not help. The unfortunate mistake misled everyone, but despite this mistake, there still were those who echoed fully fund education.

In all fairness to everyone concerned, both the Board of Education and the Mayor had to recommend the budget without knowing what the State share would be. This year, we had hoped for a greater share since we learned through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities that since 2013 the state had received some \$900 million in federal funding intended to be used by local school districts to cope with inflation costs. It was instead used by the State for other purposes. Not one penny of that money was used to assist local school districts to cope with inflation costs as intended. When the 2026 legislative session was completed, we learned that the State would limit Special Education Excess Cost Funding to 68% of the overage that we spent, thereby passing on another unfunded mandate to municipalities. Special Education cannot be accurately budgeted because you never know how many Special Education students will enroll in your district and what their needs may be or how much that will cost. That is why the State passed the Special Education law to begin with. Now the State has arbitrarily changed the rules and stuck us with another \$1.3 million annual bill. Is that fair? That is why we object, that is why we are opposed to this. It was done arbitrarily by those who want to balance the State budget at the expense of municipal taxpayers who have no say in the process.

The budget we are adopting tonight is a fair funding response to our total community needs. Total community. It provides a \$2.1 million dollars spending increase over last year for education and addresses the needs of senior citizens who are struggling to stay in their homes, deal with the property revaluation increases and other economic affordability costs. They cannot afford to pay more in taxes. The mill rate goes from 18.62 to 15.51. This mill rate reduction should help everyone meet their needs next year. We are committed to a City/Board of Education quarterly budget review process led by city treasurer, Ray O'Leary, who is a past Board of Education Chairman and bank examiner. We have had discussions with the superintendent and Mayor about this and applaud their support. We expect to promote a better understanding of the Board of Education budget and reduce the trauma associated the annual budget setting process.

I want to thank everybody who participated in the budget process this year and I want you to know that your participation did make a difference. Your comments were noted, they were recycled, they were repeated many times in many ways. You made a difference and I thank you, all of you. Thank you for coming.

Alderman Duncan: I would like to echo some of Mr. Anglace's comments. Just so you guys know, this was a tough budget season. You guys came out, made your opinions heard. We have all talked consistently. We worked really hard to come to a consensus with the budget. And if you guys know

the City Charter, what is in front of you today, depending on how procedurally it goes, it could default back. So, if you guys know how this works, in order to approve a budget, we need five of us to approve something, the Mayor can veto it and then six of us have to approve it. I just want you guys to understand that and how this can work out. So, there is a proposal from us for the Board of Education to increase by \$2.1 million. If five of us vote for that, the Mayor can veto it and then we need six of us to vote for it. And if we don't then it defaults back to the Mayor's budget which would be a zero increase. So, I just wanted to make you guys understand when we do vote what could potentially happen. But I would like to commend our aldermen. We did work together. We tried to come up the best possible budget and we did have tough discussions.

Alderman Anglace: I want you all to know that we did get the attention of the powers that be in the legislature. The Governor has already appointed a Commission on K-12 Education Funding Accountability and set the dates so that before the Connecticut legislature gets back together next year they will have their report. They are going to look at, especially as it is cited here, a special look at Special Education, and I hope they clearly define what ECS means, because there are two meanings to the acronym ECS, and it's hard to tell the difference apart, but they are going to reach out to people beyond our borders and going to make a comparison with other states, which is good, because other states allow a whole different law that controls Special Education and its funding. And I'm not promoting one way or the other for Special Ed, but I'm just saying that we can't do it locally. You can't budget locally and that's what the original intent of the law was to keep the municipalities whole by not putting us in a big hole deficit position every year. So, thank God they have moved on that already and we keep you abreast of it.

Alderman Duncan: Mr. Anglace, just to add to that, so I think you are aware of this, but it's not just a State issue, it's also a Federal issue. The Federal Government hasn't fully funded IDAF, Individuals with Disability Education Act, which was passed in 1975. On average they funded about 13% so it's not just a State issue, it is also not being Federally funded. It is just a trickle down.

Mayor Lauretti: You know that fact, it has always been that way, that is not new. What has changed is most of the State mandates. Burden of proof is one that is very damaging to local municipalities and if you know what burden of proof is, it falls on the back of the school system to be able to prove that someone doesn't need services. It is not like that in many other states around the country. There are a lot of factors that weigh into this thing. As you know, I have been at this for a number of years and I want to tell you something, this was not a tough budget for me. Maybe emotionally it was for some other people, but when you started out asking them for over \$9 million, I think you have some explaining to do. So, we started at zero. And I'm not sure that there were any appropriate explanations that were given. I didn't hear anything. I did listen to some of the budget meetings, and it was void of just a lot of facts that should have been presented. And when the Superintendent of Schools puts out a public comment about fact and myth about things that I said at my budget presentation that pertains to school spending, I have to tell him, and I know he is here tonight, that those were his numbers. We keep a running total of the statistics for the last 25 years. Everything that we used came from the Board of Education. Budget books, it came from the State of Connecticut which they have to report to, these facts and figures. So, I am not sure where the myth starts. It was a myth that I just transferred the myth publicly. I didn't make that up or pull that stuff out of the air. To me those are very concerning facts. When I got elected we had 6,600 kids in the school system. There are 4,400 today. We have the same school building footprint. That is a big expense. If we are worried about kids, our money should be focused on what goes on in the classroom. I can go on and on and on about a lot of things. Again, for me, I think I probably bring more to the table than just about anyone in this community only because I have been at it so long and I understand it. I understand how superintendents of schools over the years have managed money and how we are not managing today. We were asked to fund a Special Ed facility to cut some of the costs. Did you get any answers on that, how that is working out in year three? I don't think so. We stepped up big time with school transportation. We wound up in in court 5-6 years ago because the Board of Ed didn't want us to take it over. They wanted to pay a million and a half dollars of new money every year in that contract after we bought the buses. It made no sense. Have we not stabilized transportation costs? Those are the things that are important. All that extra funding should be going to the classroom. So, again I am not going to belabor the point but we have to take a hard look at some of these things; we at that point. It is all enrollment driven.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

2. PURCHASE OF BUSES FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the purchase of up to 15 buses for the Shelton Student Transportation Services.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I asked for this motion to read this way because I am not sure of the number that we are going to get. It takes months once you place an order for these things to be constructed and come in. There is funding in the budget that is set aside for up to 15 buses. I will keep the board apprised once I talk with our transportation supervisors down at Riverdale Avenue to see what we actually want to want to go out for. I think the approach here has to be to phase in the purchase of new buses. I think we in year 12 or 13, I not sure what it is when we bought the buses. We are at that point. We spent a lot of money on maintenance. We continue to do that because we have to, but it's probably time to start getting buses. For the benefit of everybody in the audience, two years ago we bought eight new buses back then and that has helped out with our transportation maintenance costs. We will come back with what we are actually going to purchase. Again, the money is in the budget, it will just be for information purposes.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

3. MAY STATUTORY REFUNDS

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$3,291.82 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 Simonetti.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

4. ADOPTION OF TAX COLLECTOR'S SUSPENSE LIST

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the Tax Collector's Suspense list in the amount of \$279,664.36 be adopted and transferred from the Grand Lists into Suspense per State Statute Sec. 12-165:

2014	\$ 293.38
2015	\$ 255.00
2016	\$ 155.03
2017	\$ 199.85
2018	\$30,920.14
2019	\$41,632.60
2020	\$56,481.91
2021	\$49,739.66
2022	\$71,100.88
2023	\$28,333.91
2024	\$ 552.00

TOTAL: \$279,664.36

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

5. FUNDING FOR ROAD REPAIRS

5.1 CORAM ROAD (GROVE STREET TO KNEEN STREET)

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add road repairs on Coram Road from Grove Street to Kneen Street (17,770 square yards) to the Capital Improvement Plan in an amount of \$435,000 with funding to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Kellie, did we get this squared away with OPM of the eligibility of LoCIP money? Fran, do you know?

Attorney Teodosio: Not yet.

Mayor Lauretti: The roads are paved with the understanding that this was going to be LoCIP eligible and we were told it might not be. It may be back here next month for a different appropriation. I am not sure.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

5.2 ISINGLASS ROAD (ROUTE 108 TO WAVERLY ROAD)

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add road repairs on Isinglass Road from Route 108 to Waverly Road (19,340 square yards) to the Capital Improvement Plan in an amount of \$475,000 with funding to come from LoCIP.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion: Same conditions as 5.1.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

6. FUNDING FOR INSTALLING A CONCRETE FLOOR COATING AT HUNTINGTON FIRE HOUSE GARAGE BAY

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$45,000 for the purchase and installation of epoxy for the floors of the Huntington Fire House garage bays with funding to come from bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: My understanding of epoxy is that it wears out so you are going to expect to get wear out spots on the floor. Have they looked into this?

Mayor Lauretti: They know that. We have been going through this for years with the firehouse floors, and this isn't the first time we've done this. Rather than resurface the entire floor, the entire concrete floor with some type of a grid, this is the quickest and cheapest way to go. And then the other thing

you have to deal with is if you are going to do that it can take months and what do you do with all the equipment that is sitting in the garage? It is not so simple.

Alderman Anglace: I'm not opposed to it, I'm just saying to make them aware.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

7. FUNDING FOR NEW BATHROOM PARTITIONS IN THE SENIOR CENTER MEN'S BATHROOM

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$3,420 for the purchase of new bathroom partitions for the men's bathroom at the Senior Center with funding to come from 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 (8-0).

8. PAVING OF CORAM AVENUE BRIDGE DECK (WAIVER OF BID)

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendation of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process for the paving of the Coram Avenue Bridge Deck.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: There is no funding necessary here because the funding is already in place.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AWARD

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the City of Shelton has been awarded the US HUD FY 2025 Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$181,656.00, and

Whereas, the City of Shelton accepted the grant at the June 23, 2025 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting; and

Whereas, the City of Shelton agreed to fund the upcoming activities including public service, public facilities and administration fees.

Now, therefore, the Board of Aldermen move to appropriate an amount of \$181,656.00 with funding coming from the General Fund Surplus to be reimbursed to the City of Shelton by the U.S. HUD.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: We basically do this every year.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

10. REALLOCATION OF DEEP GRANT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize the reallocation of the \$150,000 in Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant funds—originally approved at the August 8, 2024 Regular Meeting for the Shelton High School Football Field Scoreboard—to be redirected and applied toward the installation of the new multipurpose turf field project.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: The intention here is to get the soccer field at the high school underway with the turf or we are going to lose that grant. That is a priority right now. We are looking at other funding for the scoreboard which Jason Neves, who sits on the Board of Education, is working pretty hard to make that happen as he and Bernie Simons work to get this field renovation in motion as well.

Alderman Simonetti: They are working right now to make sure we have the infrastructure of the electrical for field lights for the future and also to make sure we have the power to have a small building there to keep maintenance equipment in, etc. also.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

11. REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Lauretti: At this time, I am going to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session and ask that Corporation Counsel and Assistant Corporation Counsel join us as well as the administrative assistants.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to go into Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0)

Executive Session began at 6:03 pm.

Mayor Lauretti: At this time, I will entertain a motion to end Executive Session.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to end Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Executive Session ended at 6:08 pm.

Mayor Lauretti: Let the record reflect that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

11.1 DEBRUM WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the recommendation from Assistant Corporation Counsel, Thomas Galvin Cotter, to resolve all Workers' Compensation claims as discussed in Executive Session.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (8-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting. Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____ BY: _____
Mayor Mark A. Laretti

