

JANUARY 7, 1952

The regular meeting of the Board of Representatives was held on January 7, 1952 at Burdick Junior High School. The meeting was called to order by Robert G. Shepherd, President, at 8:15 P.M.

Invocation was given by Robert G. Shepherd, President.

Roll call was taken with 31 present and 9 absent. The absent members were Theodore Donahue, Joseph Mancysi, James Mulreed, Clifford Waterbury, Leon Staples, George Connors, Joseph Zdanowicz, Vito Longo and John Cook.

Corrections submitted to minutes of December 3, 1951 are as follows: On Page 444, 2nd paragraph, after seconded by Robert Lewis add "And Carried"; also (or equivalent) should be changed to "or equivalent" changing the parenthesis to quotation marks.

On Page 441, paragraph 5, insert #121 after word Resolution.

On Page 442, paragraph 9, first line change "this communication" to "his communication".

On Page 442, Section 6, line 4 should read --- "the Cooperation Agreement between the City and The Housing Authority of the City of Stamford with respect to projects involving State aid, and urged, etc. ---" The next paragraph should read "-- the Cooperation Agreement between the City of Stamford and the housing Authority of the City of Stamford with respect to projects involving State aid, etc." The next paragraph should read "-- the Cooperation Agreement between the City of Stamford and the Housing Authority of the City of Stamford with respect to Federally assisted projects, etc."

John Cameron MOVED, seconded by Walter Seely, that minutes of December 3, 1951 be approved as corrected. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

John Cameron MOVED, seconded by George Lockwood, for Suspension of Rules and requested that items on the Agenda under #7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES be heard first hereafter as these are the important matters to be acted upon and should come up in the early part of the meeting. CARRIED.

Fiscal Committee

Helen Bromley read the letter submitted by Mr. Morrissey, Commissioner of Finance, on the bookkeeping machines in the Welfare Department and stated possible changes that could be made in the administration of the department. Babette Ransohoff reported that the Steering Committee had asked the League of Women Voters to forward the names of those firms which they stated would make welfare survey without charge.

John Cameron MOVED that the report be acknowledged and placed on file, seconded by George Lockwood and CARRIED.

Legislative & Rules Committee

PENSION PLAN - John Cameron stated the committee had no recommendation to make at this time on the adoption of the resolution regarding approval of Special Act 463 (Substitute for House Bill No. 609) and changes therein. However, taking into consideration comments made at this meeting and the public hearing, the committee expects to have recommendations to submit at the February meeting. The Committee asked that the resolution be recommitted to this Committee for further study, that the Board schedule another public hearing or arrange for another method of hearing from individuals and organizations who requested to be heard. Also that copies of the proposed resolution and the Committee's statement at the public hearing be placed in the Ferguson Library and the Town Clerk's Office for examination by interested parties.

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Helen Bromley read the report of the Fiscal Committee on the Pension Plan. The committee stated that no information emanated from the Public Hearing to change their opinion or convictions, but rather had helped to solidify them. The Committee agrees with the Board of Finance and other spokesmen of various organizations that final action should be deferred pending a thorough study by this Committee, The Board of Finance and The Department of Finance so that a complete analysis is made of all the problems and that all the facts and figures pertinent thereto be available. This is based not so much upon the problems which the Plan itself creates but upon problems and contingencies which inevitably will arise in the future. The Committee rejected the plea for hurried action advocated by Mr. Kuriansky, spokesman for the Municipal Employee's Association. The Committee disapproves of the twenty-five year plan regardless of age, questions majority of the Board of Trustees as members of Classified Service, questions whether Social Security was thoroughly explored and why new employees after July 1, 1952 must be 65 years of age; also what full-time service actually means.

Helen Bromley read Mr. Morrissey's letter on the Pension Plan which stated that in considering a pension plan, the job reclassification and salary increments must also be taken into consideration from a long range cost angle. He also stated that he was not in agreement with the 25 year retirement plan and felt that 65 and 70 was the accepted retirement age for this type of employment.

Robert Shepherd turned the Chair over to the Clerk, Babette S. Ransohoff, and spoke against the plan. 1-Having four out of 7 trustees from Classified Service, 2. Retirement after 25 years service. He questioned whether there was any insurmountable problem in adopting Social Security and providing, at the same time, for any special cases which could not come under Social Security.

A question on the survivorship clause was raised by John Charleson.

George Lockwood spoke for a buffer period of from three to five years before allowing retirement and Patrick Scarella spoke for the plan as proposed.

Michael Holahan, Paul Plotkin and Babette Ransohoff requested further study of the plan by outside survey, particularly on an actuarial basis.

Karl Young suggested two amendments: 1. That 5C be deleted. 2. Gradual plan of retirement from 2 to 5 years.

Patrick Hogan requested that 5C be deleted from the Plan.

Stephen Kelly spoke against further delay.

Michael Holahan MOVED, seconded by Patrick Hogan, that the so-called Stamford Plan be recommitted to both the Legislative & Rules Committee and the Fiscal Committee; also that the Board of Finance be asked to secure professional counsel to make a survey of this plan and make recommendations.

Dr. Somma MOVED to amend the motion to a time limit of July 1, 1952, seconded by Karl Young. Amendment was defeated by a vote of 9 in favor, 16 opposed (6 not voting).

A rising vote was taken on Mr. Holahan's MOTION and CARRIED.

John Cameron MOVED that those having further comments on the plan should write to the Board of Representatives or the Legislative & Rules Committee seconded and CARRIED.

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Legislative & Rules Committee

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

John Cameron read the Committee's report recommending authorization on proper city officials to enter into proposed Cooperation Agreement between the City and the City Housing Authority re projects to be financed with assistance or guarantee of the Federal Public Housing Authority only if such Housing Authority agrees with the City that before requesting additional funds they will obtain from the Board of Representatives approval of contemplated site, approval in detail of any variations in the Building Code as well as to how provision can be complied with re demolishing one substandard unit of housing for each new unit constructed.

Mr. Ward of the ^{City} Housing Authority stated every project must have the approval of the Planning Board and Zoning Board; that variations in the Building Code must be approved by the Board of Representatives; that this agreement is not to exceed 400 units; but he did not state how the cost of demolition of property would be overcome.

Robert Lewis MOVED that the Committee's request be followed, that the two agreements be signed and executed at one time, seconded by Joseph Carlin and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

John Cameron MOVED, seconded by Ralph Nau, and CARRIED that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION #124 - CITY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CITY OF STAMFORD

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Stamford is hereby authorized to enter into and execute the attached "Cooperation Agreement" with the Housing Authority of the City of Stamford for Federal aided low rent Housing Project Number Conn. 7-2, the application for which was approved by this Board by Resolution #109 on May 7, 1951.

Legislative & Rules Committee

Urban Redevelopment Commission Resolution

The Committee favored the approval of the \$37,050. requested by the Urban Redevelopment Commission to be secured from the Federal Agency. The committee recommended that an attempt be made to clarify the language to show that this action does not commit the City to carrying out either of the projects for which plans are to be prepared. The Committee also recommended that attention of the Urban Redevelopment Commission be called to the obligation it assumes under item c of the third paragraph of the preamble to the resolution and the necessity of close cooperation with the Planning Board to see that the commission meets this obligation.

Sub-Committee of the Planning & Zoning Committee

This committee also recommended adoption of the Resolution for an additional sum of \$37,050. for the Urban Redevelopment Commission. Babette Ransohoff proposed a change of wording in Section 2 as follows: "Section 2, following the words, 'will be fulfilled', please add 'in the event the City enters into a contract for a capital grant with the Federal Government'." The Committee reported that this change of wording states clearly that this final application does not commit the City of Stamford to a local grant-in-aid that since Section 522 of the Charter places the power of planning Stamford's future in the hands of the Planning Board and since the work of the Urban Redevelopment Commission is just a small part of the whole project, it would be advisable for the members of the two Boards to meet more frequently to discuss their mutual problems. When the Urban

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Redevelopment Commission was established by the Board of Representatives, the need for close cooperation between the two Boards was stated at that time as being essential.

Babette Ransohoff MOVED that the Resolution be adopted as read, seconded by Karl Young and Carried by a vote of 31 - 0-

RESOLUTION #125 - URBAN REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that The City of Stamford avail itself of the financial assistance provided by Title I of the Housing Act of 1949 to assist local slum clearance and urban redevelopment projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that surveys be made and other activities be performed preparatory to undertaking such projects; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Title I of the Housing Act of 1949 requires that contracts for financial assistance thereunder impose certain obligations and responsibilities upon local public agencies availing themselves of such financial assistance, including among other things: (1) the approval of the redevelopment plan by the governing body of the locality in which the project is situated, with appropriate findings (a) that financial aid by the Federal Government is necessary, (b) that the redevelopment plans for the redevelopment areas in the locality will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the sound needs of the locality as a whole, for the redevelopment of such areas by private enterprise, and (c) that the redevelopment plan conforms to a general plan for the development of the locality as a whole; (2) the provision of local grants-in-aid; (3) the development of a feasible method for the relocation of families displaced from the project area; and (4) the several other local obligations and responsibilities that are imposed pursuant to Title I of the Housing Act of 1949 in connection with the undertaking and carrying out of slum clearance and urban redevelopment projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title I every contract for a Federal capital grant will require local grants-in-aid in connection with the project which, together with the local grants-in-aid to be provided in connection with all other projects of the local public agency on which contracts for Federal capital grants have been made, will be at least equal to one-third of the aggregate net project costs involved in such projects; and

WHEREAS, such local grants-in-aid may be provided by a state, municipality or other public body, or by any other entity, and may consist of donations of cash, land, demolition or removal work, and streets, utilities or other site improvements, and the provision of parks, playgrounds, and other public buildings or facilities which (1) are primarily of direct benefit to the project and are necessary to serve or support the new uses of land in the project area or (2) are of direct and substantial benefit both to the project and to other areas in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford:

Section 1. That the financial assistance provided by Title I of the Housing Act of 1949 to assist local slum clearance and urban redevelopment projects is necessary; and

Section 2. That it is fully cognizant of the foregoing obligations and responsibilities that are imposed under contracts for financial assistance pursuant to Title I and it is the sense of this body that such obligations and responsibilities can and will be fulfilled in the event the City enters into a contract for a capital grant with the Federal Government; and

Section 3. That applications for approval to incur costs on behalf of the City of Stamford in the amount of \$37,050. for surveys and plans for the following areas:

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Project Area #7 - Ludlow Project
Project Area #4 - Hawthorne Project

in preparation of projects to be assisted under Title I is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Commission is hereby authorized and directed to execute and to file such Application with the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, and to provide such additional information and to furnish such documents as may be required by said Administrator, and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Stamford.

Robert G. Shepherd

President, Board of Representatives

(see Ray 45) re making an appointment of Elmer Towden) 3/3/52
Public Welfare & Recreation Committee

Helen Peatt read the report of the Committee and requested that copies of the report be sent to the Planning Board and the Board of Finance. Report covered meetings of 12/5/51 and 1/6/52 re recreational facilities in Stamford including areas mentioned in Resolution #123 adopted 12/3/51.

The Committee is in accord with the Capital budgets presented by the Commissioner of Public Works and Board of Recreation following a joint meeting with the Mayor.

Public Works Committee

David Waterbury reported that a survey of the Quonset Hut Project re flood and drainage conditions now found during heavy rain storms. The committee believes that the collection of water in low spots around the huts could be remedied by spreading gravel.

Joseph Caputo MOVED, seconded by Stephen Kelly, that the report be sent to the Town Housing Authority in charge of this project asking that conditions be remedied. CARRIED.

Health & Protection Committee

Robert Lewis MOVED for Suspension of Rules for an adoption of Resolution re an important Board administration matter, seconded by Michael Holahan and CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #126 - Administration Matters

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives that when there are emergency appropriations of over \$2000. or other important administration matters that they be referred to the Fiscal Committee as well as one other interested Committee (or the referred Committee and one other interested Committee) and that their full reports be rendered at the meeting before action is taken by the Board of Representatives.

George Lockwood MOVED, seconded by William Kaminski that Resolution #126 be adopted. CARRIED.

Robert Lewis, in the absence of John Cook, Chairman, read the January report of the Committee advising that the requested reports on the training program of the Police Department was not being complied with; also that the resuscitators and city ambulance as well as new traffic lights were not yet delivered although money had been appropriated months ago.

~~William Kaminski MOVED, seconded by John Canavan, that a letter be sent to~~
John Canavan moved that a letter be sent to the Purchasing Dept asking why deliveries had not been made.

(see 2/4/52)
the purchase
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~~the Purchasing Agent with copies to the Mayor, Chief of Police and Fire Departments and Commissioner of Finance asking why deliveries had not been made. CARRIED.~~

William Kaminski MOVED, seconded by Walter Seely, that a follow-up letter be sent to the Chief of Police and Board of Public Safety re progress of training report which is supposed to be submitted monthly. CARRIED.

Personnel Committee

The Committee reports that they feel the present vacation schedule as set up by the Personnel Department to be a fair one. The Committee feels that Mr. Turl is receiving fair treatment from the Personnel Commission. The Committee recommends that since there are qualified persons willing to compete by examination for sewer inspector as a provisional position, that the Board of Representatives recommend to the Mayor that the position be filled from a list of qualified applicants as submitted by the Personnel Commission.

Planning and Zoning Committee

This report was read by William Murphy in the absence of Joseph Zdanowicz, Chairman. The Committee recommended the acceptance of 1400 feet of Newfield Drive running westerly from Newfield Avenue as a public highway. George Lockwood MOVED, seconded by Catherine Cleary, that this highway be accepted. CARRIED.

The Committee listed in its December 3rd report, which was deferred at the December meeting until January, the various streets still pending acceptance because of requested necessary changes not yet complied with. It was decided to defer action of acceptance on any of these streets until April 1952.

Mr. Murphy read the Board of Design report that the planning and design of the Police and Court Building has been completed. A professional delineator in New York City is preparing presentation drawings which will include: 1. An elevated perspective site plan; 2. Building plans; 3. Supplementary perspectives of the buildings.

The Committee reported that the Planning Board now requires a bond to be posted for the construction of all roads in a development.

George Lockwood MOVED, seconded by Joseph Caputo, that the Committee's report be adopted. CARRIED.

The Steering Committee's report was read by Robert Shepherd.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND INDIVIDUALS

Resolution submitted by Catherine Cleary re home drainage problems concerning installation of septic tanks.

Joseph Carlin MOVED, seconded by Babette Ransohoff, that Resolution #127 be adopted. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #127 - Home Drainage and Septic Tanks

WHEREAS, increasing complaints have been received from home owners in various sections of the City where drainage necessary for the proper functioning of septic tanks is becoming less and less adequate due to the overcrowding of unsewered land not fit for any additional homes where such drainage is of the utmost importance, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this meeting that a Committee of five

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be appointed by the chair to thoroughly study the specifications now in existence regarding septic tank installations. Also that this committee confer with the Planning Board, Health Department, Building Inspector and City Engineer to jointly make recommendations and report their findings back to this Board.

Letter received from Warren C. Hyer, Secretary of the Sewer Commission, states that a series of meetings were held up to July 30, 1951 and at that time it was voted to adjourn meetings until early September. Since then any attempts to hold a meeting have been futile, possibly because the Chairman is under extreme pressure for his time. The Chairman has now recommended that the Commission proceed without him and a meeting has been scheduled for the week of January 7, 1952.

Stephen Kelly MOVED that due to the inactivity of the Sewer Commission that the Mayor be requested that a new Sewer Commission be formed.

Patrick Hogan amended this Motion that the Mayor be requested to reactivate the Sewer Commission by appointing a new Chairman, seconded by Catherine Cleary, and CARRIED.

Letter from the Board of Finance re the Pension Plan was read and it was agreed to refer same to the Legislative and Rules Committee.

Letter from the Tea Bureau, Incorporated, was read. John Cameron MOVED, seconded by John Charleson, that this be referred to Chief of Police John Brennan, giving him full power and authority to approve and direct route of parade. CARRIED.

Letter from Governor Lodge on the Thruway acknowledging letter enclosing Resolution #121 passed on December 3, 1951.

The Budget of the Board of Representatives for 1952-1953 was read and all items agreed upon with the exception of Janitors Service where the amount was increased from \$200. to \$225. for cost of ice water for the meetings of the Board.

Patrick Scarella MOVED, seconded by Robert Lewis, the addition of \$200. "for identification". After considerable discussion a vote was taken with 8 in favor and 23 opposed. Motion defeated.

Babette Ransohoff proposed that identification cards be secured from the present budget.

Helen Bromley MOVED for adoption of budget, seconded by Patrick Hogan and CARRIED.

Budget is as follows:	Salary Executive Secretary	\$2960.
	Printing	500.*
	Official Notices	200.
	Telephone	50.
	Supplies	200.
	Janitors Service	<u>225.</u>
		\$4135.

*For additional copies of Building Code and Code of General Ordinances which are sold and money is returnable to General Fund.

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Patrick Hogan submitted Resolution #128 reading as follows:

RESOLUTION #128 - P U C PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED that the President be empowered to appoint a Committee of not less than three members to represent the Board of Representatives, to present its views, at the Public Appeals Hearing to be held by the Public Utilities Commission re the erection of a power plant on Cove Island, time and place not yet verified.

Patrick Hogan MOVED acceptance of this Resolution #128, seconded by Joseph Caputo, and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Babette S. Ransohoff
Clerk

REPORT OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
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The Fiscal Committee did not deem it wise to prepare a report on the Proposed Pension Plan until after the Public Hearing. However, we must confess, that no information emanated from the Public Hearing to change our opinions or convictions. Rather they helped to solidify them.

We agree with the Board of Finance and the spokesmen for the various other organizations that final action should be deferred pending a thorough study by your Fiscal Committee, the Board of Finance and the Department of Finance and until a complete analysis is made of all the problems and all the available facts and figures pertinent thereto. These, your Committee will endeavor to procure from the Personnel Commission and any other Department likely to be in possession of such data. This is based, not so much upon the problems which the Plan itself creates but upon problems and contingencies which inevitably will arise in the future.

We reject the plea for hurried action as advocated by Mr. Kuriansky, the spokesman for the Municipal Employee's Association. In addition to the refutation made by Mr. Gorman, the Chairman of the Board of Finance, we cite paragraph D, Section 2, which clearly indicates that even if the Plan goes into effect as scheduled, the necessity for the annual appropriation by the City as outlined in Paragraph D, Section 2, does not arise at least until June, 1953.

While all citizens and taxpayers will want to know the approximate cost of such a Plan, this alone should not be the determining factor. While the cost might be considered a barometer, a just and equitable Pension Plan stripped of all inconsistencies, inequalities and apparent favoritism is of more controlling and paramount importance.

We cannot under any circumstances approve of retirement after 25 years of service regardless of age until such a principle is at least generally accepted in the Business, Commercial and Industrial life of these United States. Permitting any City employee to retire under such conditions without having made any monetary contribution to the Fund, would be unjust, unfair and unsound. Besides, as the years roll on, it would inevitably pave the way for all employees coming into that category, to demand the same privileges.

In spite of the safeguards provided for in Section 3 we cannot understand why legal fees should be charged against the Pension Fund since it is the duty of the Corporation Counsel to represent and defend all City Departments, Boards and Agencies.

In view of Paragraph 1, page 7, and in view of the statement made by the Director of the local Social Security Office, we wonder if the possibilities of Social Security were thoroughly explored by the Municipal Employees Association, Mr. Kurianski's statement notwithstanding. In this connection, it would be advisable to have the benefit of expert advice as advocated by the Board of Finance.

REPORT OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE
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We have very serious doubts about the provisions of Section 3 which states that a majority of the Board of Trustees shall be members of the Classified Service. While we do think that a local Board of duly interested persons shall administer the non-financial aspects of the Plan, we think that a bank or insurance company should handle the financial part of the Plan such as investing the fund and making disbursements therefrom. If the financial aspects of the Plan were handled by people, whose business it is to handle such funds, political pressure on the fund would be eliminated and both the taxpayers and the employees' interests would be protected.

The Legislative and Rules Committee in its statement released to the Press and read at the Public Hearing has given us to believe that new employees hired after July 1, 1952 will not be eligible for pension until they are 65 years of age. We are unable to discover in the Proposed Pension Plan any clause to warrant such an interpretation unless perhaps the word "attained" at the top of page 5 has a far different meaning from the word "reached" at the bottom of Page 4.

Before we could recommend the adoption of this Pension Plan we should have clearer definitions from the Legislative and Rules Committee as to what constitutes "full time service", i.e. whether it means continuous service, whether part time work on a continuous scale such as was prevalent prior to 1938, whether intervals due to changes in Administration could be construed as full time service; whether "service" as used in paragraph A, B and C in section 5 has the same meaning as "continuous service" as used in paragraph D of the same Section; whether "children" as used throughout Section 6 has the same meaning as "dependents" as used in Section 6. To eliminate future headaches for the Corporation Counsel it should be determined now whether those who worked for the P.W.A. and the W.P.A. are to be considered for the purpose of this Pension Plan as Town and City employees while so employed.

The Fiscal Committee wants it clearly understood that we favor a Pension Plan for municipal employees not now covered by a Plan. However, in the best interests of both the taxpayers as a whole and the municipal employees concerned, we cannot recommend this Proposed Stamford Plan in its present form.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hogan
Michael J. Holahan
Joseph Carlin
John E. Charleson
Helen J. Bromley