

~Ad Hoc Report~  
**Governmental Advocacy & Lobbying Services**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2016**

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Chairman Joe Cavo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2016 in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Vinny Digilio & Fred Visconti. Also present were ex-officio John Esposito, Ben Chianese & Duane Perkins.

Also present were Mayor Mark Boughton; Steve Nocera, Office of Project Excellence and members of the public.

Mr. Cavo opened the meeting by asking The Mayor to give an explanation of the letter from The Office of Project Excellence regarding the funding of \$25,000 for a lobbyist in Hartford.

Mayor Boughton referred to a presentation given by The School Finance Board back in the fall. He said the first suggestion was to hire a lobbyist to advocate for Danbury and that a good lobbyist will work for The Mayor's Office, The City Council, The Board of Ed. and legislators to get state funding for the City.

Mr. Nocera stated that hiring an outside firm is more cost effective for the city then hiring an employee.

The Mayor noted that we have used lobbyists in the past and they have been very successful.

Mr. Visconti asked if just the city is paying to which The Mayor replied the Board of Education is also paying \$25,000. He also asked about the time frame for the lobbyist and the basis for renewal. The Mayor responded that it would be for the remainder of the session and the issue can be revisited on a 'as needed basis'.

Mr. Esposito and Mr. Chianese had questions regarding the bidding process.

**A Motion was made by Councilman Digilio to approve funding for \$25,000 for Governmental Advocacy and Lobbying Services in Hartford. Seconded by Councilman Cavo.**

Noted for the record that Mr. Digilio and Mr. Cavo voted for the motion and Mr. Visconti voted no.

**Mr. Cavo made a motion to adjorn at 6:45pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe Cavo, Chairman

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Vinny Digilio

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Fred Visconti