

**City of Danbury City Council
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 22, 2010**

President Joseph Cavo called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2010. The members were recorded as follows:
Robert Arconti, Phil Curran, Nancy Damici, Don Taylor, Phil Colla, Shay Nagarsheth, Michael Halas, Fred Visconti, Jack Knapp, Peter Nero, Duane Perkins, Ben Chianese, Paul Rotello, Mary Teicholz and Sal Tumino.

Councilpersons Riley, Seabury, Stanley and Trombetta were out of town, and Councilman Saadi was away on military duty.

Present: 16, Absent: 5

Also present were Robert Yamin and Lazlo Pinter, Corporation Counsel; David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance; Sharon Calitro, Deputy Planning Director; Paul Estefan, Airport Administrator and members of the public.

Adjunct Parking Lease – 20 Backus Ave.

Mr. Pinter said the property is in an area that is owned by the City although jurisdiction is to the FAA. This lease is for a proposed adjunct parking lot for 30-50 spaces to the left side of the building. The terms and conditions of the lease have addressed earlier issues and the lease is ready for approval. If approved tonight, it will be conditional on a positive report from Planning. Mr. Visconti asked if the lease was to be turned down, what will happen. Atty. Marcus said their proposed tenant, Buffalo Wild Wings, wants the additional parking to meet the requirement for additional seating in their restaurant and if not, they will look elsewhere. Mr. Knapp asked what was needed to move forward. Ms. Calitro said the new adjunct lease has to go through a special exception site plan. Mr. Pinter said if the lease was approved tonight, the lease then goes to the City Council with 2/3 majority vote required to approve the lease subject to conditions and a positive recommendation by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Curran moved to recommend the receipt of the report of the subcommittee in this matter, approve the adjunct lease as modified since the subcommittee meeting of February 18, 2010 subject to all local requirements, submissions and approvals as set forth in the motion of the subcommittee and as required by land use agencies, and also conditional upon a positive Planning Commission recommendation of the proposal as modified. Seconded by Mr. Arconti

Discussion followed. Mr. Nero asked if they would be setting a precedent by allowing the lease of public land for private use. Mr. Pinter said the entire airport has had leases all over it for long periods of time. Mr. Estefan added that only about 13,000 sq. ft. of the ½ acre property will be used for parking. Mr. Chianese objected to the way the lease came about, and had concerns about more traffic. Mr. Cavo said if the Planning Commission has concerns, they can still give a negative recommendation. Mr. Cavo called for a vote on the motion.

The vote was: 14 YES, 2 NO (Council Members Chianese and Perkins), 5 ABSENT. Motion passes.

Mr. Perkins moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Nero. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Cavo
President