



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

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 (arrived at 5:50)
Alderman Cris Balamaci – Present
Alderman Lorenzo Durante – Present via Zoom
Alderman Porter McKinnon – Absent
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – Present
Alderman Bernie Simons – Present
Alderman Benjamin Perry – Present

Administration

Mayor Mark A. Lauretti
Fran Teodosio, Corporation Counsel
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.

Margaret Paulson
64 Sunset Drive, Shelton, CT

I have been an advocate for the Ivy Brook Greenway for quite a while. I want to introduce and talk a little bit about it. I am going to introduce a petition that over 290 people signed to persuade you, the City of Shelton, to designate the Ivy Brook Greenway as a municipal park. The Ivy Brook Greenway and the site on the left-hand side going down Constitution from Route 8 to River Road are the headwaters

of the Ivy Brook. Currently, since '85 I have been an advocate for preserving the open space in and around the Ivy Brook.

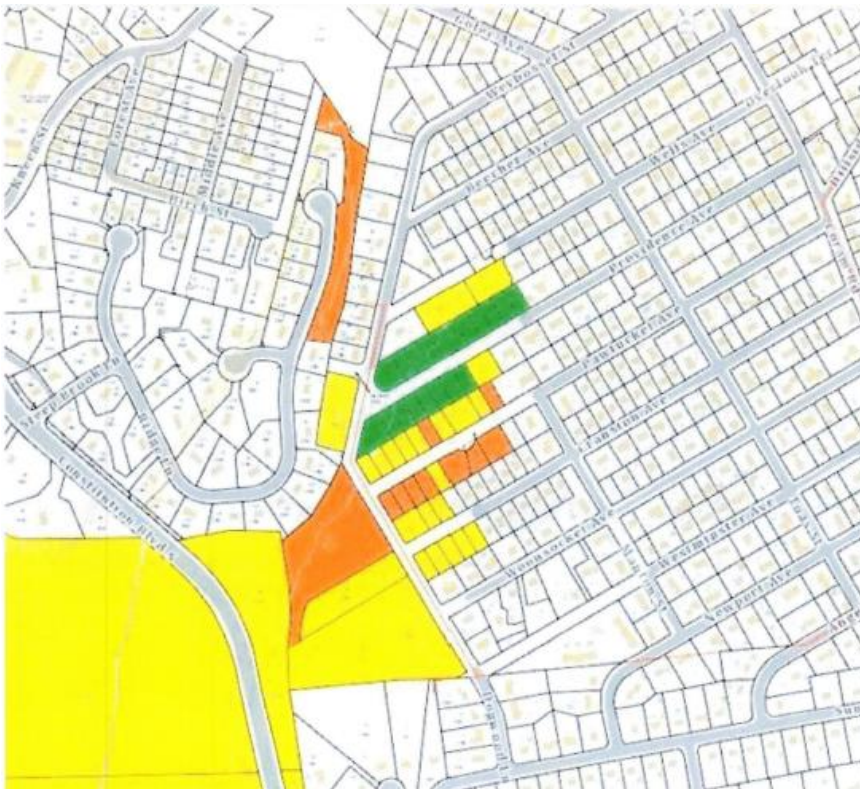
We bought our house from Chris Bargas who created this area. At the time there was no Planning and Zoning back in 1985 and the aldermen determined that the unbuilt lots were non-conforming and did not want the headwaters of the Ivy Brook built upon. Now there is a plan before the P&Z called 24-33, 24-18, and 24-19. Eventually the guy wants to come in and build 23 houses on about four acres of land in the greenway. It will do irreparable harm with the run-off from pesticides and fertilizers and litter. I know how damaging pesticides can be. My neighbor has used True Green for 30 years and has killed my 250-year-old red oak tree. It was only dead on her side.

In addition to polluting the headwaters, the run-off will impact fish in the river, the Housatonic River and will reach the sound. The development in this area would require blasting, endangering the neighborhood wells and septic systems and disrupting the resident deer, fox, coyote population that inhabit it.

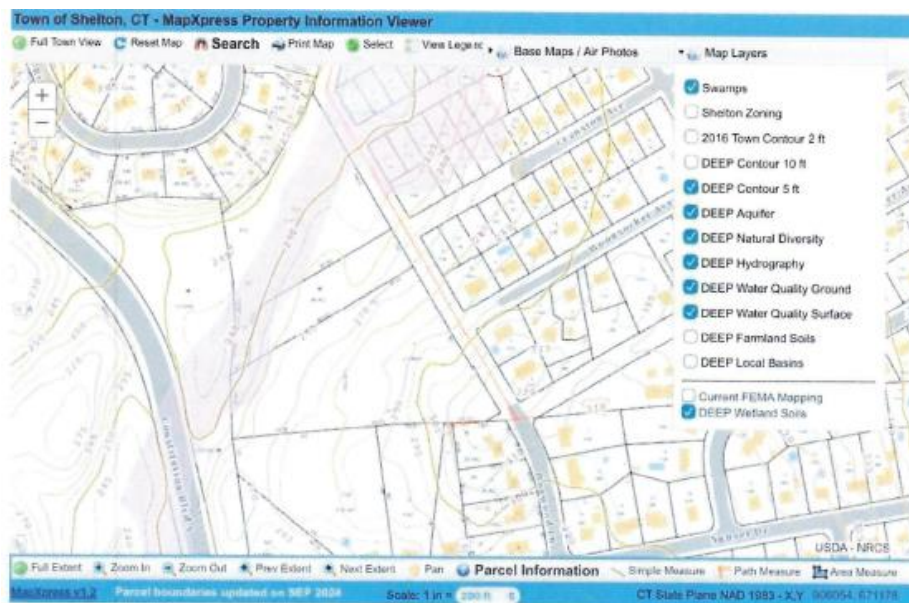
This area has a long history. In the 1700s it was an Indian reservation and the first parish in Shelton. There is still a 2000-year-old Indian rock shelter in this area. Area kids have always played in the woods including the Mayor. Sometimes they meet at the big rock located by the end of Woonsocket behind the Flynn's house on Sunset. The small lot sizes were created from garden plots that were tended by the City workers in the 30s and 40s. Hence the name Coram Gardens. This is the last buffer between Route 8, Bridgeport Avenue, downtown, Constitution and now that Constitution is going to continue to go up, we are going to get increased traffic, increased trucks and it is a very important buffer to keep that pollution down. I always enjoyed getting off the old 13, now the new 11 and going down Constitution and you could smell the fresh air created by this buffer. It absorbs carbon monoxide and light pollution as well.

Right now we own 85 feet of Constitution Boulevard South on the corner of Plaskon and we own an acre there. From my house, an acre away, I can see all the light pollution between the trees now because of the lights. The front of the house is fine, it is all dark and you can see the stars, but with light pollution, that takes away from our children.

There are a few regulations protecting the Ivy Brook, but fall short. Inlands and Wetland regulations, Appendix A, #3 states all septic systems, leaching fields and construction must be kept 75 feet of the Ivy Brook. It does not stipulate watershed. If it was the watershed, then that would be more of a buffer. Right now the Inland/Wetlands is at 6 discussing this very project. I have witnessed the Ivy Brook for the last 100-year flood and it turns into raging rapids that go far beyond the buffer. I brought you some maps to look at describing the buffer. On page 2 is a map. All the green areas are Shelton Land Trust. The Orange areas of City of Shelton and the yellow area, the three large areas are where the proposed development is going to go. I would like the City to intervene in some sort and declare endangered Woodland/Wetland if that could be done. There are a number of projects that could fund this endeavor. On the second page with the DEEP Grants, there is a newer WW2 initiative the protects tributaries of Long Island Sound. There is also a possibility of selling carbon offsets which is a reoccurring yearly income.



The last map is the GIS flood plan. His development would basically destroy the wetlands. I am imploring the City of Shelton to intervene in any way they can possibly do to preserve this area. Thank you.



Mayor Lauretti: I would offer you one suggestion. If and when this comes before the Wetlands Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission, that you ask them to do those studies. Those would be the appropriate Boards to make that request and they have the authority to do that.

Jerry Bloom
24 Fairfield Avenue, Shelton, CT

Good afternoon all. In looking at the itinerary for tonight, the thing that sticks out in my eyes here is you want to purchase a new dump truck for the City. I've seen your dump trucks on the road. They seem to be working fine. I don't know why the City thinks it needs another dump truck.

I'd like to remind you all and Mayor Lauretti to please not have Santa Claus riding in the firetruck with them this year with lights and sirens. I don't mind that he throws candy out, with everyone watching, waving happily, but please don't use the lights and sirens. I guess we are going to skip the roll call as usual.

We have a letter from July of last summer that Alderman McPherson sent me and I read it into the record last month on how the Mayor and Highway and Bridges have assured that the issue on the list will be addressed. It is December. There is no work done on the road at Riverview Park. Although it seems that Shelton has plenty of asphalt. Two days ago it was paving Coram Road. Didn't need it, there was asphalt down there already. But that's what you all did.

Also, please, in lieu of the lack of an executive order which I have been requesting Mayor Lauretti to execute similar to the one in Schenectady, New York, I am assuming you haven't done that yet and probably never will, I am encouraging to at least posting at the entrances of City Hall that it is a limited public forum to ensure that the frauditors don't have their ways. Speaking of which, Apopka, Florida has passed a new ordinance affecting frauditors. They are taking action against them. It is only 24 minutes long and you can look it up on the YouTube internet. Lucid Dream, is what she calls herself. She's pretty good. Also, Sean Paul Reyes, AKA Long Island Audit, he is one of the most notorious of the frauditors out there. Recently he was surprised as he entered a government building to do what he calls an audit. He was surprised to see his mug shot posted at the reception desk with orders banning him from the facility. This is how notorious this guy is. He didn't like that. He also has another court date coming up for trespassing again. On the good side of all of this, though, there was AssElmo, Enrique, did his usual schtick going to a Post Office, sticking his camera in someone's face and pissing them off. He did this to a woman female fighter. She makes a living in the octagon and she slapped the phone away from her face. He then stalked her out of the Post Office, down the street and then she did something, the most awesome thing I have ever seen a woman do besides give birth – if you want to know, look it up. It is 17 minutes long on Frauditor Troll. It really blew me away.

Also, next month we have our new President coming in again. I am wondering, Mayor, if you would please instruct the Shelton PD to assist ICE in rounding up the illegal aliens here in town. Also do we have that new City flag? I don't see it anywhere. Thank you.

Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anyone else wishing to address the Board. Hearing none, the Public Portion is closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 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 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0)

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.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Alderman Anglace: I have no report at this time.

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 DECEMBER STATUTORY REFUNDS**

Alderman Anglace MOVED that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$16,571.06 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 (6-0).

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

Alderman Anglace MOVED to add to the agenda:

8.8 FUNDING FOR PURCHASE & REPAIR OF TRUCKS FOR HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES and

8.9 FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF PARTS FOR HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES EQUIPMENT

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.2 FUNDING REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AWARD

Alderman Anglace MOVED –

Whereas, the City of Shelton has been awarded the US HUD FY 2024 Community Development Block Grant in an amount of \$191,032, and

Whereas, the City of Shelton accepted the grant at the June 13, 2024 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 \$191,032 with funding to come from General Fund Surplus to be reimbursed to the City of Shelton by US HUD.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

No discussion.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8.3 FUNDING FOR BUS PARTS FOR SHELTON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$391,476 for bus parts for Shelton Student Transportation Services with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Act.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I would note that this dollar amount also reflects inventory. Inventory would include two engines, two transmissions and also includes hardware for Tyler Tech which is the hardware and software that goes on the school buses that allows the bus drivers to communicate with the Board of Education and parents of the students they are transporting. It also includes a variety of other parts that we have procured and that we have installed as part of the maintenance program on our buses.

A voice vote was taken and motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Alderman McPherson entered the meeting.

8.4 FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF DUMP TRUCK FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendation of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process for the purchase of a mason dump truck for the Public Works Department, in an amount of \$73,000 with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: The actual price of the truck was \$67,000. We are anticipating that we are going to have to outfit it with a plow and a sander. I am not sure what the cost is going to be but will be somewhere in that neighborhood based on what we have done in the past. I also want to note that, you may remember this, the Board of Education requested \$50,000 to buy a new one of these trucks. I told them I wasn't going to do that because if anybody was going to get a new truck it was going to be the City Department that would utilize it just about every single day of the year, including snow plowing as opposed to someone who just wanted to use it for snowplowing and let it sit there the rest of the time because they really don't have a use for a truck like that. What I told them was that we would buy the new truck for our Public Works and Parks departments and we would send them one of our used

trucks that we are using now for their use for snowplowing if they wanted to contribute something towards our snowplowing efforts.

Alderman Simonetti: They snowplow their own?

Mayor Lauretti: No. Sometimes it is helpful in heavier snowstorms if they had a vehicle there. Most of the time, as you know, in the last couple of years, it is not. That is a roll of the dice. I am not going to be overly critical of that. I'm not going to push away help when we are having a tough time. Guys are working 30 hours straight.

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

8.5 FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR FIRE MAIN BREAK AT SHS AND WATER MAIN BREAK AT BOOTH HILL SCHOOL

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$18,839.82 for emergency services performed by Griffin Brothers Excavation for a fire main break repair at Shelton High School and a water main break repair at Booth Hill School with funding to come from aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: I would caution the Board that if any other requests come in for capital projects, we have already given them \$200,000 for miscellaneous projects and I'm not sure that they spent any of the money that was allocated in their budget for maintenance. We are halfway through, just an FYI. Just letting you know that someone is paying attention.

Alderman Simonetti: We don't have any kind of insurance for this?

Mayor Lauretti: No. I can't tell you the last time something like this happened. It happens but so far and few in between.

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

8.6 RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS UNSPENT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

Alderman Anglace MOVED to rescind previous unspent balance of American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Anglace: What was the unspent balance?

Mayor Lauretti: I would say somewhere in the neighborhood of \$350,000. It got reappropriated for things we are doing tonight. We have an obligation to expire all those funds by December 30th of this year.

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

8.7 FUNDING FOR NEW TURNOUT GEAR LOCKERS AT PINE ROCK PARK FIREHOUSE

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$17,322.50 for the purchase and installation of new turn out gear lockers at Pine Rock Park Firehouse with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Balamaci.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: That unspent balance is being spent on stuff like this.

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

8.8 FUNDING FOR PURCHASE & REPAIR OF TRUCKS FOR HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES

Alderman Anglace MOVED, per the recommendation of the Finance Director, to waive the bidding process for the purchase and repair of three plow trucks from the State of CT for the Highway & Bridges Department with funding in an amount of \$55,000 to come from American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: For discussion purposes, the note at the bottom is not correct where it says the total for the trucks is \$38,000. The total is somewhere around \$30,000. We are asking for a balance of \$25,000 to make any necessary repairs to this truck. As an example, if you go to the packet, you will see that the 2007 International is listed for \$3,000 to purchase. The State believes it has a bad motor in it or they are not sure and they don't want to spend any more money on repairing it. With discussion with Highways & Bridges, the body on the truck alone is worth probably about \$10,000 because it is a stainless-steel body, in fact maybe more. I don't see where we can get hurt. The frame is good on it, the body is good on it. It has a plow and sander that goes with it. That has a value far above \$3,000. If I spent \$15,000-\$20,000 to put a new motor in it – it is not like we drive these trucks 200-300 miles a day, with the exception of snowstorms, they are used around town, unlike State trucks where they are across the highways and racking up a lot of highway miles. I think this is a pretty good value. We have done this in the past; this is not new.

Alderman Simonetti: How many miles does the 2007 have on it?

Mayor Lauretti: I don't know.

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

8.9 FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF PARTS FOR HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES EQUIPMENT

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate an amount of \$26,478 for the replacement of parts for heavy duty equipment (excavators, payloader, backhoes and the beast) at the Highways & Bridges Department with funding to come from American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Mayor Lauretti: This will exhaust our appropriation of American Rescue Plan Funds. These are examples of what we are going to use the money on. It will even include the rehabilitation of some of our waste collection trucks that we pick up curbside MSW and recycling. This won't go very far, but it is going to serve a very quick purpose.

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 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appoint Guido Picarazzi to the Water Pollution Control Authority effective immediately.

Mr. Guido Picarazzi - U
24 Hawks Ridge Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
Email: guidojrpcicarazzi@icloud.com
Term: Expires December 13, 2025

Seconded by Alderman Simonetti.

Discussion:

Alderman Perry: How many people are on the WPCA, how many appointed positions?

Mayor Lauretti: I think there are seven. As an FYI, coming to this Board in January is discussion and possible revision or rescission of some of the ordinances that governs the WPCA that were set by the Board of Aldermen that were requested by the WPCA back in 2010. They are currently under review right now. We have some significant changes that we have to start paying attention to with the WPCA and that is what we are going to do.

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

10 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.A. REQUEST TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 NO ITEMS

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 (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Fonda

Donna Fonda
Acting Clerk, Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED _____ BY: _____
Mayor Mark A. Lauretti