

DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

DERBY CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS – DECEMBER 22, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Mayor Anthony Staffieri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Anthony Szewczyk, Matthew DeBarbieri, Beverly Moran, James Benanto, Ronald Sill, Joseph Bomba, Kenneth Hughes, Scott Boulton, Dennis Devonshuk

Also Present: Chief Andrew L. Cota, Jr., Derby Police Dept.
Ted Estwan, Jr., Chairman, Planning & Zoning, Police Commissioner
John DeBarbieri, Interim Chief Administrator
Laura Wabno, Town & City Clerk
Joseph Coppola, Corporation Counsel

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Hughes stated that he would like to add the following items to the agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2005 Board of Aldermen meeting
- 2) Police Department Activity Report for November 2005
- 3) Clarification of Board of Aldermen refund agreement with the St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop (Informational discussion only - No action required)

A MOTION was made by Mr. DeBarbieri with a second by Mr. Sill to add the three items and to adopt the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Dan Waleski, 21 Elm Street, Derby, CT – Mr. Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen in keeping with the good will exhibited to this new administration and to inaugurate the new City Hall, may I, with the generosity of the Industrial Wood Products Company, who with their understanding and cooperation handmade this gavel in their woodworking shop in town on Bank Street - present with pleasure this gavel to the City of Derby in hopes of being available to all boards, commissions, and committees. May this gift be an inspiration and a reminder of the good citizens that you serve in our community.

Mayor Staffieri – Thank you Mr. Waleski. On behalf of the City thank you very much.

David Ahearn, 179 Harold Avenue, Derby, CT – Mr. Mayor, members of the Board of Aldermen, I was Police Commissioner I guess until this evening anyway. I served four years on the Board of Police Commissioners under the previous administration and I attended many seminars by the Connecticut Police Commissioner's Association and so

forth and the Mayor has my resume that I sent to you and everything else. I understand that my name has been presented to be thought of tonight (inaudible.) I would like the utmost consideration. I'm retired – I gave a lot of time and effort into the Board of Police Commissioners and even to the Chief during the daytime. So I would appreciate very much if you would consider me to be a candidate again.

Mayor Staffieri – Thank you Mr. Ahearn.

John Kowarik, 62 High Street, Derby, CT – I also served as a Police Commissioner for the past three and a half years. I want to thank the City for letting me serve.

Mayor Staffieri – Thank you Mr. Kowarik.

Hearing no one else wishing to address the board...

PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED

VENDOR APPLICATION – JIM'S ICE CREAM/JAMES CAPRIO

Mayor Staffieri said in the packet this evening is the renewal application for Mr. Caprio. All forms are in order and his record is clear. Mr. Hughes noted that we should make sure that we receive his updated insurance since the expiration dates are 3/1/06 and 4/7/06. Also his health certificate would need to be filed. Chief Cota noted that Marie issues the actual license that the vendor receives and at that time she will make sure all information is valid.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Hughes to approve the Vendor Application for Jim's Ice Cream. **Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS – TED ESTWAN, ROBERT HUGHES & LEO DISORBO

Mayor Staffieri said this was a very difficult choice for him to make. He said the change was not meant to slight anyone and noted that many of the Police Commissioners were interested in working again with the Police Department.

A MOTION was made by Mr. DeBarbieri with a second by Mr. Bomba to approve the appointments of Ted Estwan, Robert Hughes and Leo DiSorbo as Police Commissioners. **Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bolton abstained from voting.**

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Szewczyk said that he is disappointed that John Kowarik is not on the list of Police Commissioners. He noted that Mr. Kowarik did an outstanding job as commissioner and he also wanted to go on record to say that Mr. Kowarik has the support of the Republican Town Committee to continue as Police Commissioner. As it is the Mayor's prerogative to select the Commissioners he is casting a yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPOINTMENTS TO MAYOR'S EDUCATION SPECIAL LIAISON COMMITTEE: RICHARD GRANDE, ANDREW MANCINI, JOSEPH BOMBA, MATTHEW DEBARBIERI, JACKLYN WILSON

Mayor Staffieri said this committee is a campaign promise that he made to the voters. He told the people while campaigning door-to-door that his administration would have a bipartisan working committee to answer questions regarding any solutions to education problems that are suggested during his term in office. Mayor Staffieri said he has selected the following individuals to serve on the committee: Richard Grande (former democratic Mayor), Andrew Mancini (retired Derby Youth Officer & former Board of Education member), Joseph Bomba (current Alderman), Matthew DeBarbieri (current Alderman), and Jacklyn Wilson (mother of two, active in the community & school system.) Mayor Staffieri said as this is a Mayoral committee no motions are in order.

APPOINTMENT OF MILONE & MACBROOM AS CITY ENGINEERS

Mayor Staffieri informed those present that Milone & MacBroom has served as City Engineers since the Schlesinger Administration. They are currently involved in many City projects. Mayor Staffieri said it is his belief that any change at this time would be negative and would slow down the momentum for the City. Mayor Staffieri noted that in the past things haven't been done to the expectations of our citizens. He said he would like to form a watchdog committee for these projects to make sure things are done in the City's best interest.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DeBarbieri to appoint Milone & MacBroom as the City Engineers.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Szewczyk – I have serious questions with this appointment. I have not had sufficient time to study my concerns; therefore I am abstaining from this vote.

Mrs. Moran – I also am not thrilled with this appointment. If you really – deep down we're going with you, but we'll watch.

Mayor Staffieri – Like I said, I want to establish and make sure things are done in the way that we want things to be done.

Mr. Szewczyk abstained. MOTION CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF TAX COLLECTOR – CINDA BUCHER

Mayor Staffieri said Ms. Bucher has served the City as Tax Collector as well as other communities. She has updated our services and is working diligently to improve and modernize our City's tax collection service.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Devonshuk with a second by Mrs. Moran to approve the appointment of Cinda Bucher as Tax Collector. **Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME TAX ASSESSOR – ROBERT COATES

Mayor Staffieri said Mr. Coates is a retired Tax Assessor who has served in municipal government over twenty years. He is one of the few Assessors' who has been willing to work part-time. Mayor Staffieri noted that we are preparing for a revaluation by State mandate. He said attempting any change at the moment would hurt the City.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Devonshuk with a second by Mrs. Moran to approve the appointment of Robert Coates as Part-time Tax Assessor. **Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE – JAMES BENANTO

Mayor Staffieri said Mr. Benanto is a recommendation of his predecessor and he is also recommending him for the position. He has served on the Parks & Recreation Committee with distinction.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Moran with a second by Mr. DeBarbieri to approve the appointment of James Benanto to the Parks & Recreation Committee. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Mayor Staffieri informed the Aldermen that they could choose to serve on any of the committees. He suggested that the Aldermen get in touch with either himself or John DeBarbieri.

DISCUSSION OF INSURANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN – ARTICLE XXIII – INSURANCE COMMITTEE – ADOPTED 3/27/02 (NO MOTION REQUIRED)

Mayor Staffieri said Mr. DeBarbieri would discuss this item. He has been doing research on this matter from an operational perspective based on his experience.

Mr. DeBarbieri said everyone should have a copy of the original 2002 document and he passed out the proposed 2005 change. He noted that operationally expanding the committee may not make sense in this environment. The Board of Education has had pretty good results in informing and finding savings for the City because they now have their own Finance Director. The City of Derby with Alan, and his successors, we'll have our own Finance Director. So under the redesigned board with the Finance Committee and the board with the two Finance Directors we have sufficient personnel to keep the board fully informed and we could lessen the number of layers of committees as necessary. Mr. DeBarbieri said there would be no action taken on this tonight. He would like everyone to read through this proposed change because they may look to either eliminate the committee or further modify it. He noted that we have fifteen to sixteen potential ordinance reviews in the first ninety days. He said he would try to get the existing ordinances to the aldermen through January and February so that it could be fully reviewed in order to make it more efficient.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOUNTAIN LAKE – PHILLIP MARCUCIO

Mayor Staffieri noted that Fountain Lake has been in the news lately. He said that he and Mr. Marcucio had been discussing Fountain Lake even before it made the news. Mayor Staffieri said that Mr. Marcucio approached him months ago and offered his services to research Fountain Lake – to find out what went wrong and get it to what it should be. Mayor Staffieri said he recalled one of the things hindering development at

Fountain Lake was the fact that there was substantial rock, cliff and ledge and that it would be too costly to develop. Mayor Staffieri noted that Mr. Scinto developed a project on Route 8 where there was substantial rock and he blasted the site and was able to build. He said eventually another committee will be formed to review Fountain Lake. Mr. Marcucio thanked Mayor Staffieri for appointing him to this position. He said he would welcome and appreciate any help. He said that he would appreciate any help at City Hall in retrieving records on the site. Mayor Staffieri said he doesn't plan on Mr. Marcucio being a one-man show. He noted that this is a volunteer position. Mr. DeBarbieri said we need to be able to expand our tax base.

Markanthony Izzo of Olivia Street said he believes there is a King Mark Study done on the site.

Mrs. Moran said she is sure that there are files on the site that pinpoint the specific reasons that have hindered progress on the site – i.e. ledge, rock, cliff, etc...

Mr. Szewczyk said that it might be to Derby's benefit touch base with Ansonia regarding future development of the site. He believes the utilities would have to go through Ansonia's side of the park.

Mayor Staffieri said this is exactly the kind of cooperation that he is looking to get out of this administration.

Mr. Kowarik said he was on the Board of Aldermen back in 1987. There were two referendums for Fountain Lake – one was to purchase the property and the other was to develop it for \$2 million. The citizens of Derby shot it down because it was going to cost \$2.3 million to put a road in. There were no tenants interested in the site at the time – it was mainly to get the site prepared for future development.

Mr. Waleski said Fountain Lake as proposed at that time was done basically for Ansonia's benefit. He said the concept expressed at that time demonstrated that Ansonia would benefit greatly with having the facility there and Derby would not. He noted that one of the big problems is extensive wetlands on the site and no roadway except through a right-of-way to get into the property.

Mrs. Moran said Mr. Waleski is correct – that is why it was shot down by the voters.

CLARIFICATION OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN REFUND AGREEMENT WITH ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SHOP (NO MOTION NECESSARY)

Mayor Staffieri said this appeal for a refund was first applied for on 5/6/04 and was not approved until 11/22/05. St. Vincent DePaul Society is a non-profit operation in Derby. He said this fee is to be refunded as a Special Exception Fee and not a Building Fee as it was in the original motion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2005

There were no questions asked.

A MOTION was made by Mr. DeBarbieri with a second by Mr. Hughes to accept the Police Department Activity Report for November 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2005 MEETING

Mr. Bomba noted that on page five of the minutes there was no second on one of the motions. Ms. Finn said there was no audible second on the tape for that motion.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bomba with a second by Mr. Sill to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting with the one notation. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Boulton with a second by Mr. Sill to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Finn
Recording Secretary

/paf

A TAPE RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE TOWN & CITY CLERK'S OFFICE