



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SHELTON
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
Live Streamed at www.cityofshelton.org

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Laretti 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 – Absent
Alderman Cris Balamaci – Present
Alderman Lorenzo Durante – Present
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present

Administration

Mayor Mark A. Laretti
Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel – Present
Kellie Vazzano, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor

PROCLAMATION FOR RICHIE CURRY FOR HIS LIFESAVING ACTIONS

Mayor Laretti: We have a special presentation for a very brave young citizen of our City that did an extremely noble act. I am going to present this proclamation to Richie Curry on behalf of the City.

I think everyone on the Board of Aldermen is familiar with what I am talking about in terms of Richie Curry. He was driving home one night through one of our neighborhoods and noticed that there was a house that was on fire. He had the presence of mind to stop and assess things, to understand that there was no fire service on the scene at the time, but en route. In the meantime, he aggressively knocked on the door and called to attention to the people who were inside sleeping and averted a potential catastrophic situation. If you think they don't happen, just listen to the news and you will see that these things happen every day in real life. When citizens take things into their own hands, we usually get a pretty good result. Richie, we wanted to commend you for your bravery and your presence of mind and your ability to do public service. We have a proclamation for you.

We hereby recognize Richie Curry for his brave, heroic behavior on July 21, 2024. On the night of July 21st Richie was driving on Belle Lane when he noticed a home was on fire. He stopped his car and relentlessly knocked on the door to alert the residents, Tom and Kathy Wojcek. The couple awoke and were able to safely exit the home. Richie's brave action saved the lives of Thomas and Kathy for which the Wojcek family, as well as the City of Shelton, are especially grateful. Richie, congratulations.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Laretti asked if anyone wished to address the board.

Jerry Bloom

24 Fairfield Avenue
Shelton, CT

Good afternoon. Well, you did good. You got the flag up on the flagpole at Constitution Park. It only took two months. The paving of the Riverview Park playground and road is still yet to be done. We are approaching autumn. Also, when I voted in the Republican primary, I learned, I should have known this before, but proof of citizenship is not required in this State to vote. All they ask for is a driver's license. The State has issued hundreds of thousands of driver's licenses to illegal aliens in this State. Two years ago I called the DMV and asked them to just give me a number of how many non-citizens Connecticut has issued driver's licenses too. I was informed that it would take some time and would cost several hundred dollars. So next time you are all stuck in traffic, that is probably one of the reasons.

Also, we all get these postcards. Kelly, Perillo telling us what a great job they are doing in Hartford for us. They gave us their phone number to contact them. For the past month I have been leaving multiple messages to Senator Kelly and Jason Perillo. They are ignoring me. With the issues we have in this State, there is no mention of taking Connecticut out of the sanctuary city classification. That probably explains why I am seeing a lot of people I have not seen in town since I have been here over 20 years.

The War on Terror Monument. I went down there this afternoon and I sat there on the bench next to a Korean War veteran in his wheelchair and I pointed out the dates on these monuments. The War on Terror Monument 2001-2021. I asked him if that war was over. He agreed with me that it is not. As long as we have this ongoing invasion, our enemies are plotting against us. Recently the director of the FBI before congress acknowledged that the Director of National Security is essentially saying yes the red lights are flashing. Also, the WWI Memorial went from 1917-1918. WWI began in 1914. The United States entered WWI in 1917. The WWII Memorial states that we entered WWII in 1941 when in fact WWII began in 1939. As for the Korean War Monument which began in 1950 and it has it listed as 1953 ending, we are still at war with North Korea. We never signed an armistice with them. You may want to correct that.

I was surprised to see you want to buy the Fire Marshal a new truck for \$87 grand. I have seen his truck. It is shiny. It looks brand new to me. And with the money you are spending on the monuments I think

it could be better spent, i.e. on the Board of Ed where the classrooms are overstaffed. I know the big sticking issue is the health insurance. Yes it is, but children learn a lot faster when they are not crowded into a classroom and it is a lot less stressful for the teachers as well.

Also, Mayor Lauretti you have yet to issue any kind of protection to protect us from the frauditors which I keep bitching about and they keep growing. There are new frauditors on YouTube every day doing outrageous stuff. I keep saying they are coming.

Thomas Harbinson
15 Soundcrest Drive
Shelton, CT

I just wanted to bring to your attention and give acknowledgment to some of the Trails volunteers. When we had that microburst back in early August there were a lot of volunteers from the City, the fire departments and contractors to bring things back to a state of order. They did a tremendous amount of work on our trails that some might not be aware of. We do add up all of our hours for volunteerism and just in chainsaw work alone was 127 hours during the month of August.

I just want to call out and thank publicly Mark Vollaro, Ray Hansen, Ellen Cramp, Luis Isaza, Bill Dyer, Terry Gallagher and Theresa Gallagher. There is a blog entry on our Shelton Trails Blog that identifies them all and the hours they spent. Their training with the Connecticut Sports and Parks Association to do this safely and back in 2002 the Stihl Corporation on Forest Parkway did a training exercise with them and other people in the community to learn how to do chainsaw work safely and the Stihl Corporation donated some equipment to us with chaps and safety helmets and so on. That investment so many years ago has really paid off in spades with the regular work they do, never mind the storm work. With that thought of investing into the future, we do have two vacancies on our commission and I would hope that they can be filled soon. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anyone else to speak. Hearing none, Mayor Lauretti closed the public portion.

We do have an add on to the agenda.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add to the agenda 9.2 The Appointment to the Public Improvement Building Committee.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

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 – AUGUST 8, 2024

1.2 BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 26, 2024

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

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Special Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024 and to make the following amendment to the August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

8.10 CT DEEP ARPA FORMS – FOOTBALL FIELD SCOREBOARD AND SOCCER FIELD

Where it says - Be it resolved, that the City of Shelton may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary to *appropriate* – I want to change “appropriate” to **apply** for the grants as listed in the motion.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken on the minutes as amended 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 at this point.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Alderman Anglace: Briefly, I wanted to pick up where Mr. Harbinson left off and recognize the members of the Trails Committee who did an outstanding job plus all the other people in conjunction with the last storm, both paid workers and volunteers who went out and did a heck of a job cleaning up and getting things back to normal real fast. We should recognize the people stepping up and doing something good for the community. Well done, we appreciate it.

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 SEPTEMBER STATUTORY REFUNDS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$16,583.07 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 (7-0).

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

8.2 FUNDING FOR HVAC REPAIRS AT BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDINGS

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$4,580.60 to purchase refrigerant cylinders for heating, ventilating and air conditioning repairs at Board of Education buildings with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: Instead of appropriating the full amount for capital projects, we are going to do them as they come in. This is one of them.

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

8.3 FUNDING FOR FIRE HYDRANT REPAIR AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$22,678.00 for fire hydrant repair at Shelton High School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman McKinnon: I was curious about this one and the next item, were they vandalized or was there an inspection that showed they needed this repair? How did this come about?

Mayor Lauretti: I'm not sure. It says there is a report of a broken fire hydrant at Shelton High School.

Alderman Anglace: It is a sole source provider.

Mayor Lauretti: I'm not sure it is the sole source provider. We have to replace hydrants from time to time. They are contracted to do this work.

Alderman Anglace: We can always ask John Calhoun, the department head, if this is a sole source provider and what the issue is.

Mayor Lauretti: If it is, I don't know that it requires a waiver of bid.

Alderman McKinnon: It does say in the quote that Johnson Controls is the sole service provider based on a service contract.

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

Mayor Lauretti: We use service contracts all the time. Those are mostly for emergency situations. As you recall, when we had the big storm in August I asked for a waiver of bid for emergency services. It is a good point to bring to their attention.

8.4 FUNDING FOR REPAIR OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION AT BOOTH HILL SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$10,295.25 for the repair of fire department connection for water hookup into Booth Hill School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: Point out this one to John Calhoun as well.

Mayor Lauretti: Both are in the same category. I can withhold until I get a response from him.

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

8.5 FUNDING FOR WAR ON TERROR MONUMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add the purchase and installation of the War on Terror Monument at Veteran's Memorial Park to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$13,394.00 to come from LoCIP.

Further, add the installation of brick pavers and site work surrounding the War on Terror Monument to the Capital Improvement Plan with funding in an amount of \$14,340.00 to come from LoCIP.

The total of the two of them comes to \$27,734.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: For the Board's edification we spent \$75,424.00 on this upgrade at the Veteran's War Memorial. I think we should be at the end of it now.

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

8.6 FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF NEW EMERGENCY VEHICLE FOR FIRE MARSHAL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$54,354.42 for the purchase of a new fire vehicle for the Fire Marshal and,

Further appropriate an amount of \$32,185.67 for the outfitting of the fire vehicle with emergency equipment (lights, sirens, technical equipment) for a total amount of \$86,540.09 with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I had the clerk break this out into two portions. When we bought the vehicle many years ago, he kept the old equipment, the old lights, the old radios, etc. I didn't want to give people the impression that we were spending \$86,000 on a vehicle which we are not. The vehicle that the Fire Marshal has will remain in service. There will be some work done to it. It is pretty well maintained over the years. There are a lot of miles on it and it will probably go to Building Maintenance or Parks and Rec because there is always a need for that type of vehicle. It is a pickup truck.

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

Alderman Anglace: There is a difference between the bid price and the purchase price that we are approving of \$312.62. I would just call it to your attention.

Mayor Lauretti: That is something Finance will have to work out.

8.7 FUNDING FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$18,452.83 for overages incurred for Board of Education maintenance items during the 2023-2024 fiscal year with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: If you go back to the minutes last year when we did the appropriation, I had called to their attention that they were over. That fell on deaf ears and lo and behold they went over. The \$18,000 that they are over will be part of this year's appropriation that they get.

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

9 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW

9.1 ITEMS TO PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 NO ITEMS

9.2 APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appoint Ben Perry, 80 Perry Hill Road, Shelton, to the Public Improvement Building Committee effective immediately.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Alderman Anglace: Does the Charter limit or restrict the aldermen from serving?

Mayor Lauretti: No.

No discussion.

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

10 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.A. 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 to join us as well as the Administrative Assistant.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to go into Executive Session at 5:55 p.m.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

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

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

Alderman Anglace MOVED to end Executive Session at 6 p.m.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

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

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

10.1 MERION SHELTON, LP TAX APPEAL

Mayor Lauretti: Counselor, if you would offer a motion for the executive session item above.

Attorney Teodosio suggested that an appropriate motion would be to reduce the fair market value of the subject property known as 185 Canal Street, Shelton, Connecticut, Parcel ID 12/19, Map/Block/Lot # 129/19, as recorded in Book 3930, Page 116 of the Shelton Land Records from \$62,991,500.00 to \$62,691,500.00 for the Grand List Years of October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2025.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to accept the above motion as stated.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Seconded by Alderman Simons.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____

BY: _____

Mayor Mark A. Laretti