



BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008

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***CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Aldermanic President John Anglace called the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to order at 7 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by, from Troop 735 in the Atlanta, Georgia Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Thomas and Michael Kennington.

***Roll Call***

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – present  
Alderman Lynne Farrell - present  
Alderman John "Jack" Finn – excused  
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present  
Alderman Kenneth Olin - present  
Alderman John P. Papa – present  
Alderman Jason Perillo - present  
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

Administration: Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous

There was a quorum present.

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***PRESENTATION – PERMANENT WAR MEMORIAL***

Alphonse Sabetta, past Commander and present Adjutant of Post 16 American Legion, and Co-Chairman of the Permanent War Memorial Commission, and Guy Beardsley were present.

Mr. Sabetta stated, we appeared before the Board about a month ago with a proposal for doing some work at the Permanent War Memorial building on upper Howe Avenue. The building is 50 years old. It was dedicated in 1956. It is in dire need of some good upkeep, and landscaping, to make it more presentable to our public and to ensure for it to be there for another 52-odd years for our future generations, so that the sacrifices that were made by the citizens of our fair city will never be forgotten. It is something that will add

to what our city has been striving for the last seven or eight years – beautification of our great city.

From what we gathered and what we've been hearing around the community, most people are in accord with this project we'd like to accomplish. This evening we come before you again to find out – you all have a copy of our proposed budget and to find out just how much assistance we can get from the city for the funding to accomplish this project.

A lot of people have questioned why we want to do a project like this and expend the money. My only answer is "for perpetuity." So that it's here for another 52 years. The families of those that made the sacrifice that are still with us will have something to keep that memory alive. It's something that they can visit and spend some time, because we're planning to have name plates with the person's rank and branch of service, honoring them, all 73, I believe there are, and to distinguish those that died in service regardless, as the monuments down at the Riverwalk are dedicated to those that were killed in action. There were some unfortunate service people that died either from wartime injuries or accidents while they were in service.

We want to do all of them – all four major wars and we thank God that with this present war that's going on in the Middle East that we have not lost any of our sons and daughters.

This is why we're here this evening, to find out if the city fathers are in accord with our proposal and if they will be willing to help us with the finances. From what I feel as a member of the commission, it is a city building, the city is responsible for it – for the whole area – and when it was first built in 1956 the veterans associations in the community approached the city and the city funded the project to put that memorial building up. We hope that the city will be as generous now as they were in 1956 to help us attain this. If there are any questions on the plans for the budget, Architect Jim Tate is here and would only be too glad to answer some questions. We thank you.

Alderman Simonetti asked, on the pavers, are those going to have the names on them? Where are the names going to be?

Mr. Sabetta replied, as you know, with any project, adjustments can be made. Right now we weren't looking to have the pavers inscribed. Like I said, many times in the past on any of these project, we are not a perfect world. There are so many other neighboring communities that have done that with advertising the family members wanted to buy a stone or brick and have it inscribed. I've never been a believer in having someone's name

engraved and then people walking over it. I don't think it's right, my own personal feeling, especially for a person that sacrificed their life for our country. Our original intent when this first came to fruition was to have a nice brass or bronze name plate with the service person's name, rank and branch of service. If you look at the plans, you'll see around the eagle monument it shows a space for benches. Also there is a wide band on either side of the square. The original intent was to have those as a raised flower bed with a decent width on the top of it and have the plated embedded in that. Perhaps there will be a flower bed beyond that, so that, you know we'll have families that visit the site now and some like to put their own flags there or put some plastic flowers or perhaps by having it arranged that way they could decorate for that one individual plate that's a family member. That would make them feel good to be able to do something in memory of their family member.

Alderman Simonetti stated, this request for \$74,792.20 is only for the outside, nothing for the inside at all?

Mr. Sabetta replied, we're getting comments made now that the building is 50 years old and it could use some attention, yes, granted. I think it survived very well for the 50 years. The construction that Cicarelli Brothers did was outstanding, but yes, I received some phone calls three or four years ago by some of the organizations that use the building for their meetings, that the roof leaked, that the furnace wasn't working. I passed that information along to City Hall and they replaced the furnace, repaired the roof. So over time there are some wooden structures that have to be replaced or addressed but because the building is brick and stone, again, it has withstood the elements very well. Perhaps if not along with this project but maybe in the next year or two, that could be addressed. The building is highly used and I feel it would be used even more, as much as it was used 25 or 30 years ago. Because of the fact that the pine trees have gotten so big they formed a canopy over that walkway and people have addressed that, that they are afraid to go there first because it's below the street level and secondly because it's constantly dark and even on a cloudy, dark day it's a little scary. Even though there's a lot of activity with the two ball fields. We would like everyone in the community to make use of this building. That is what it's there for and that's the best way to memorialize people that made sacrifice.

Alderman Papa stated, we should first worry about the outside, and maybe have a separate operation for the building. The building does need work.

Mr. Sabetta stated, if most of this project is done in-house there is a savings there too.

Alderman Papa stated, the point that Alderman Simonetti brought up, I know in Stratford they had a big dedication two or three years ago and they had the bricks that families would purchase, for \$100 a brick, and you could put down individual family members that were in the service, either alive or passed away, and they had a semi-circle all the way around this monument. It was a beautiful dedication. That is one way to also raise money for other things.

Mr. Sabetta stated, we did that with the Korean War Memorial at the New Haven Long Wharf. A lot of people were upset because, probably the quality of the brick, over a period of time about three years, it has not held up good. That is my own personal feeling, that it's not the right thing to do. I have a lot of respect for my brother veterans and those that made the sacrifice, and I don't feel that is the proper thing to do, to have people walk all over their names.

Alderman Anglace stated, with respect to the presentation materials you gave us prior to the meeting, we need two more copies for the aldermen, and I wonder if there is a way that the press can access copies of both the budget and the picture. This will provoke a lot of interest I'm sure. Can they contact somebody for that?

Mr. Tate replied, of course. We'll get you copies. The local paper just this week did a beautiful display with that graphic in it with a pretty comprehensive article that complimented the Honor Board volunteer effort that has already started, that pushed to get this whole effort started.

Alderman Anglace stated, thank you member of the committee for making the presentation and all the hard work that went into it. I'm sure that you know that most of us sitting up here are veterans and not that we're prejudiced, but it's the right thing to do as you recommend. The amount of money is not insurmountable. We have to figure out how much, where it's coming from, and then we'll go to work on it.

Mr. Sabetta stated, I'd just like to add one more aspect to this whole project. We all know that the city is going to be doing more work at the Riverwalk. If you look at the area where the Riverwalk is going to be extended, it comes close to the vicinity of the Permanent War Memorial. If you look at it, a little more open-eyed and take in the whole concept, the Riverwalk coming up to the park, coming through the park and returning to your automobile parked down at Canal Street, and walking back down Howe Avenue. The merchants are going to benefit by this. People are going to be able to have a nice walk, see something that's going to be beautified and the merchants are going to

benefit by people coming back down through Howe Avenue. No matter how large or how small the item may be, they may think that they need something to take home and they're going to stop in at one of the merchants and make a purchase. It's a little far fetched but if you're realistic about it, the whole community is going to benefit – the businesses and the citizens.

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***PUBLIC SESSION***

Alderman Anglace asked if any member of the public wished to address the Board.

*Donna Moylan*

I am the mother of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Stephen Moylan who, thank God, just recently returned from Iraq. Today I speak on behalf of all military, past and present, regarding the proposal for improvements to the Shelton War Memorial. As you all know, our military put their lives on the line every day for us. They are away from their families for months at a time and ask for nothing, absolutely nothing, in return. Simply because they ask for nothing, they should get whatever we can give to show our pride in them. I think that about sums it up. I don't think anything more needs to be said. I thank you for your time and consideration.

*Irving Steiner, 23 Partridge Lane*

As a member of the Blasting Ad Hoc Committee I am concerned over the fact that as a committee, last night, we could not get seven members of our committee together to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. City Counsel had stated that this is a requirement. My concerns now are whether this failure will impact on your deliberations and acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committee's report and blunt continued progress this evening. Granted, summer does interfere with member attendance. A seven member quorum requirement to approve minutes appears rather ridiculous to me, particularly when the number is based on a percentage of the total membership. One of the members of the committee has never attended a meeting from day one and could only have been removed as a member by the Board of Aldermen. Unfortunately, this was never done. At least one member has no voting rights and should not have been considered as part of the equation to determine the quorum size. Lastly, it seems ridiculous to include those members who were not present at the meeting that created the minutes to be approved. Having not been there, how could they possibly determine the accuracy of the minutes and approve them? They should have sent in a letter of refusal rather than be absent at the time that we were attempting to

gather a quorum. At least these three aspects should be looked at to determine if the quorum size requirement can be adjusted.

On a new subject, I would like to respond to recent comments made by Mayor Lauretti to the press regarding the recent fine and additional cost requirements levied against the City of Shelton for allowing an illegal bypass at the sewage treatment plant that allowed millions of gallons of untreated sewage to be dumped into the Housatonic in past years. His response should not have been that other municipalities do it so why single us out. The fact that other towns dump raw sewage does not legalize our dumping. The very existence of the bypass is illegal, whether there is dumping or not. The Mayor failed to even note any concerns he might have had of the health issues to our citizens who both swim in and eat fish from that river. As a result of the closing of the bypass, Shelton has set an example for other communities to follow, rather than being one of the towns eventually filling Long Island Sound up with sewage. I thank you.

Alderman Anglace stated, let the record show that Mayor Lauretti has arrived and is taking over the Chair.

Mayor Lauretti asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

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## ***AGENDA ITEMS***

### ***Minutes for Approval – Regular Meeting of June 12, 2008***

Alderman Anglace MOVED to waive the reading of and approve the following meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2008 with the following amendment: page 9, paragraph 1 where Alderman Anglace states....“The new budget number that will be reflected is \$102,177,513.” Let the record reflect that the sentence should read “The new budget number that will be reflected is \$108,589,493.” SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

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#### ***5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE***

No items presented.

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#### ***5.2 PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE***

No items presented.

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**5.3 STREET COMMITTEE**

No items presented.

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**REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

None presented.

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**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

None presented.

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**6 – LEGAL REPORT****6.1 Corporation Counsel Billing**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize a total payment of \$3,243.60 to Corporation Counsel Winnick, Vine, Welch, & Teodosio, LLC for services rendered per statement dated July 2, 2008 with funds to come from the following Legal Services Accounts:

Legal Fees	001-1900-411.30-03	\$2,206.30
Foreclosure Fees	001-1900-411.50-01	\$ 712.30
Court Costs	001-1900-411.80-84	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous Fees	001-1900-411.80-03	\$ 25.00

SECONDED by Alderman Papa. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

**6.2 Assistant Corporation Counsel Billing**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize a total payment of \$9,695 to Assistant Corporation Counsel Ramon Sous for services rendered per statement dated July 2, 2008 with funds to come from the Legal Fees Account 001-1900-411.30-03; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

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**7 LEGISLATIVE – OLD**

**7.1 Items from Public Hearing**

No items.

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**8 FINANCIAL BUSINESS – OLD**

**8.1 Huntington Development LLC. – 279 Soundview Avenue Funding**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to appropriate \$533,000 from Aldermanic bonding pursuant to Section 7.16 of the City Charter to be transferred to Open Space Ordinance Account #001-6100-414.80-58; and further,

MOVED to transfer a total of \$533,000 from the Open Space Ordinance Account #001-6100-414.80-58 to the Open Space Trust Account #202-0000-410-80.75, (pursuant to Ordinance #802) and authorize the Director of Finance to make the second payment of \$700,000 for the 279 Soundview Avenue property from this account; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

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**9 FINANCIAL BUSINESS – NEW**

**9.1 Request to Waive Bids for Servicing of Fire Department's Drager Air Packs**

Alderman Anglace MOVED to approve the waiver of bids, per the recommendation of the Acting Purchasing Agent, for the servicing of the Fire Department's Drager Air Packs – self-contained breathing apparatus; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

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**10 – LEGISLATIVE – NEW**

**10.1 Items to Public Hearing**

10.1 A. No items

***10.2 Completion of Phase 2 Environmental Study for Lot 24, Map 18  
for Location of Animal Shelter***

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize the completion of Phase II Environmental study for Lot 24, Map 18 for the location of the new Animal Shelter, and further, request the Animal Shelter Building Committee to go out for proposals; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej.

Alderman Simonetti stated, it says Phase II on one, and it says Phase III here. Is it II or III?

Mayor Lauretti replied, Phase II. Not Phase III. And the second thing is, it says, "further, request the Animal Shelter Building Committee to go out for proposals." They already did that. We've employed an environmental firm to do the Phase I. The logical thing is for them to just continue on with Phase II, because they have the background on the site. I don't think you have to authorize them to go out for proposals. Number one, anyone can go out for proposals. I want them to continue on with the current vendor that they're using. They went out for proposals and they selected a vendor who did the Phase I.

Alderman Anglace stated, well then we'd better authorize you to negotiate the costs.

Mayor Lauretti stated, for the Phase II. This will take another two months. I would delete the last part of the motion.

Alderman Anglace MOVED TO AMEND the motion by deleting the second part of the motion, "and further, request the Animal Shelter Building Committee to go out for proposals" and insert in its place, "Further, authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to negotiate price." SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 7-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 7-0:

AMENDED MOTION:

Alderman Anglace MOVED to authorize the completion of Phase II Environmental study for Lot 24, Map 18 for the location of the new Animal Shelter, and further, authorize Mayor Mark A. Lauretti to negotiate the price; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

***10.3 Blasting Policy Report presented by the Blasting Policy Ad Hoc Committee***

Alderman Perillo stated, Mayor, what I would recommend on this is that we pass on this for tonight, and that in conversation with Alderman Anglace earlier this evening, that next week we work to do a joint meeting of the Board of Aldermen and the Blasting Committee to make a presentation so that they can hear the presentation, the public can hear the presentation and then the Board of Aldermen can take action on acceptance of the report.

Alderman Anglace stated, and the Blasting Committee can approve the minutes, make the presentation, do it all in one night.

Mayor Lauretti stated, I would suggest we do that meeting in conjunction with another item that the Water Pollution Control Authority project needs to be finalized. Now, this is the closure of the rehab of the plant down on Riverdale Avenue and we're running at \$26,500 in interest a month. I want it to close this week but they couldn't get all of the paperwork at the DEP. Maybe we're not going to do it next week, maybe we're going to do it the week after.

Alderman Anglace stated, we were thinking about calling a meeting for Monday.

Mayor Lauretti stated, you don't have all the information.

Alderman Anglace stated, so we'll do two separate meetings. If you're not ready, we'll do our meeting and...

Alderman Papa interjected, there's not a rush for the blasting, right?

Alderman Perillo stated, no, there's not, but my sense from the committee is that they'd like to move forward and continue making progress.

Mayor Lauretti stated, one more week isn't going to hinder it. If you all want to come back for an extra meeting, the pleasure is yours. I don't think you need to do it to be honest with you.

Alderman Anglace stated, what we intended to do following this meeting was to poll the members of the Blasting Committee, see if they're available and if they are, get it over with as soon as possible and do a joint meeting. If we're talking, can he be ready the following Monday?

Mayor Lauretti stated, I'll have to check with DEP tomorrow. It's a question of getting paperwork to them and them approving it, so we can authorize the final, to go to final bond.

Alderman Anglace stated, we may have to call a special meeting as soon as you're ready so that we cut off the interest, that would be fine.

Mayor Lauretti stated, I also recognize that this is July, it's the biggest vacation month of the year and people are not around. I'm trying to cut down the amount of meetings that we're having.

Alderman Perillo stated, as a point of interest for the Board of Aldermen, on September 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a hearing in Hartford on proposed changes to State regulations that pertain to blasting. As Alderman Anglace knows the Blasting Committee made a significant effort to try and have an impact and have a say in what those State regulations would be. The information I'm getting from Hartford right now is that those proposed changes do reflect the majority of the recommendations that we made in our letters to Hartford. That's progress. Of note is whether or not the Board of Aldermen takes action immediately or within a week or two, will not affect that. Quite frankly, it sounds as though we will have taken action prior to that public hearing in September either way, so that it good news.

Alderman Anglace stated, some of us that are retired might try to make that meeting.

Mayor Lauretti stated, let me finalize what the date for the closing on the Water Pollution Control Plant is going to be and then we'll poll the members of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Board of Aldermen and see what they're availability is and we'll call the meeting and take care of both items. We'll take no action tonight.

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## **11 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No items presented.

JULY 10, 2008

BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR FULL BOARD MEETING

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***ADJOURNMENT***

Alderman Perillo MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Olin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bruder, Clerk  
Board of Aldermen

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Lauretti  
Mayor, City of Shelton