

DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

DERBY CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS – MARCH 23, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Honorable 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, Beverly Moran, James Benanto, Joseph Bomba, Kenneth Hughes

Absent: Matthew DeBarbieri, Dennis Devonshuk, Ron Sill, Scott Boulton

Also Present: Chief Andrew L. Cota, Jr., Derby Police Department
Ronald J. Culmo, Director, Public Works
Laura Wabno, Town & City Clerk
Keith A. McLiverty, City Treasurer
Phil Robertson, Chief Administrator
Allen Coppolo, Fire Commissioner
Charles Sampson, Asst. Fire Chief
Leo Moscato, Municipal Parking Division
Joseph Coppola, Corporation Counsel

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Hughes said he would like to add the following item to the agenda:

Item #12 – Discussion on possibility of Derby joining Gasoline Consortium.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Moran with a second by Mr. Benanto to add the one item to the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Staffieri passed out proposed signage for City Hall and the Elevator Contract. He said these items would be on the agenda for the next Board of Aldermen meeting.

Leo Moscato, Business owner in Downtown – I just wanted to thank the City for the clean streets that we have done here; it's a pleasure. I have customers going to my place and my tenant's. We're probably the first ones in the State of Connecticut to get the roads clean and I just want to thank you for that. Even with the buildings across the street, clean sidewalks makes it all look nicer. I just want to thank you very much.

Mayor Staffieri – Thank you Mr. Moscato. And I just want to thank the Street Department and Mr. Culmo.

Keith McLiverty, City Treasurer – Mr. Mayor what consortium is there for the gasoline?

Mayor Staffieri – Right now we're checking into it. I know I've given instructions to Ronny – there's a Hartford Consortium and I know the one in Woodbridge – Amy had told me about that. And Ron do you want to answer that?

Mr. McLiverty – There's a consortium just so you know out of Region 15 school district, which I happen to work at, that buys 9 million gallons a year. You might also want to look at that one as well.

Mayor Staffieri – Sure. I was informed on those consortiums in regards to purchasing bulk oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel and I had let Ron know about it and he's checking into that. Anyone else from the public? Dan would you like to speak in the public portion. We always value your words of wisdom.

Dan Waleski, 21 Elm Street, Derby, CT – Well you're very generous. Let me just say good evening gentlemen – I wish you a very fine meeting. Your meetings thus far have been very, very interesting; I appreciate the repartee and the questions and things you ask. I think you make your meetings much more interesting much more absorbing and we want to thank you for being such good public officials.

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

PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2006 MEETING

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Bomba to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2006 as presented. **Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE (MAYORAL COMMITTEE)

Mayor Staffieri said we all know the Greenway and Riverwalk has become a special spot in our town. To help our City control and improve the Greenway, I am appointing a committee. The Greenway Committee Appointments are:

Jack Walsh, Diane Serednitsky, Michael Kelleher, Robert Sobin, David Ahearn, Scott Boulton, and Caroline Duhaime.

Mayor Staffieri said all these citizens bring great experience to the table to help keep our Greenway and Riverwalk moving forward.

Mr. Hughes asked if this is going to be more of an advisory committee to oversee the Greenway and to bring forth to your office any necessary improvements, suggestions for the Greenway. Mayor Staffieri said that is correct. Mr. Hughes asked Chief Cota if he had anything to add regarding the recent vandalism on the Trail. Chief Cota said they documented everything that happened. He said there are several courses of action that they can take. He said they believe the possibility exists that the vandals might have come from another town. His department has contacted the other town's Youth Officers. They have also contacted Gang Enforcement in other towns to have them come down to the site to see if they could recognize anything familiar. The Chief said he has copies of the report if anyone would like one.

Mr. Bomba asked if this committee would have anything to do with cleaning up the Greenway. He said he would be willing to volunteer some of his time to help clean up. Mayor Staffieri said he would take that up with the Street Commissioner and the committee. He said that might be a good idea to form a little subcommittee of volunteers to assist the Public Works with keeping it clean. Chief Cota noted that there is now a sign posted regarding people cleaning up after their dogs. He said they are going to be enforcing that. All indicated that has been a big problem down there. The Chief suggested that if this doesn't work we might have to look into banning dogs on the trail. Mr. Szewczyk said people have approached him with suggestions for the Greenway. Who should they contact? Mayor Staffieri said they should contact the Greenway Committee.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Szewczyk to reopen the Public Portion of the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Pam Ortiz, Caroline Street, Derby, CT – I am the Chairman of the Caroline Street Association. We have the same concerns that we've had all along - blight issues again - I brought some pictures today. And we have concerns again about criminal activity escalating now that it's getting a little warmer out. And I just came from the Board of Directors meeting for the Senior Housing on Minerva Street and they have serious concerns about criminal activity over there.

Mayor Staffieri – What I'll do is we'll give you the Chairman of the Police Commissioner's name – Mr. Hughes – and give you his phone number and he'll make sure everything is addressed. What is the blight issue? Ms. Ortiz said there are several addresses – it is the same thing over and over again – it's the same landlord that has three properties. There's just garbage all over the place, all over the yard. There's one on the back side of the new senior building that has window panes with glass out there – it's been out there for over a month. The six-family I know public works picked up a lot of stuff, but there are items out there again. Mayor Staffieri asked Mr. Culmo and Chief Cota to address these items. He said if this is a reoccurring problem he would like to see the Blight Officer push the Blight issue with this landlord. If he's constantly putting garbage out we're not responsible for cleaning up a landlord's duties. Ms. Ortiz showed the pictures to the board members. She noted that the landlord renovated the inside of the building, brought out the excess debris and buried it in the back. Mayor Staffieri said Mr. Szewczyk is our Blight Enforcement Alderman and he will make sure this will get taken care of. Mr. Hughes noted that they have put a Blight form on the City's website for a person to fill out anonymously. The form is submitted to the Downtown Committee. This way the resident does not have to wait for a meeting to report an item. Mr. Bomba asked if we are charging the landlord if we are picking up garbage constantly. Mayor Staffieri said we need to look into this. If this is not being done as a regular bulk pickup then we need to get tough on these landlords.

PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED

RESOLUTION FOR PRIME MOVER OF HAZMAT TRAILER

Mayor Staffieri said everyone should have a copy of the resolution required by the State for the City to receive a vehicle to pull the decontamination trailer that we have obtained through Homeland Security. This vehicle is a no-cost addition; however, we must maintain it.

Chief Allen Coppolo – A little bit of background – the State came up, right after 911, came up with a strategy of how they were going to deal with Rapid Access Mass Decon – how do you decontaminate a large number of people effectively. They did a study and they realized that most of these hospitals couldn't handle anything more than a half-dozen people on their own. So what they decided to do is purchase these Decon Trailers – there's 34 in the state – and one was assigned to every municipality that had a hospital in its jurisdiction. After they purchased all these trailers they realized there was a great difficulty to try to get them from Point A to Point B. So they decided to purchase these prime movers. And these prime movers would be used to tow these vehicles. It's a Freightliner medium GBW chassis and it also has a little bit of a utility body on back that's going to be available to us to store additional Haz-Mat equipment and spill equipment. Also the Homeland Security through the 2003-2004 grant gave us a lot of personal protective equipment. We don't have a lot of room to store this in our existing apparatus so this prime mover would also serve that purpose. He noted the State created five regions for regional Haz-Mat teams. Derby is the Valley division of the "NASH" – New Haven Area Special Hazardous Unit.

Mr. McLiverty stated that the unit must be stored in a facility that is at least 50°. Capital Planning is addressing that situation right now. Chief Coppolo said he just found out that Valley Transit has offered to store the trailer outdoors in a fenced in lot and they have room for the Prime Mover indoors. This solves our storage problem. It is a secured area, centrally located. Mrs. Moran said you won't need the request from Capital Planning. Mayor Staffieri said that is correct.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Benanto to approve the Resolution for the Prime Mover of the Haz-Mat Trailer. **Motion carried.**

REFUND OF EXCESS TAXES – REQUEST THROUGH 3/15/06 BY CINDA BUCHTER, TAX COLLECTOR

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bomba with a second by Mr. Hughes to approve the refund of excess taxes request through 3/15/06 made by Cinda Buchter, Tax Collector. **Motion carried.**

DERBY DAY COMMITTEE – REQUEST SIGNAGE & STREET CLOSURES – MARKANTHONY IZZO

Mr. Izzo introduced the board members to Rich DeCarlo, who is in charge of Derby Day this year. Mr. Izzo said they would like to request signage be placed around the town for Derby Day. He also noted they met with Ron Culmo regarding the placement of a sign across Route 34 – they would also need permission from the State. They would also like to place lawn type signs, such as the ones that are used for elections, placed around town. They would also be looking to place a 4' x 8' sign on the Green by Tailgator's. They would also need permission for the closing of Elizabeth Street from Fifth Street to Thompson Place the day of the event. He said this year they might have a

“Soap Box Derby” this year and they would be looking for a partial closing of Minerva Street. The Committee would also like to request the use of the municipal parking garage for free parking. He noted that this has been done in the past for events on the Green. Mr. Izzo said he would like to thank Alderman Bomba for his help. If anyone would like to volunteer it is always welcomed. Mayor Staffieri asked Mr. Izzo to have some posters looking for volunteers prepared so that they could have them hung at City Hall. Mr. Hughes asked when would the signs go up. Mr. Izzo said no later than the beginning of June. Mayor Staffieri suggested having them up just before Memorial Day so the people can see them when they come for the parade. Mayor Staffieri also suggested meeting again before things are finalized. Mr. Izzo said their next meeting is April 15. Mr. Hughes would like them to submit a list as to where the signs would be posted.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION, “HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM”,
TOWN/CITY CLERK OFFICE**

Mayor Staffieri asked Town & City Clerk Laura Wabno to explain this resolution to the board. Ms. Wabno said every year the State allots grants as determined by the size of the City. She said it has been increased this year to \$7,000. It is a non-matching grant and if we meet all the requirements we would be entitled to \$7,000.00 to preserve historic documents dating back to the 1600's. We are under tight time restrictions to adopt this resolution it must be submitted no later than April 1. Ms. Wabno said she is looking for adoption of the following resolution:

Be it hereby resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Derby:

That Anthony Staffieri, Mayor, or the City/Town, Laura A. Wabno as his designee is empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the City of Derby an application and contract with the State Library for a Historic Preservation Grant.

Mayor Staffieri said this sounds like a “no-brainer” to him.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bomba with a second by Mrs. Moran to approve and adopt the Resolution. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF DERBY JOINING A GASOLINE CONSORTIUM

Mr. Culmo said he contacted the Financial Director in Woodbridge. He said Woodbridge, Bethany and Orange are again putting out a contract, as they did last year, to buy diesel fuel, gasoline and heating oil. They are presently getting ready to go out to bid in a couple of weeks and he would like to get permission from the City to join up with that group or to check with Mr. McLiverty for the group that he deals with, to buy bulk diesel and gasoline at a cheaper rate. This way we would be locked in to one price for the whole year. He said in Woodbridge, Bethany and Orange they lock into a price and they give them basically the amount of fuel that they are going to use and they have to come within 95% to 105% of the total that they are given. If you go over the amount you would have to go with the higher price at the time. If you go under the amount you have to keep receiving fuel until you reach the amount that you said you would use.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bomba with a second by Mr. Szewczyk to give permission to Street Commission Ron Culmo to look into the possibility of joining a gasoline consortium.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Hughes asked if there was any kind of membership or sign up fee that would have to be paid on a monthly/yearly basis. Mr. Culmo said there is no membership or sign up fee. Once we prepare the paperwork that they require they will do the bidding. We are not paying anything extra. Mrs. Moran asked if there was a timeframe for this. Mr. Culmo said last year they went out to bid in June. This year they are looking to go out in April. Mr. McLiverty said according to State Statute this meets the competitive bidding requirement as well as the local Charter. He said using a consortium bid it meets the bidding requirement. So as long as we join one of the consortiums we meet the local ordinances that require competitive bidding on prices. Mr. Bomba asked if those were the only towns that we would be looking into to join forces with. Mr. Culmo said the only towns in this group are Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany. Mr. McLiverty noted that his is comprised of 140 towns – they buy 9 million gallons of gasoline and 15 million gallons of oil. He said they have 14 school districts in these towns.

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bomba with a second by Mrs. Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Finn
Recording Secretary

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