

TO: Mayor Gene F. Eriquez and Members of the Common Council

RE: Minutes of the Special Common Council Meeting held June 24, 1999

Mayor Eriquez called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were recited. The members were recorded as:

PRESENT – Scalzo, McAllister, Arconti, Smith, Boynton, Buzaid, Dean Esposito, Machado, Shuler, Setaro, John Esposito, Levy, Coco, Basso, Fox, Moore

ABSENT – Charles, Abrantes, Falzone, Gallagher, Saracino

16 Present 5 Absent

Mrs. Saracino was working

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING – There will be a Special Meeting of the Common Council on June 24, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. in the Common Council Chambers in City Hall to act on the items below. Mr. Setaro made a motion to accept the call and return of service. Seconded by Mr. Levy. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SPEAKING – Lynn Waller, 83 Highland Avenue

1 – **COMMUNICATION** – Appointments to Fire Lieutenant

Request from Mayor Gene F. Eriquez for confirmation of Thomas J. Wiedl, Jr., Gary J. Arconti, Mark E. Omasta, Bernie Meehan, Jr. and Lorinda Arconti as Lieutenants within the Danbury Fire Department. These candidates were ranked first through fifth on the Civil Service listing for this position. Mr. Arconti made a motion to receive the communication and confirm the appointments of these individuals to fire lieutenants. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

(At 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Abrantes arrived and was marked present)

2 – **RESOLUTION** – Magnet School

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the Danbury Board of Education Building Committee, consisting of the following persons, John R. Mitchell, Michael Fazio, Bobby Poole, Ellen Morelock, George O’Loughlin and Anthony Paivo, and representatives of the City of Danbury consisting of the Superintendent of Public Buildings and two designees from the City’s Engineering Department is hereby established as the Building Committee with regard to building a Magnet School on 14 acres of land at the Western Connecticut State University, Westside Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council hereby authorizes the Board of Education to prepare schematic drawings and outline specifications for the following: a Magnet School on 14 acres of land at the Western Connecticut State University, Westside Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council hereby authorizes the Board of Education to direct the Superintendent of Schools to file an application for 100% State funding for a Magnet School to be built on 14 acres of land at the Western Connecticut State University, Westside Campus.

After some discussion, Mr. McAllister made a motion to move the question. Seconded by Mr. Scalzo. The motion carried with Dean Esposito voting in the negative.

Mr. Scalzo made a motion to receive the communication, move forward with the application and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Shuler. Motion carried unanimously.

3 – **RESOLUTION** – Homeownership Opportunities for Police Officers

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act No. 96-147, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (“CHFA”) has developed a pilot program to provide low interest, fixed rate home mortgage loans to local and state police officers who are CHFA-eligible homebuyers to encourage them to live in designated neighborhoods in the community in which they are employed; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the program is to reduce crime by promoting community policing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury, having a population of over 45,000 is eligible to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforementioned Public Act, each town may make grants to applicants to pay for reasonable and bona fide closing costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury wishes to participate in the program and to make grants for closing costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved:

1. The Common Council of the City of Danbury hereby authorizes participation in the program and the making of grants for closing costs, and directs Mayor Gene F. Eriquez to indicate said authorization, in writing, to CHFA promptly.

2. The following neighborhoods are designated for participation in the program, based upon a determination that increased police presence is needed:

census tract numbered: 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114

3. To be eligible for the program, an applicant must, among other requirements:

- a. be purchasing a home in a neighborhood designated in paragraph 2 above; and
- b. be a local police officer employed by this town, or a Connecticut state police officer.

4. Mayor Gene F. Eriquez is hereby authorized to take such action as is necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution.

Mr. Levy made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Ms. Fox. Motion carried unanimously.

4 – **RESOLUTION** – Bulletproof Vest Grant

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has made available a grant for the purpose of purchasing 165 bullet proof vests for the police department; and

WHEREAS, the grant in the amount of \$111,375 requires a local cash match of 50% which is available in the police department's budget; and

WHEREAS, applications for this grant will be accepted only through August 31, 1999.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gene F. Eriquez, Mayor of the City of Danbury is hereby authorized to apply for and accept said grant and to do all things necessary to effectuate the purposes of this grant.

Mr. Setaro made a motion to receive the communication , adopt the resolution and approve the application. Seconded by Ms. Fox. Motion carried unanimously.

5 – RESOLUTION – Section 108 HOME Loan

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated funds for a program titled Section 108 HOME Loan; and

WHEREAS, this funding in the amount of \$400,000.00 will be provided to the Non Profit Rental Housing Corporation for the acquisition of the Palace View property for affordable Senior housing; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 24 CFR Part 570.705(b)(2), the City of Danbury pledges as repayment of this assistance, all grants made, or for which the City may become eligible under this part.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Common Council of the City of Danbury hereby authorizes the Mayor to act as the official representative of the City of Danbury to submit the Section 108 application and amendments thereto and all understandings and assurances contained therein and directing and authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the City of Danbury to act in connection with the Section 108 application to provide such additional information as may be required; and further, authorizes the Mayor of the City of Danbury to execute such documents as may be required in order to implement the application and issue debt obligations pursuant thereto.

Mrs. Abrantes made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

6 – RESOLUTION – School Readiness Grant – Year 3

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, through the State Board of Education is making available to priority school districts a School Readiness and Child Day Care Grant Program pursuant to Public Act 97-259; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this program would expand and enhance school readiness and child day care programs in the priority municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury and its Board of Education are desirous of participating in this grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Gene F. Eriquez and Schools Superintendent Timothy Connors be and hereby are authorized to accept said grant and execute such documents as are necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes hereof.

Ms. Fox made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Dean Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

7 – **RESOLUTION** – Community Youth Development Program

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management has made a grant available for the Connecticut for Community Youth Development Program; and

WHEREAS, this funding in the amount of \$10,000 requires no local match but in kind services will be provided by the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the term of the grant is for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gene F. Eriquez, Mayor of the City of Danbury, is hereby authorized to make application on behalf of the City of Danbury to the Connecticut Office of Policy Management and to do all things necessary to effectuate the purposes of this grant application.

Mr. Boynton made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Shuler. Motion carried unanimously.

8 – **RESOLUTION** – Per Capita Grant

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has made additional per capita grant funds available for 1999-2000 to municipalities with Section 19a-202 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury through the Danbury Health and Housing Department has formulated a program to promote optimal public health quality in the City of Danbury; and

WHEREAS, a continuation grant award for \$66,779.40 with no local match requirement will be processed by the Danbury Health and Housing Department for a grant term of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor of the City of Danbury, Gene F. Eriquez is hereby authorized to apply for and accept said per capita grant funds of \$66,779.40 to execute all contracts or amendments thereof concerning said grant and to take all necessary actions to effectuate the purposes thereof.

Mr. Boynton made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Dean Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

9 – **RESOLUTION** – AIDS Prevention & NEP Grant

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Services, through its AIDS Prevention Program, has made grant funds available to full-time health departments to provide HIV health education information and expanded services for the period of July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 1999-2000 grant funding will be \$182,767.00 requiring no local match, made available to the Danbury Health and Housing Department for its AIDS Risk Reduction Outreach Education Program, HIV

Counseling and Testing Services, with and additional \$50,000.00 its Needle Exchange Program and its Ryan White Title II Case Management Program, upon approval of a grant application therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Danbury Health and Housing Department will provide these services to the general public with particular attention given to individuals concerned about possible exposure to HIV, serving both residents and non-residents with no restrictions on who may be served.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Gene F. Eriquez, Mayor of the City of Danbury is authorized to apply for said grant and to accept the grant award on behalf of the City of Danbury, if such award is made. Any prior actions of the Mayor regarding this application are hereby ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mayor Gene F. Eriquez is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the City of Danbury all contracts/agreements or amendments thereof which do not require expenditure of City funds, with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Services regarding said grant, and to take all actions necessary to accomplish the purposes of these programs.

Mr. Arconti made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Ms. Fox. Motion carried with Mr. Moore voting in the negative.

10 – **RESOLUTION** – Community Employment Incentive Program

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Labor will make grant funds available to municipalities under its Community Employment Incentive Program (CEIP) to fund employment projects for recipients of SAGA medical; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Labor and municipal Welfare Departments are working together to advance their mutual goal of assisting recipients of SAGA medical assistance to secure employment and attain economic self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury Welfare Department is eligible to receive a grant of up to \$71,423 for the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 upon approval of an application therefore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gene F. Eriquez, Mayor of the City of Danbury is hereby authorized to apply for said funds, to accept the grant if approved and the Mayor is further authorized to execute any contracts therefore and to do all things necessary to effectuate the purposes of the grant award.

Mr. Boynton made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Dean Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

11 – **COMMUNICATION** – Transfer of Funds for Technology/Year 2k Compliance

Certification from Director of Finance Dominic Setaro requesting that the Common Council authorize the transfer of various unused funds in the amount of \$193,000 from departments to our technology fund which is used for Year 2K compliance and purchase of additional equipment and services in connection with the City's Public Safety and administrative and financial software.

Mr. Levy made a motion to receive the communication and authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$193,000. Seconded by Mr. Boynton. Motion carried unanimously.

12 – **COMMUNICATION** – Request for Funds – Conservation Commission

Certification from Director of Finance Dominic Setaro requesting the transfer of funds in the amount of \$100 into the Conservation Commission Utility Services Account #02-01-184-023000 from the FICA Account #02-09-120-070100.

Christopher Setaro made a motion to receive the communication and authorize the transfer of funds. Seconded by Mr. Levy. Motion carried unanimously.

13 – **COMMUNICATION** – Donation to the Health Department

Request from Jack Kozuchowski, Coordinator of Environmental & Occupational Health Services for permission to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,500 from the Branson Corporation for the development of the Still River Greenway project.

Ms. Fox made a motion to receive the communication, accept the donation, credit the proper line item and send a letter of thanks. Seconded by Mrs. Abrantes. Motion carried unanimously.

14 – **COMMUNICATION** – Reports regarding request to accept Shoreview Lane and Charlotte's Way and Name Change request from Pine Ledge Road to Shoreview Lane.

Reports from the Planning Commission, the Director of Planning, and the City Engineer all giving positive recommendations for the acceptance of Shoreview Lane and the name change. Mr. Machado made a motion to receive the reports and authorize acceptance of Shoreview Lane and the name change from Pine Ledge Road to Shoreview Lane. Seconded by Mr. Buzaid. Motion carried unanimously.

15 – **COMMUNICATION & RESOLUTION** – Lease/Purchase of Fire Apparatus

Letter from Assistant Corporation Counsel Les Pinter stating that since the April 6, 1999 authorization of the lease/purchase of Pierce fire apparatus the financing agent has requested a formal resolution in order to enable them to properly conclude the financing arrangements.

Mr. McAllister made a motion to receive the communication and adopt the resolution. Seconded by Shuler. Motion carried unanimously.

16 – **REPORT & RESOLUTION** – Vision 21 Bond Issue

Mr. Setaro submitted the following report:

The Common Council Committee appointed to review the school projects portion of the Vision 21 bond package met on June 7, 1999 at 7:50 P.M. in Room 432 in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Setaro, Abrantes, Levy and Basso. Also in attendance were Mayor Gene F. Eriquez, Director of Finance Dominic Setaro, Corporation Counsel Eric Gottschalk and Assistant Corporation Counsel Dan Casagrande.

Mayor Eriquez gave a rundown of the school projects to be considered in this portion of the bond package:

Science Lab-\$4,000,000; Library Media Center-\$750,000; Technology Center-\$800,000; Track and Field-\$2,000,000; DHS Locker Rooms (Title IX)-\$1,800,000 and Roofs-\$1,000,000. The net change is \$450,000. Mr. Setaro asked why the committee is not taking up the entire package. Mayor Eriquez responded that other projects are being redefined and a full presentation will be made at the next committee meeting. Mayor Eriquez answered questions pertaining to the projects.

Mrs. Abrantes made a motion that the Danbury Board of Education Building Committee consisting of the following persons: John R. Mitchell, Michael Fazio, Bobby Poole, Ellen Morelock, George O'Loughlin and Anthony Paivo and representatives of the City of Danbury, consisting of Robert Ryerson, Rick Palanzo and a designee from the City's Engineering Department is hereby established as the Building Committee with regard to (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field, Locker Rooms Title IX); (2) Roofs at King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Shelter Rock School, Morris Street School and Roberts Avenue School. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Abrantes made a motion that the Common Council authorize the Board of Education to prepare schematic drawings and outline specifications for the following: (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field, Locker Rooms Title IX); (2) Roofs at King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Shelter Rock School, Morris Street School and Roberts Avenue School. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Abrantes made a motion that the Common Council authorizes the Board of Education to direct the Superintendent of Schools to file applications for school building projects as follows: (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field, Locker Rooms Title IX); (2) Roofs at King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Shelter Rock School, Morris Street School and Roberts Avenue School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Basso and passed unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

That the Danbury Board of Education Building Committee, consisting of the following persons, John R. Mitchell, Michael Fazio, Bobby Poole, Ellen Morelock, George O'Loughlin and Anthony Paivo and representatives of the City of Danbury, consisting of the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Superintendent of Public Buildings and a designee of the City's Engineering Department is hereby established as the Building Committee with regard to: (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field, Locker Rooms Title IX) (2) Roofs including, but not limited to, King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Community Resource Center and South Street School addition.

That the Common Council hereby authorized the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the following: (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field, Locker Rooms Title IX) (2) Roofs including, but not limited to, King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Community Resource Center and South Street School addition.

That the Common Council hereby authorizes the Board of Education to direct the Superintendent of Schools to file applications for school building projects as follows: (1) Danbury High School Projects (Science Labs, Library/Media Center, Technology Center, Track and Field Locker Rooms Title IX) (2) Roofs including, but not limited to, King Street Primary, Mill Ridge Primary, Community Resource Center and South Street School addition.

Mr. Levy made a motion to receive the report, adopt its recommendation, adopt the resolution and refer the Vision 21 Bond Issue Ordinance to public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

17 – **REPORT** – Candlewood Lake Conservation Restriction Easement

Mr. Setaro submitted the following report:

The Common Council Committee appointed to review the Candlewood Lake Conservation Restriction Agreement and the Town Park Purchase Agreement met on June 7, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. in Room 432 in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Setaro, Abrantes, Levy and Basso. Also in attendance were Mayor Gene F. Eriquez, Assistant Corporation Counsel Dan Casagrande, City Engineer Patricia Ellsworth and Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority.

Chairman Setaro read the positive recommendation of the Planning Commission. Mayor Eriquez gave an update of the negotiations. The City of Danbury and four adjoining towns have been negotiating with CL&P for a conservation restriction for \$2,000,000. Independent appraisals have been done. CL&P's appraisal was for nine million dollars. The town's appraisal was for \$1.00 for the conservation restriction. The towns offered \$100,000 in good faith. CL&P offered \$2.7 million, which was negotiated down to two million dollars, which would be born by the CL&P ratepayers at approximately \$1.00 for one year. No appropriation is required by the Common Council, but it needs to be ratified by June 30, 1999.

Chairman Setaro asked the Mayor to explain the Town Park Purchase Agreement. The Mayor stated that it includes the parking area on East Hayestown Road, but does not include the boat launch. The launch is adjacent to the causeway, which is a dam. We would incur the liability that goes with the dam. CL&P had two appraisals; one at \$780,000 and one at \$500,000. The City's appraisal as \$100,000. The City offered \$220,000, but CL&P is holding at \$525,000.

Chairman Setaro asked if the committee should vote on the Town Park agreement now. Attorney Casagrande suggested that the committee make a recommendation to enter into an agreement once the price is agreed upon, with the appropriation subject to approval of the voters. Another option could be added that if there were no approval by the voters, the money could come from the General Fund. Mayor Eriquez stated that if the Common Council acts to send the bond issue to the voters, and it is approved, we might need to revisit our position. He is not sure if the timing will allow the City to use the State Open Space Land Acquisition funding grant. Attorney Casagrande suggested that to assure CL&P that the City is serious the Common Council could authorize the Mayor to sign all documents and to make such changes as the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel deem necessary because the boat launch language is not specific at this point.

Mr. Levy made a motion to adopt the conservation restriction and recommend approval of the agreement to purchase the Town Park; to approve the acquisition of the property for a price to be negotiated and recommend appropriation of the funds, subject to the voters approval of the bond issue in November or authorize funding from some other source; and to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents and make such changes in the document as the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel deem necessary. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Basso and carried unanimously.

Mr. Levy made a motion to receive the report and adopt the recommendations therein. Seconded by Dean Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Eriquez extended all committees.

There being no further business to come before the Common Council a motion was made at 8:35 P.M. by Mrs. Basso for the meeting to be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JIMMETTA L. SAMAHA
Assistant City Clerk

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