

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009  
7:00 P.M. IN THE ROOM 104

**SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT**

MINUTES

➤ CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Papa called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. All in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

**IN ATTENDANCE: Alderman Papa, Chairman**

**Alderman Finn**

**Alderman McPherson**

**Also in Attendance: Chief Joel Hurliman**

Alderman McPherson asked for a moment of silence for Shelton Police Officer Silva who passed away on Tuesday.

➤ PUBLIC PORTION

Roxanne Michalak – 7 Hull Street, Shelton

She is here tonight to talk about the blight in her neighborhood. Since February she has tried to get some issues resolved. She has called City Hall several times in reference to litter up on Brewster

Lane and no one ever did anything about it. She contacted Alderman McPherson and he got the ball rolling in the right direction and she would like to thank him for that. They had so much trash on Brewster Lane it was like a city dumping ground.

Alderman Papa asked what the trash was from. The house on the corner of Brewster and Howe has a dumpster but it was actually trash on the hill. In windy rainy weather the trash would blow down into our yards. Things are now moving in the right direction. There are a lot of absentee landlords and they should be held accountable. She is a landlord but also lives in house.

Alderman Papa asks who she spoke to at City Hall. Ms. Michalak states it was the secretary. First she said she would give my name to the Mayor, second time she said she would give her name to the Mayor and the third time she said the Mayor would call her. Ms. Michalak stated she didn't need to speak to him; she just wanted the trash picked up. What was she paying taxes for; she wanted someone to address the issue. No one came and picked up that trash. Her neighbor and her mother went up on the hill and cleaned it up.

Alderman Papa mentioned Charlene DeFilippo handled the anti-blight ordinance. Ms. Michalak states she called her too. Ms. DeFilippo mentioned the one day that they were cleaning up all litter. Ms. Michalak mentioned the trash in her area but it was not cleaned up.

Alderman McPherson also made a request to Mrs. Nesteriak and he also spoke to Theresa Gallagher of the Anti-Litter committee. He spoke with her recently. It was still not picked up. The problem is 189 Howe Ave. and the building next door. It has an absentee landlord. Alderman Papa mentioned he spoke to Mr. Dingle about that.

Alderman McPherson states that Alderman Farrell and Alderman Kudej also complained about this matter. Alderman Papa states it should be sent to either Parks & Rec. or Highway & Bridges or someone to take care of it.

Ms. Michalak states she spoke with Ms. DeFilippo about the good work she does, but her neighbor cleaned it up herself and you don't know what is in this trash and you don't have safety gloves on.

Alderman Papa spoke about the anti-blight ordinance – if it was done properly it should have been taken care of.

Alderman Finn states trash on the side of the street is a different issue from Anti-Blight ordinance. He felt the debris on the hill had to come from the two dumpster on the property.

Alderman McPherson contacted the Health Department and they tried to contact the individual. On Friday the information he got from them was they sent a written order by certified mail and he has to respond to that. Alderman Papa states if he doesn't respond there is

a penalty. Alderman McPherson states they can issue an arrest warrant. There is still a health issue. There is a fence that is falling down. The other problem is they have a recliner at the end of the driveway and Highway & Bridges won't pick it up because it has metal in it. The garbage company won't pick it up. No one wants to do their job to go pick it up. Someone should be held accountable.

Alderman Papa asked about Highway & Bridges picking the recliner up. They pick up sofas. What is the problem?

Alderman McPherson states he went to Mr. Dingle with four more issues. Three of them were on Cliff Street, one was by West Street. Three out of the four places are with Real Estate Agencies and they are responsible. There is still debris on the sidewalk.

Alderman Papa states Ms. DeFilippo writes up these places and they have Mr. Dingle go after them. If they still don't clean up, it goes to Corporation Counsel and they go to court with a fine. It is not consistent. Alderman Papa suggest Ms. Michalak go to the Full Board and tell the Mayor about this issue.

Alderman Finn states they have the same issue on Princess Wenonah Drive and they are not responding to us. The owner will receive a fine. Alderman Papa states it doesn't always move too quickly.

Alderman Finn states the time frame in the Ordinance has to be reduced. He states this trash is a health issue. Alderman McPherson states they didn't know there was another dumpster behind the large dumpster.

Alderman McPherson states he asked the Housing Authority, Joe Ballaro, to go into that building and see what vacancies there are and withhold their certificate of occupancy and if the violations are still there you fine them. They are taking HUD money. It is also a fire hazard. He sent the Fire Marshal down there and the Assistant Fire Marshal reported back to him that there were violations there as he had said. Alderman McPherson states he was told by the Assistant FM that they had to take a training course in order to issue fines. Alderman McPherson states that they have State powers.

Alderman Papa tells Ms. Michalak that she should come to the meeting and tell this to the Mayor. Alderman Finn asks if she has a copy of the Anti-Blight Ordinance.

Ms. Michalak states that last spring the same thing happened. She has another issue. Under the Bridge – at Hull Street – area of grass is growing – Alderman Finn states that is State Property – Orange DOT.

She also spoke about the Skate Park and the children climbing the fence after hours and cutting holes in the fence. They are in there after hours. Alderman Papa states it was there to get the kids off the

road. If they don't take care of it, there is no charge right now, if they can't use it properly, it will be taken down. If you see a problem call the Police Department.

Alderman McPherson states he is working on the Anti-Blight Ordinance and should have something by Friday. Alderman Papa states it will be brought to the Committee to look at it.

Alderman McPherson spoke about another house that had siding laying all around the house. There is another absentee landlord living in another state collecting a HUD check while the property is trashed. Alderman McPherson states he had Mr. Ballaro go down there. He is told the landlord is in Florida and would he like the number to call him. Alderman McPherson states that is not his job.

◆ AGENDA ITEMS

◆ CORRESPONDENCE

There is no correspondence to be brought to the committee.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. REGULAR MEETING APRIL 1, 2009

ALDERMAN FINN MOVES TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2009. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MCPHERSON. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

## 2.1 ANTI-BLIGHT ORDINANCE

Alderman Papa states there seems to be long time spans. Alderman McPherson states we need to give the ZEO, Housing Officials more guidelines. He spoke with Derby and they have two people who work part-time. They go out take pictures of what they are seeing. They come back and go to their data base and do the report.

There are three form letters that will go out. The first, we have gotten a report, we went out to investigate, you have so many days to notify this office, the second letter is more harshly worded and tells them what will happen if they go to the third stage. The Third stage they come after you. Not sure maybe 30 days. They keep files of the cases they solve. They have gotten results. He doesn't know what our problem is. The problem with our ordinance it doesn't give ZEO, Housing Authority rules to empower them to levy fines.

Alderman Papa states not everyone can levy fines. Tom Dingle would go out after he gets a complaint, he can't levy fines. Alderman Finn states it doesn't say who has the authority to levy fines. It is \$250.00 for each day of violation.

Alderman McPherson states he spoke to Mayor about ordinance and it doesn't say who has the authority. There must be more than one party to have authority. ZEO, Housing Authority, Building Official needs specific instructions.

Alderman Papa states they will speak to Atty. Welch about this. Alderman Finn states we need to reduce time frame.

Alderman Papa would like a list of Anti-Blight buildings – how many solved how many unsolved. Downtown has more complaints. Oak Avenue has some blighted areas.

Alderman Finn asked clerk to send letter to CCM to obtain anti-blight ordinances to compare with.

Alderman McPherson states Bridgeport, Seymour, New Haven, and Derby have gotten very tough. Downtown has many absentee landlords. Arnold Botti's property – it has unregistered vehicles. Send a letter to Ms. DeFilippo – to get a list of complaints – some solved and some not solved cases also. They want to know who has responded. She gives a list of anti-blight once a year to Board of Aldermen.

Alderman McPherson states they need to give empowerment to some people. He would like to bring it to the next meeting. He would like it more specific. "Fairfield had a case where the liens equaled \$111,000.00. We need to send a message to these residents."

Alderman Finn asks who has the authority to issue citations.

Alderman McPherson tells a story about second graders in the Auditorium. The children stated what they wanted in the City. They talked about litter and keeping taxes low. It is reflective of their parents. Eight comments are about litter.

**The Chairman would like Ms. DeFilippo to come to the next meeting and bring a list of blighted buildings, problems that are solved and also a list of those that don't respond to the City about these problems.**

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 PROPOSED DOG ORDINANCE**

**This is the ordinance discussed at the last meeting and the leash law is also incorporated into this ordinance.**

**The Animal Control Officer can levy fines.**

ALDERMAN FINN MOVES TO SEND THE PROPOSED DOG ORDINANCE TO THE FULL BOARD FOR PUBLIC HEARING. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MCPHERSON. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4. REPORTS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- A. Emergency Medical Services – no one present
- B. Police Services

Chief Hurliman thanks the Board for the moment of silence for Officer Silva.

The Police have vigorously been enforcing crosswalks and speeding. Today we have issued some arrests on ATV's in White Hills. There will be no pursuits due to possible injury. They will not chase them – ATV's or motorcycles. This is the State's policy also. They do not confiscate these vehicles. They give out summons, infraction complaints. It does have an effect. In upper White Hills, there is no shortage of ATV's. There are second, third generations of ATV drivers. The State has come in and they will come in this year also and it makes an impact.

Alderman Finn asks about Birchbank Mountain and Web Mountain. Trails are not unknown.

- C. Fire Services – no one present

**Alderman McPherson asks about OEM. Alderman Papa would like the clerk to sent a request to EMS, OEM and Fire to attend meeting or at least send a report if they can not attend.**

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:55 P.M. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MCPHERSON. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully yours,

Margaret Weber,  
Clerk Public Health & Safety Comm.