

DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

DERBY CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS – JANUARY 26, 2006 - 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: John DeBarbieri, Interim Chief Administrator
Keith A. McLiverty, City Treasurer (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Carolyn Duhaime, Board of Apportionment & Taxation
Charles Sampson, Assistant Fire Chief, Derby Fire Department
Beth Colette, Board of Education (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Joseph Coppola, Corporation Counsel

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Hughes said he would like to delete three items from the agenda:

1. Committee Reports
2. Department Reports
3. Resolution of Grant of \$20,000 for Greenway from Senator Crisco's Office*

*Mr. Hughes noted that this is going to become part of a larger project down the road and once that is complete this will go back on the agenda.

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

1. Proclamation – Ronald Regan Day in Derby, CT – February 6, 2006

PUBLIC PORTION

Carl Yacobacci, Lombardi Drive, Derby, CT – It's just a little bit on again with eminent domain – I'm not really going to go into it – I know you have the ordinance and I'm going to give you time to look at it. But to just let you know in today's paper just to keep people up to date Monroe, along with some of the other surrounding towns, is also having hearings in two weeks for their eminent domain for the privatization for condominiums and so on and so forth to protect people's land. And financial institutions are finally also coming on board. BB&T, which is the nation's ninth largest financial holdings company also had a press conference yesterday to announce that it would not lend to commercial developers that plan to build condominiums, shopping malls and other private projects on land taken from private citizens by government entities using eminent domain. So as we in Derby still have this issue over us, there's a lot of people around us who are taking quick action to protect the citizens of their communities from this.

Mr. Szewczyk – Can I ask him a question? I haven't been following the State as much because lately I've been busy with Derby but I thought that I heard that the State was trying to pass...

Mr. Yacobacci – Yes I have been to most of the hearings at the State throughout the summer through different hearings that they have had. And yes they are trying to define it and they've gone through all kinds of recommendations on how to re-write some of the legislature and how to possibly re-write some of the compensation for people who have their property taken by the government.

Mr. Szewczyk – So your take on it is they'll go along with the Supreme Court decision from last summer but with modifications?

Mr. Yacobacci – Correct. That came down and they would like to modify it to meet the people's needs in Connecticut because of the outcry from the private citizens on the taking of their private land for this type of eminent domain.

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

PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED

MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2006 MEETING

Mr. Hughes stated that he has two small minor corrections to the minutes – on page 9 – the top paragraph, second line from the bottom, "it would be in the vest interest of the City to see it via auction" – it should be "sell it" and also on the same page under Water Test and Bathroom Clarification – the fifth line down "inform the board that he started to research the parking" – it should be "research the park."

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Benanto to approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2006 with the two corrections. **Motion carried.**

WEAR RED DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Staffieri said this proclamation should be in everyone's packet this evening. Mayor Staffieri asked Mr. Hughes to read the proclamation into the record:

Whereas, diseases of the heart are the nation's leading cause of death and stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability;

Whereas, cardiovascular diseased (CVD) are the leading cause of death among Women; and,

Whereas, heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases claim the lives of more than half a million American women each year including nearly 6,300 Connecticut women – more than the next six causes of death combined, and nearly twice as many as all forms of cancer; and,

Whereas, the cost of cardiovascular diseases and stroke in the U.S. is estimated at \$393.5 billion; and,

Whereas, one in four females in the United States have some form of cardiovascular disease; and,

Whereas, 64 percent of women who died suddenly of coronary heart disease had no previous symptoms of this disease; and,

Whereas, February is designated as American Heart Month, and,

Whereas, the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement encourages women to pay attention to their hearts and help them live longer, stronger lives by reducing their risk of cardiovascular disease;

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Staffieri and the Derby Board of Aldermen, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease and stroke, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2006, to be

“Wear Red Day for Women”

In Derby, Connecticut and urge all citizens to wear red in recognition of family, friends, and neighbors who have suffered from heart disease, and as a show of support to fight it. By increasing awareness of the risk factors for this devastating disease and taking actions to reduce them, we can save thousands of lives each year.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Derby, Connecticut this 26th day of February 2006.

Tony Staffieri
Mayor

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mrs. Moran to adopt the Wear Red Day Proclamation as presented. **Motion carried.**

UPDATE ON FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Mr. M. DeBarbieri read the following statement into the record:

On January 17th, along with Mayor Staffieri and Alderman Benanto, Hughes and DeBarbieri met with Fire Commissioner Curtis and the four Fire Chiefs. The point of the meeting was to discuss replacing the fire alert digitizer at the police station. The unit has been non-functional since June of last year and was temporarily replaced by the unit from the East End Fire House. The commissioner's point of view was that this is only a temporary solution and East End should have its unit returned as soon as possible.

The system starts working when someone pulls a fire box. A signal about its location transmits to the police station, who then transfer the call to C-Med in New Haven. C-Med notifies the firemen via beeper. The unit in the police station uses a tape with notch marks in it to identify the source of the signal, much like a ticker-tape machine. A digitizer alerts the police of an incoming call and generally improves the speed of incoming signals and decreases the chance for human error in responding to the alert.

The way this system is currently operating, it can receive an incoming signal from any of the fire boxes positioned around the city. The unit cannot transmit to the alarm in its current operating state. The system is somewhat antiquated, having been in place

since the 1930's, but it has proven to be reliable on the instances when the city has needed it.

The price of a new unit to replace the one at the police station is roughly \$11,000. Maintaining the entire fire box system is roughly \$6,500 per year. The \$11,000 to fix this system at a basic level could keep it running for at least the few years necessary for the city to review and implement the next generation of fire alert system. With continued maintenance, it will most likely last longer. This system, in the opinion of the fire officials, is not currently functioning at an optimal level.

The vast majority of fire calls come in via 911. In the last ten years, few if any, fire distress calls came through these boxes. Let me be clear that we're not talking about upgrading the main fire alert system; we're talking about maintaining a proven, reliable backup system that is operating well below par. The system has also, on occasion, served to report accidents and distress calls. Arguments to upgrade the system now instead of fixing it aren't realistic as the cost of removing many boxes and its miles of wire could prove to be time and cost-prohibitive.

Currently, C-Med will route and handle emergency calls via 911 or this system after the police have notified them. They are a bargain at \$40,000 per year. It is more cost-effective than staffing full-time dispatchers, which would cost the city about \$180,000 per year and they are trained to give pre-arrival instructions on 911 calls. A small portion of the amount we save in using them over staffing our own dispatchers could be put to use to upgrade and maintain this old workhorse of a system.

In my opinion, it is worth upgrading the system. It not only serves as a visible, reassuring backup to 911, but will also be reliable while we study upgrading the current system. Once a new system is in place, the fire boxes will serve as support for the new system in case of electronic failure.

Mr. M. DeBarbieri said since the meeting the Mayor's Office, the Fire Commissioner and the four Chiefs have been working on the problem. Rather than delay the process further he would like to make a motion in that we empower the Mayor's Office and Fire Commissioner and any appropriate personnel to repair or replace the equipment in the most cost effective manner up to the allocated amount from the Tax Board, which is \$11,000. Upon completion of the repair and/or replacement, we will receive a final cost summary on expected savings.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mrs. Moran to repair or replace the equipment in the most cost effective manner up to the allotted amount from the Tax Board, which is \$11,000.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Szewczyk said he agrees that we need to get it fixed; however, it is not clear exactly what the cost would be. Is it \$11,000 plus \$6,500 to maintain the rest of the system?

Mr. M. DeBarbieri said it is \$11,000 and currently the \$6,500 is the yearly cost to keep it maintained. Mr. M. DeBarbieri noted that the \$11,000 is a one-time cost.

Mayor Staffieri said \$6,500 is the cost to maintain the whole entire system for the year. We have been looking into repairing and rebuilding the system that we have now for a

lesser expensive avenue. It is going to be fixed; we just have to find the best way to do it.

Mrs. Moran asked are we saying "roughly \$11,000 or no more than?"

Mayor Staffieri said no more than – that's what the Board of Apportionment & Taxation approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT OF GRIFFIN HOSPITAL INFORMATION MEETING

Mayor Staffieri stated that Mr. Sill drafted the initial report. He asked Mr. Sill to read it into the record:

This month members of the Board of Aldermen met with Griffin Hospital officials to discuss the hospital's ambitious campus extension plan. This expansion will include a free standing ambulatory care building and a community cancer center, which will include the addition of a radiation therapy center. This expansion will greatly benefit the residents of our community. This expansion will mean an estimated \$255,000 in new tax revenue for the city. In order to accomplish this new plan, the City will need to abandon a paper road, which currently runs on an incomplete path through part of the property.

Mayor Staffieri noted that Patrick Charmel, CEO of Griffin Health Services is present this evening.

Patrick Charmel, CEO, Griffin Health Services – My colleagues Marge Deegan and Paul Toburen are here tonight and they can also answer any questions. The hospital did acquire seven parcels of land for a total of about three acres that are now just west of Seymour Avenue and boarded by Division Street and there is a paper road through those seven parcels and it's depicted in yellow in this map. It runs from Division Street past the Derby Glass Building and then goes both west and then north up to Mohawk Avenue. Again, the road doesn't exist and we surmise the reason why it was never built is the elevation changes from Division Street and the lower part of the paper road to the top are about sixty feet over a very short span so it's very, very steep. The road also travels south from Division Street and then it ends into property that we now own. So we're hoping this road can be abandoned and we would be developing that entire site with a new approximately 45,000ft² building and 150 parking spaces, approximately. Again the design at this point is preliminary so I don't want to commit to a specific number. But there would be a significant increase in parking spaces that would help alleviate the parking problem in and around the hospital.

Mr. Hughes said it would be a great benefit to the City. It would not only clean up that area, it would also increase the tax rolls and give a much needed service to the Valley.

Mr. Szewczyk noted that the emergency room was designed to handle 25,000 cases per year and now because of this expansion you can expand the emergency room to now the Therapy Center because currently you are handling 35,000 emergency cases a year. It would be a plus to everybody living around the hospital.

Mr. Charmel said it is important to point out because this project is the construction of a new ambulatory care building, which would allow us to create a new service for Griffin and the community, which is radiation therapy, but it also allows us to move some services out of the hospital, which would allow the expansion of among other things the emergency room.

Mayor Staffieri said he believes that we all see it as a great improvement to our community. The cancer center would be a great help to our community. And as Mr. Charmel pointed out you really wouldn't be able to connect the road. There is a very noticeable drop. It is totally a worthless paper road.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Sill to empower the Mayor and Corporation Counsel to expedite the process of abandoning the paper road and turning it over to Griffin Hospital. **Motion carried.**

MAYORAL COMMITTEE LABOR NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Mayor Staffieri informed the board that there are several contracts that are coming up for negotiations this year. He believes that the City would be best served by multi-disciplined negotiating team. The City Labor Negotiating Team would be as follows:

- Interim Financial Director – Alan Schlesinger
- City Treasurer – Keith A. McLiverty
- Corporation Counsel – Joseph Coppola
- Tax Board Member – To be determined
- Board of Aldermen Member – (each contract will have a member from the revised committee list)
- Department Head or Designee will be added as needed by contract

TAX REQUEST FOR REFUNDS

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Boulton to approve the Request for Tax Refunds from Cinda B. Buchter, Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,838.92. **Motion carried.**

PARKING AUTHORITY ORDINANCE

Mayor Staffieri stated that the news article was accurate about our feelings about the parking authority. Mr. J. DeBarbieri will go over the plans for the implementation of the change.

Mr. J. DeBarbieri – You should all have a copy in your packet of the actual ordinance revision drawn up by Corporation Counsel. What's going to happen is you will receive the ordinance tonight – please review it prior to the next Board of Aldermen meeting where we will invite public comments concerning the proposed change to the Parking Ordinance. The proposed ordinance change will then be posted in the lobby at City Hall and it will then be put on the agenda for March 9th for approval. Over the next couple of weeks the Mayor may be forming a temporary committee, based on his authority under the existing ordinance, to help us expedite the transfer of some of the matters that are currently in the Mayor's office and between my desk concerning existing contracts, renovations to the building, tracking down with Patty Finn's assistance the people who were awarded the contract for repair. More permanently the different funding levels for replacing the individual platforms in the garage that may be repairable from various infrastructure grants out there. So these people in all

probability will be doing the work with us and Patty are going to be actually be part of the commission if it remains as stated. So this is just information – not action is required by the board until the March 9th meeting.

Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE XXII, "Parking Division", of the Code of the City of Derby

Section 7-111 Composition, organization.

(Delete)

~~§7-111 Composition; organization~~

~~The Office of the Mayor of the City of Derby is hereby designated as the Parking Division. The Mayor is authorized to employ a Director of the Parking Division, subject to the approval of the Board of Aldermen.~~

(New Language)

§7-111 Composition; qualifications of members; organization; compensation; fiscal matters; annual report.

The Parking Division shall consist of five (5) electors of the City who shall be appointed by the Mayor, not more than three of whom shall be of the same political party. Those first appointed shall be designated to serve for one, two, three, four and five year terms, respectively, and thereafter a member shall be appointed annually to serve for five (5) years, except that any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. Such authority shall select from among its members a chairman and may employ necessary personnel. The members of the Parking Division shall serve without compensation. No action of such Parking Division shall be valid unless authorized by a vote of the majority of its members. Such Parking Division shall maintain proper accounting and financial records and shall make an annual report to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Downtown Committee (1st Monday)

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 13(Wednesday)

October 2

November 6

December 4

Education Committee (1st Tuesday)

February 7

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6

July 12 (Wednesday)

August 8

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5

Operations Committee (2nd Monday)

February 13
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

Financial Committee (2nd Tuesday)

February 14
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11
August 15
September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

ALL MEETING TIMES ARE AT 6:30 P.M. AT DERBY CITY HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Szewczyk to adopt the meeting dates as presented. **Motion carried.**

PROCLAMATION – RONALD REAGAN DAY IN DERBY, CT

Mr. Bomba – Mr. Mayor, fellow board members and everyone from the public – I take great pride and honor this evening to read a proclamation to a great man who served his country well.

WHEREAS, President Ronald Wilson Reagan, a man of humble background, worked throughout this life serving freedom and advancing the public good, having been employed as an entertainer, Union leader, corporate spokesman, Governor of California, and President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan served with honor and distinction for two terms as the 40th President of the United States of America; the second of which he earned the confidence of 3/5 of the electorate and was victorious in 49 of the 50 states in the general election – a record unsurpassed in the history of American presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated President, he inherited a disillusioned nation shackled by rampant inflation and high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Reagan's presidency he worked in a bipartisan manner to enact his bold agenda of restoring accountability and common sense to Government which led to an unprecedented economic expansion and opportunity for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reagan's commitment to an active social policy agenda for the nation's children helped lower crime and drug use in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's commitment to our armed forces contributed to the restoration of pride in America, her values and those cherished by the free world, and prepared America's Armed Forces to meet 21st Century challenges; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's vision of "peace through strength" led to the end of the Cold War and the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union, guaranteeing basic human rights for millions of people; and

WHEREAS, February 6, 2006 will be the 95th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Board of Aldermen of the City of Derby, Connecticut do hereby declare February 6th, 2006, to be

RONALD REAGAN DAY IN

Derby, Connecticut

And urge all the citizens of Derby to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

A MOTION was made by Mr. M. DeBarbieri with a second by Mr. Szewczyk to adopt the Proclamation declaring February 6, 2006 to be Ronald Reagan Day in Derby, CT.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mrs. Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 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