

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.

JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Chairman Arthur T. Gerckens called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Arthur T. Gerckens, Ronald M. Sill, Carmen T. DiCenso (Alternate)

Absent: Peter M. Olenoski

Also Present: The Honorable Mayor Anita Dugatto
Anthony DeFala, Street Commissioner
Alderman Carmen T. DiCenso
Alderman David Anroman
Marc J. Garofalo, Town & City Clerk (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Francis Teodosio, Corporation Counsel

PUBLIC PORTION

Carmen DiCenso, 7 Jeanetti Drive, Derby, CT

I brought forward Mr. Cretella this evening regarding a piece of property he owns on Water Street – a three family house. He said there is a piece of property between his house and a one family house. The piece of property is owned by the City – there is no building it is a cliff. He would like to make some parking spaces for his tenants. Mr. DiCenso said there really is limited space, especially in the winter.

Mr. Cretella said he came up with this idea about 25 years ago and he presented it to the City. He is looking to see if the City would let him purchase the parcel for a fair price. He would like to install a retaining wall and then have it paved in order to provide parking for his tenants.

Mr. Gerckens asked if anyone else wished to address the subcommittee. Hearing no wishing to speak Mr. Gerckens declared the Public Portion closed.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2014

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2014 as presented. **Motion carried.**

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE ACCESS ROAD BEHIND BJ'S WAREHOUSE FOR D.H.S. POST PROM FUNDRAISER FROM 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2014. LEIGH DEFALA, D.H.S. POST PROM COMMITTEE. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Leigh DeFala and Christine DiMartino from the Post Prom Committee are in attendance in case anyone had any questions. They briefly explained that the site will be used as a fundraiser for the post prom. There will be food trucks and vendors at the site. Mr. Gerckens and Mr. Sill both commented that this is a great idea. Mr. Gerckens stressed to Ms. DeFala and Ms. DiMartino that the approval is for the site only. They aren't approving any vendors or signs. Mr. DiCenso just noted that it's a shame that people would also have to view the eyesore on the right hand side of the road – there is dirt and trucks stored there – it really does look horrible.

A MOTION was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Mr. Sill to forward the request for permission to use the access road behind BJ's Warehouse for the D.H.S. Post Prom Fundraiser on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to the full Board of Aldermen with a recommendation to approve.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

The issue of insurance was brought up. It was noted that it would be covered under the Board of Education.

MOTION CARRIED.

REQUEST FROM CHRISTIAN CENTER, THE REAL TABERNACLE CENTER FOR THE CITY OF DERBY TO DONATE OLD CITY COMPUTERS TO THE CHURCH. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Gerckens noted that this was on the agenda for last month and it was sent to the full Board of Aldermen who in turn has sent it back to this committee. It was decided that the cost to fully wipe clean the computers would be too much and it would be better just to have the computers scrapped.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to scrap the plan to turn over the computers due to the time and cost to wipe clean the computers. **Motion carried.**

AUTHORIZED MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE POWER AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN ENERGY. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Gerckens noted that the Agreement was received yesterday. He asked Atty. Teodosio if he has reviewed it. Atty. Teodosio said he would like to call attention to a couple of items in the contract. The first is the provision asking for a Ground Lease. He said Ground Leases in the City's Charter have to go out to bid. Atty. Teodosio said as an alternative we can change it into a Competitive Bidding Process or change the Ground Lease itself into a License Agreement. A License Agreement is a license to operate the facility on the City's property. Atty. Teodosio said if the City truly wants to effectuate this contract he would encourage the committee to have the contract amended to provide for a License Agreement. He said aside from that it is pretty standard.

Mr. Sill questioned the insurance on the property. Atty. Teodosio noted that the contract provides for insurance and that the insurance would be put on by the vendor. He said the City should still keep their insurance on it – you would still be insuring the land.

Mr. DiCenso said he has concerns regarding the membrane. According to the people that put the cap on the landfill there is no membrane. He said there is 2 feet of soil that was heavily concentrated with clay and on top of that there is 6 inches of topsoil. Mr. DiCenso said the special dirt mixed with clay allows the gasses to emit and allows the rain to penetrate.

Mr. Jordan of Jordan Energy said he spent 3 hours today at DEP with the person who will provide the approval. We received the closure documents for the landfill and he said he doesn't foresee any problems.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to forward this to the full Board of Aldermen to enter into an Agreement with Jordan Energy. **Motion carried.**

VAGRANTS LIVING ON PROPERTY BEHIND AND BETWEEN BUSINESSES LOCATED ON PERSHING DRIVE AND THE GREENWAY. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Gerckens said that it has been reported to the Aldermen that there are people living in this area. Mr. DiCenso noted that there have been several break-ins on Pershing Drive – Italian Pavilion, Duchess, and the Pawn Shop. He said he knows that the gentleman from the Tabernacle Center has offered to find shelter for these individuals. He said he doesn't feel that it is a safe area for women and children and this has to be addressed with the Chief or Deputy Chief.

Deputy Chief Todd said this is an on-going issue. In the past they have worked with the Public Works department to dismantle these "tent cities." He said they will absolutely look into the situation.

Mr. DeFala noted that these individuals go there late at night and leave early in the morning before Public Works even starts. He said the individuals know the City is watching the situation.

Mr. Gerckens asked Deputy Chief Todd to have a report by the committee's next meeting or the full Board of Aldermen meeting.

AV SYSTEM IN THE JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS. DISCUSSION

Mr. Gerckens said it is about time that we should be able to conduct professional meetings. He noted that the AV didn't work at the WPCA meeting the other evening. He said that Marc Garofalo has offered to undertake this project so that we can look at all the issues – audio problems, visual problems and report back to the committee with the findings and suggested corrections.

SELLING OF CITY PROPERTY. DISCUSSION.

Atty. Teodosio reviewed the bidding process. He said it really depends on what you're going to do with the property and noted that the City has a confusing bidding process. It was noted that the Operations & Procedures subcommittee would be discussing this item tonight.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to **TABLE** this item until the next meeting. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Gerckens said a letter has been received from Alderman Peter Olenoski and he asked that the Public Portion be reopened so that it can be read into the record.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to reopen the Public Portion to read the letter from Alderman Peter Olenoski into the record. **Motion carried.**

Peter Olenoski – 8 Commodore Hull Drive, Derby, CT (Written comments sent to Committee – Alderman Olenoski requested that they be read into the minutes during the Public Portion of the meeting.

This year the Board of Education decided to fund school supplies for the children rather than the teachers send home a supply list for what to bring in, which was always done in the past. Utilizing School Reach, a message was sent out by the Superintendent notifying all households (K-8) that they didn't need to buy any school supplies for their children since the school district would be providing them. Supplies were not delivered and never arrived for several days. Teachers were told that the district spent \$40,000 on supplies, but nothing was delivered. Later that amount was retracted to \$26,000, but only a few supplies trickled in, which the Derby Middle School students received one binder and one folder but no paper? Elementary schools received crayons, markers and glue sticks (the cheapest versions.) The crayons and markers were delivered in bulk, but no pencil boxes or any type of container was distributed to the students to put them in. Pencils were not even provided. The Walnut Hill Church actually donated some pencils, but not nearly enough. Last week a couple more School Reach messages went out to parents saying that they could purchase their own supplies, but stated once again that they didn't need to since the school will be providing them. Still only one binder and one folder as of September 9th. We're ten days into school year and still no pencils or pencil boxes for our elementary students. It was brought to my attention that this was discussed and decided by the Board of Education early February/March timeframe, yet the supplies were not ordered until August 14th. What was the amount that was actually approved and what was actually spent? I don't think it's fair that we ask all taxpayers to pay for these supplies when it should be the parents of the students who attend the schools – like all prior years. \$40,000 could pay for a part-time teacher or librarian while \$26,000 could be used for a Tutor or Paraprofessional (aide.) Let's please spend our taxpayer's money wisely. As a Board of Aldermen that represents this town, I am requesting to see an itemized bill of order for the supplies that were purchased for our students.

Last, but not least, the school roof project at Bradley School is still ongoing and has been very disruptive to the children and teachers due to the constant banging on the

roofs. We were told the roofing project at the High School would be the only project that may be ongoing when school started. We were also told there wouldn't be any safety concerns, but if workers are banging on the roofs, how do we know it's safe for our students and teachers that are in the building below them?

Karen Palange – (no address given) Derby Born and Bred

I agree with that letter. We always took pride in getting our school supplies and pencil boxes. Parents can even go to the dollar store now to purchase items. I don't think the City should be spending money on these items.

Mr. Gerckens asked if anyone else wished to address the subcommittee. Hearing no wishing to speak Mr. Gerckens declared the Public Portion closed.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Finn
Recording Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.