

JANUARY 8, 1951

A regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held at the Burdick Junior High School on Monday, January 8, 1951. The meeting was called to order by the President, Samuel F. Pierson, at 8:15 F.M.

Invocation was by Father Rarus.

Roll Call was taken with 35 present and 5 absent, with a final attendance of 30 present and 4 absent.

The President presented the minutes of November 13, and December 4, 1950. There were quite a few corrections so John Cameron, 20th District, MOVED that the minutes of the November meeting be approved as corrected from the floor and that corrections of the December meeting be sent in to the clerk, seconded by Michael Wofsey, 1st District, and CARRIED.

I. PETITIONS

1. Petition #954- Infantile Paralysis Campaign Committee.

Helen J. Peatt, 16th District, MOVED that permission be granted to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign Committee to put "Wishing Wells" on the streets of Stamford, Springdale and Glenbrook, seconded by Helen Bromley, 20th District, and CARRIED.

2. Petition #96 - Storm Water drain on Wardwell Street.

The Steering Committee recommended that this matter be referred to the Mayor and to the Public Works Department.

Robert Shepherd, 9th District, requested suspension of the rules to place a resolution on the Agenda. This resolution, signed by 9 members of the Board, related to the truck accident on Noroton Hill as typical of many dangerous situations for pedestrians and motorists due to the size of the trucks and their general operation at excessive speeds on this open stretch of road. The request was for a traffic study to determine the location of traffic lights.

James Mulreed, 4th District, said he was glad that Robert Shepherd brought this up because this was only one instance of the failure of our police department to do their job. He said that we have traffic laws and that if motorists traveled at the proper rate of speed, fatalities would not occur. He said that there were many people who can mention similar failures of our police department.

George Connors, 10th District, said that he wanted to defend the police department and mentioned that an appropriation had been asked for a light on Weed Avenue. He said that the police department was working on something now that looked very good.

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, said that many accidents had occurred, but were not the fault of the police department alone. He said that it was the City's fault and that some of the blame came right back to the Board of Representatives and the Board of Finance particularly.

Patrick Hogan, 10th District, stated that more attention should be given by the Board of Public Safety to the highways and less attention downtown and that the Board should function properly or it should be done away with.

Leon Staples, 7th District, said plans were made for a thru truck Highway and that the State was ready to go ahead if the towns of Greenwich, Stamford and Darien

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will give the go-ahead signal. He said that on the Noroton Hill his Committee watched the trucks coming over the hill driving two abreast and cutting traffic off the roads. He said that the responsibility lies with the police department, but they are helpless if the courts don't lay proper fines for failure to comply with the rules of the road. He said that if you went into the court there was no system there at all, and praised Walter Wheeler for bringing this to the public's attention.

George Lockwood, 14th District, said that you could not expect the police to regulate the flow of traffic. He mentioned the need for a traffic division within the department. Now they have three cars on the road, one car covers the East side, one Atlantic Street, the other car is on the West side and that they all have to answer radio calls in addition to checking traffic. Enforcement lets the trucks realize that the heat is on.

John Cameron, 20th District, **MOVED** that the resolution be referred to our Health and Protection Committee, seconded by Sewell Corkran, 18th District.

Patrick Hogan, 10th District, said that the Health and Protection Committee should report at the next meeting, if possible.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, said that the Health & Protection Committee had made a report on what was needed on the streets but we cannot pay for them. He said that we had no control in making the appropriations since the Board of Finance had turned them down.

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Letter from Big Five Volunteer Fire Companies re people who follow fire apparatus and interfere with the work of the fire department.

William Adriance, 18th District, read Chapter 9, Section 1 of the Code of Ordinances saying he thought that this ordinance applied.

It was **MOVED** by James Mulreed, seconded by Robert Shepherd, that this letter be referred to Chief Brennan and Captain Lockwood.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

1. Nomination of Mr. Linsley A. Pettit to fill vacancy on the Hubbard Heights Golf Club Committee.

Sewell Corkran, 18th District, read the Appointments Committee report.

It was **MOVED** by Sewell Corkran, reporting for the Committee, and seconded, that Mr. Pettit's appointment be approved. It was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2. Nomination of Mr. John F. Power, to fill vacancy on the Board of Taxation.

Sewell Corkran, 18th District, read the Appointments Committee report. It was **MOVED** by Sewell Corkran, and seconded, that Mr. Power's appointment be approved. The vote, 33 for and 1 against.

Vacancy on Board of Representatives - 16th District.

Helen Peatt, 16th District, **MOVED** the nomination of Mr. Joseph Carlin, seconded by Hilda Clarke.

John Cameron, 20th District, MOVED nominations be closed, seconded by Helen Bromley, 20th District, and CARRIED.

Mr. Joseph Carlin was elected UNANIMOUSLY.

Samuel Pierson, President, announced that Michael Wofsey, 1st District, was chosen Majority Leader replacing Daniel Miller, and John Cook, 15th District, had been appointed to the Appointments Committee, with Sewell Corkran, 18th District, chosen as chairman of that committee, replacing Daniel Miller.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER BOARDS & INDIVIDUALS

1. Letter from the Board of Tax Relief re dates for the purpose of receiving applications for revision of assessments on the list of September 1, 1950.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, MOVED it be placed on file, seconded by Walter Seely, 6th District, and CARRIED.

2. Letter from the Stamford Community Council, Inc.

"RESOLVED: That the Stamford Community Council recommends to the Stamford Board of Representatives that no change in the present method of appointment of the Public Welfare Director be made pending a study and report by qualified persons."

Michael Wofsey, MOVED that this matter be referred to the Charter Revision Committee headed by John Cameron, 20th District, seconded by Helen Bromley, and CARRIED.

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Fiscal Committee

a. Appropriation of \$600. to the Ferguson Library for Federal Insurance privileges for the employees.

Louise Seeley, 1st District, Chairman, gave the report, copy of which was provided the Board Members.

Louise Seeley, MOVED the approval of \$600 to Ferguson Library to cover expenses of Federal Social Security plan for employees for the six months, January to July 1951, seconded by George Lockwood, and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Appropriation of \$3,830 for the city's Civilian Defense which consists of two items: \$625. additional appropriation for the Auxiliary Police and \$3,205 for the warden service.

Louise Seeley, 1st District, MOVED that this amount be appropriated, seconded by John Cameron, 20th District, and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. John Cameron, 20th District, read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #100

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MILITARY SERVICE

"Whereas the present national emergency will require that increasing numbers of our City employees will be entering the service of their country in the armed forces, and

Whereas no financial compensation which the City could reasonably provide could in any way compensate for even the financial sacrifices many of these public servants will be making,

Be It Resolved by Stamford, through this action of the Board of Representatives, that, in token appreciation to these men and women, the controller, the

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personnel director, and any other city officials whose action may be required, be and hereby are authorized and requested to grant, from the appropriations made for salary or wages of any person in the employ of the city and who has been continuously in such employ for 90 days at the time of entrance into the armed forces of the United States, a leave of absence with full pay for two weeks after entering the armed forces in addition to any right of reemployment provided by law.

Be It Further Resolved that where such employee is paid on other than a weekly basis, or, for any other reason, interpretation of this resolution is required, the personnel director be empowered to this board.

This resolution shall continue in effect during the emergency proclaimed by the President of the United States unless amended or repealed; the word "employee" shall include salaried officials; and the resolution shall apply to any qualified employee who shall have entered the armed forces since the beginning of the current fiscal year."

Walter F. Seely, 6th District, MOVED the adoption of this resolution, seconded by John Cook, 15th District, and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

James Mulreed, 4th District, referring back to the Ferguson Library, said he was in favor of the appropriation, but thought it was time for us to decide in what status the Ferguson Library should be considered. He therefore MOVED that the President request the Corporation Counsel to render an opinion as to whether we are to consider the Ferguson Library as part of our City government, as a private corporation, or in what category. He said that since the employees were paid by the City they should be included as classified personnel.

Stephen Kelly, 12th District, stated that, since the employees were paid by the city, it would be fairer to all if they came under the merit system.

James Mulreed's motion was seconded by Walter Seely, 6th District, and CARRIED.

2. Legislation and Rules Committee

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, Chairman, said that the committee had been working on all ordinances, of which the Building Code was one, the General Code another. They are not ready to report on the Building Code, but the General Code has been received in printed and bound volumes. The Michie Co. was engaged, they were given a list of ALL ordinances available, these were gone thru and the company eliminated those that duplicated and those covered by State statute. They also changed the language in some. Following this editing, we now have an inventory consisting of all ordinances passed thru June 16th, to which will be added those passed since June 16th. The ordinance I am about to read, previously introduced at the October meeting, contains an enacting clause, enacting as ordinances all the ordinances contained in this volume excepting those passed since June 16th and also containing a repeal of all ordinances passed by the town or city of Stamford up to June 16th. This means all other ordinances have been repealed.

The ordinance was read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, 1950.

BE IT ORDAINED BY STAMFORD THAT

Section 1. The ordinances of the City of Stamford, Connecticut as codified in chapters 1 to 30, both inclusive, of "The Code of General Ordinances of the City of Stamford, Connecticut 1950" are ordained as general ordinances and the same are adopted as the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Stamford, Connecticut 1950

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Section 2. That all of the provisions of "The Code of General Ordinances of the City of Stamford, Connecticut 1950" shall be in full force and effect on and after the 1st day of February, 1951, and all ordinances of the former Town and City of Stamford and of consolidated City of Stamford in force on June 16, 1950 and not contained in the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Stamford, Connecticut 1950 are hereby repealed from and after the 1st day of February, 1951, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. That the repeal provided for in the preceding section of this ordinance shall not affect any offense or act committed or done or any penalty or forfeiture incurred or any contract or right established or accruing before the 1st day of February, 1951; nor shall such repeal affect any ordinance or resolution promising or guaranteeing the payment of money for the City or authorizing the issue of bonds of said City or any evidence of said City's indebtedness, or any contract or obligation assumed by said City; nor shall said repeal affect the administrative ordinances or resolutions of the Board of Representatives, not in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Code; nor shall it affect any right or franchise conferred by any ordinance or resolution of the Board of Representatives on any person or corporation; nor shall it affect the annual appropriation ordinance; nor shall it affect any ordinance fixing salaries of the City officers and employees; nor shall it affect the Building Code; nor shall it affect the electrical Code; nor shall it affect the Plumbing Code; nor shall it affect any zoning ordinances of the former Town or City of Stamford and of consolidated City of Stamford; nor shall it affect any prosecution, suit or other proceeding pending or any judgment rendered on or prior to the 1st day of February, 1951; nor shall it affect any ordinance of the City adopted on final passage since the 16th day of June, 1950.

Dated this 8th day of January, 1951

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, MOVED the adoption of the General Code of ordinances, seconded by Walter Seely, 6th District.

These ordinances were adopted by a recorded vote of 36 yeas, no nays.

In answer to a question raised by Hunt Sutherland as to procedure on corrections to the code, Mr. Wofsey said that his committee intended that all members of the Board examine the code and send in additions, or language changes or repeals suggestions.

John Cameron MOVED that any changes of the ordinances be submitted to the Legislation and Rules Committee, seconded by Patrick Hogan, 10th District, and CARRIED.

Patrick Hogan, 10th District, MOVED that we give a rising vote of thanks to the Committee, seconded and CARRIED.

3. Steering Committee Report (a copy was given to each Board member).

Letter from the Personnel Director regarding a pension for Thomas L. Page.

Walter Seely, 6th District, MOVED the subject be placed on the agenda, seconded by Michael Laurenco, 3rd District, and CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Pierson read the ordinance prepared by Mr. Wise for discussion
(state ordinance)

Hilda Clarke, 17th District, spoke in favor of the pension.

Robert Shepherd, 9th District, asked why Mr. Page couldn't apply for Workmen's Compensation.

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George Wise answered that he may be entitled to the benefits. He also pointed out that the mere passing of this ordinance does not give Mr. Page a pension, according to chapter 712.2 of the charter.

James Mulreed, 4th District, said that there were certain limitations under the workmen's Compensation Act which the Board would not like to impose on Mr. Page. He said that he believed it was the intent of the Board that a man who had given long and faithful service should be guaranteed half of his salary for the rest of his life or that of his widow. This would not be guaranteed under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

John Cameron warned the Board on setting a precedent on widow's pensions.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, MOVED this ordinance be placed at the end of our Agenda so that the Board could take it up at the adjourned meeting, seconded by Helen Bromley, 20th District, and CARRIED.

George Connors, 10th District, asked if this pension would be retroactive.

Mr. Wise said that it would start from his retirement, January 1, 1951.

Stephen Kelly, 12th District, asked if Mr. Page was on the payroll.

Dr. Brown was called upon to speak and he stated that Mr. Page was still on the payroll and that he was hurt in 1949 while on duty. He said that for the next 16 months he did not lose any time at work and that might prevent his getting compensation. He felt certain that Mr. Page was entitled to the pension.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, MOVED for a 10 minute recess, seconded by Robert Shepherd, 9th District, and CARRIED by a rising vote of 16 for and 14 against.

Samuel Pierson, President, called the meeting back to order at 10:40 F.M.

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, had left the meeting.

Robert Shepherd, 9th District, went on record protesting that the renovation for the Town Hall had not been started. He criticized the Mayor for not having plans drawn within the appropriation allotted, so that at least a start would have been made.

Stearns Woodman, 7th District, said that the Public Works Committee completed its survey on the Municipal Center and asked if it was the Board's intention to bar all remarks at this meeting.

Samuel Pierson, President, said that the Steering Committee felt there had not been sufficient time for a report and therefore set it aside for the next meeting.

James Mulreed, 4th District, said that this report should be made because it will give the Board members time to study the results. It was agreed that no debate would follow the report.

3. Public Works Committee

Stearns Woodman, 7th District, read his report.

The Committee submits the following approximate estimates, covering only the items indicated, as based on its own observations and the advice of certain qualified professional people:

	<u>Hoyt Street</u>	<u>Woodside Park</u>
Fill and Rough Grade	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Sanitary Sewer and Water Services (If Pumping Station is required) Add.	1,250.00	5,000.00 *(15,000.00)
Surface Drainage	7,500.00	---

	<u>Hoyt Street</u>	<u>Woodside Park</u>
3,000-Foot Retaining Wall at River's Edge	---	\$ 90,000.00
Access Roadways (Asphalt), new	---	56,000.00
Sidewalks (concrete)	\$ 15,000.00	28,000.00
Bridge to Washington Avenue	---	75,000.00
(Second Bridge if required)	---	175,000.00
Improvements to Existing Routes	---	350,000.00
	-----	-----
	\$ 38,750.00	\$664,000.00
		* 15,000.00
		* 75,000.00
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	<u>\$ 38,750.00</u>	<u>\$754,000.00</u>

Babette Ransohoff, 15th District, recommended that the report be sent to the Planning Board, for their comment.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, said that copies should be sent to each member of the Board of Representatives, the Planning Board, the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance.

William Adriance, 18th District, and Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, asked how the Public Works Committee arrived at these figures.

James Mulreed, 4th District, said that these figures were not just pulled out of thin air. He said that this was not guesswork and that these figures were arrived at after consulting with qualified persons.

Babette Ransohoff MOVED to refer the report of the Public Works Committee to the Board of Representatives, Planning Board and members, Mayor, Board of Finance, seconded by Louise Seeley, 1st District, and CARRIED.

4. Public Welfare and Recreation Committee

Helen J. Bromley, 20th District, said that the members of the Board of Recreation have not changed their opinion favoring the Woodside Park site. They felt that taking this acreage from recreational facilities would not be too great a handicap since the Board of Recreation leans toward smaller recreation centers properly placed. She said that at her committee meeting, 3 were in favor of the Woodside Park site and 2 against it.

Samuel Pierson, President, asked the Board Members if everyone had a copy of the Auditors report to study and be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Charter Revision Committee

John Cameron, 20th District, read from the Charter Revision Report, a copy of which was given each member of the Board. He recommended that a public hearing be held on January 15, to which invitations would be sent to our two representatives and Senator, State Central Committee members, the two Town Chairmen, the Drafting Committee of the Bar Association, with copies of the report, asking them to attend the public hearing. He suggested that we also send copies to those individuals and organizations who have recommended changes.

Michael Wofsey MOVED that we adjourn until January 15 and that we add to the Agenda a public hearing, seconded by William Adriance and CARRIED.

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Louise Seeley, 1st District, MOVED that the Board adjourn, seconded by Michael Wofsey, and CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette Ransohoff, Clerk

NOTES

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| Charter Revision Committee | - Resolution re method of appointment of Public Welfare Director |
| Health and Protection | - Resolution re traffic |
| Corporation Counsel | - Status of the Ferguson Library |
| Legislative and Rules | - Changes in the adoption of resolution on ordinances |
| Fiscal Committee | - Salary adjustment of classified employees |
| Planning and Zoning | - Acceptance of Courtland Circle |

Report of the Fiscal Committee
of the
Board of Representatives
for January 8, 1951

The Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives at a meeting on January 7th, took the following action on matters referred to it:

- (1) The Committee recommends approval of an appropriation of \$600, to the Ferguson Library to cover the expense of the Federal Social Security plan for its employees, for the six months January to July, 1951.
- * (2) The Committee recommends approval of an appropriation of \$3,830 for the city's Civilian Defense. This is made up of two items, \$625 additional appropriation for the Auxiliary Police, and \$3,205 for the warden service.
- * (3) On the resolution of September 11 of Walter Seeley, Representative from the 6th District, your Committee presents the following resolution for pay for employees of the City government who are in the Armed forces:
 - (4) The Controller reports no outstanding short-term debt as of January 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Talbot Seeley
John Cameron
Patrick Hogan
Michael Laureno
Hunt Sutherland

- * Details are on file
- * Resolution on incorporated in minutes