

City of New Haven
Journal of the Board of Aldermen
City Services and Environmental
Policy

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Thursday, March 19, 2009

6:30 PM

Aldermanic Chamber

ALDERMANIC NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

THE CITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE ALDERMANIC CHAMBER OF CITY HALL, 165 CHURCH STREET TO HEAR:

ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO ENTER INTO A RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY AT BISHOP WOODS SCHOOL

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

Order authorizing the APPLICATION TO AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF UP TO \$1,000,000 FROM THE U.S. Environmental Protection Agency TO Support Brownfields Projects throughout the city of New haven.

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE FILING APPLICATION WITH THE U.S. ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 TO SUPPORT ENVIROMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 243 LEGION AVENUE'S PARCEL "F"

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U.S. ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 243 LEGION AVENUE PARCEL "G"

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES OF THE EAST ROCK ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE MILL RIVER (BRIDGE NO. 04418) UTILIZING FEDERAL LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FUNDS

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULATING THE REGISTRATION OF METAL RECYCLERS AND SELLERS, REQUIRING METAL RECYCLERS TO KEEP A COMPREHENSIVE PURCHASE RECORD, AND OTHER MEASURES TO ASSIST POLICE IN CURTAILING COPPER THEFTS AND THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN STOLEN COPPER.

Favorable Report to the Board of Aldermen

THESE ITEMS ARE FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK, ROOM 202, 200 ORANGE STREET, WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION. PER ORDER ERIN STURGIS-PASCALE, CHAIRWOMAN, ATTEST: RON SMITH, CITY CLERK.

IF YOU NEED DISABILITY RELATED ACCOMMODATION, PLEASE CALL THREE BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING: 946-8122 (VOICE) OR 946-8582 (TTY).

MINUTES

City Services & Environmental Policy

March 19, 2009

Chairwoman Sturgis-Pascale called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall. Also present were Committee members Colon, Goldfield, S. Rodriguez, Rhodeen and J. Rodriguez. Ald. James also attended.

Order of the New Haven Board of Aldermen authorizing the City of New Haven to enter into a right-of-way easement agreement with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority at Bishop Woods School.

Speaking for was School Construction Program Coordinator Susan Weisselberg. Attorney Weisselberg said that the Water Authority requested the easement to service its line which lines beneath the new school property.

Committee action: The Committee unanimously agreed to give the item a favorable report.

Order of the New Haven Board of Aldermen authorizing the filing of an application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for and acceptance of a grant in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to support brownfields projects throughout the City of New Haven.,

Order of the New Haven Board of Aldermen authorizing the filing of an application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for and acceptance of a grant in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to support environmental remediation to the city-owned property at 243 Legion Avenue Parcel "F"

And

Order of the New Haven Board of Aldermen authorizing the filing of an application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for and acceptance of a grant in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to support environmental remediation to the city-owned property at 243 Legion Avenue Parcel "G".

Richard Yao, of the Economic Development Department presented the item. He distributed a handout illustrating the subject areas of the city and the status of such funding statewide. He said that the city-wide use funding would go to manage current remediation projects in Fairhaven, and to coordinate work between the city and other agencies (Housing Authority, Redevelopment, etc.). In answer to questions from the Committee, Mr. Yao explained that the city had not aggressively pursued such grants in the past. If not successful this year, he said, the city would try again next year.

Committee action: The Committee unanimously agreed to give the item a favorable report.

Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the design and construction phases of the East Rock Road bridge over the Mill River (Bridge No. 04418) utilizing federal Local Bridge Program funds.

City Engineer Richard Miller spoke for the item. He told the Committee that decking had to be replaced on the "Beautiful, classical bridge", noting that the brownstone and steel would remain. He said that the bridge had been determined to be in poor condition, though not in danger of collapse; and that he wanted it fixed before it might have to be closed.

Committee action: The Committee unanimously agreed to give the item a favorable report.

Amendment to the New Haven Code of General Ordinances regulating the registration of metal recyclers and sellers, requiring metal recyclers to keep a comprehensive purchase record, and other measures to assist police in curtailing copper thefts and the illegal trade in stolen copper.

Sponsor Ald, Jacqueline James-Evans presented the item. She said she developed the ordinance in response to homeowners' complaints of theft and vandalism of their property. Ald. James-Evans also cited vandalism of construction sites. She noted that state law and city zoning code already regulate some aspects of metal dealers' business. She added that she was actually more interested in controls on those who sell to scrap metal dealers and was developing ideas with staff and police; but for now, the proposed ordinance is the only available tool.

City Engineer Richard Miller commented on the proposal saying that he supported in principle, based on his observation of vandalized vacant properties and theft of public property. Mr. Miller described how city light poles, pole bases and guard railing was stolen by people who often don't realize the value of these materials to the city. He said that a "chain of custody" should be in place to track ownership of these metals, with scrap dealers required to make the determination of the source of the scrap they buy and notify the city for any suspicious items.

Public Testimony

Raphael Ramos, 63 Downing Street spoke in support of the proposal. He said that he responds 24 hours to problem calls. The ordinance, he said could help

curtail costs do to vandalism of vacant properties.

Marjorie Shansky, counsel to Metal Management, Alderman Dow and several other scrap dealers, noted her clients present. She said that these people represented businesses established in New Haven for many years. She added that she had background in zoning law and enforcement, having worked for the City plan Department. Attorney Shansky said that she had worked with the city, the state legislature and police for uniform regulation and enforcement of scrap dealers. She added that further regulation would represent an economic hardship for her clients during difficult times.

Attorney Shansky cited statute regarding regulation of metal dealers and compared it with the proposal, noting some conflicts and redundancies. She said that her clients already had refused to buy various items, including city light poles, and had informed the city about their actions. She said that it would be preferable to focus on the perpetrators and scofflaws and offered to work further with the Committee.

John Sartori, Norman Alderman and Joe Rini, Attorney Shansky's clients and scrap metal dealers based in New Haven, said that they welcomed support in trying to determine where stolen materials are going.

In response to a question from Ald Goldfield, Mr. Sartori said that his business primarily buys from landfills, auto dealers, with contracts across the state.

Mr. Alderman noted a local law can restrict police actions and push business across town lines, making controls even more difficult. He added that most of the time, he can judge authenticity of ownership based on the profession of the seller, but he can't trace scrap to its original location, or assert that a particular item was stolen. He said consistency is important across state laws.

Mr. Sartori said that he does keep records for police.

Committee action: The Committee took no action on this item.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 7:41 P.M.