

SEPTEMBER 8, 1952

The regular meeting of the Board of Representatives was held on Monday, September 8, 1952 at 8 P.M. at the Burdick Junior High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President John L. Cameron.

Invocation was given by Reverend William A. Studwell of the High Ridge Methodist Church.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk. There were 36 present and four absent. The absent members were Theodore Donahue, Joseph Mancusi, John Charleson and John Canavan.

John Cameron submitted the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 21, 1952 with one correction - on page 514 second paragraph, change the wording "was drawn" to read "as drawn was objectionable because mere declaration", etc. *John X*

Joseph Carlin MOVED, seconded by Catherine Cleary, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 21, 1952 as amended. CARRIED.

John Cameron submitted minutes of August 4, 1952 for approval. Leon Staples MOVED their acceptance as submitted, seconded by Joseph Carlin and CARRIED.

FISCAL COMMITTEE

1. Helen Bromley read the Fiscal Committee report. The Committee recommended acceptance of the lease at 303 Main Street with the suggestion that the departments housed therein attempt to obtain alternate facilities at the termination of the present lease at a lower over-all rental cost to the City of Stamford as the new lease increases the rent approximately 46% over the previous year's rental. The rental is \$1,650.00 a month.

Helen Bromley MOVED approval of the lease for 303 Main Street, seconded by Stephen Kelly and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

2. Helen Bromley read the committee's report recommending the approval of \$3,263. as an emergency appropriation for the Ferguson Library to adjust a deduction which was inadvertently made at the time of preparation of the 1952-1953 budget, MOVED approval, seconded by Michael Holahan and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. ✓

3. Helen Bromley MOVED approval of the emergency appropriation of \$2253. to cover salary adjustment of one stenographer and two probation officers in City Court totaling \$653., and those employed at the Stamford Museum for \$1600. which were not covered by salary adjustments provided for Classified Employees in this year's budget, seconded by Helen Peatt and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. ✓

LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE

James Mulreed read the report of the Committee.

1. James Mulreed MOVED approval of the Poltrack Lease with the City of Stamford covering a piece of land, city owned, adjacent to the Poltrack Property at \$100. a year with option to renew another year, but the City reserving the right to cancel within 30 days, seconded by Clifford Waterbury and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

2. James Mulreed MOVED, at committee's recommendation, to approve the Cooperation Agreement between the City Housing Authority and the City of Stamford covering a sum equal to 10% of the aggregate shelter rent in lieu of taxes. Under its terms the city agrees to furnish the City Housing Authority and its tenants in this project (Fairfield Court) the public services and facilities supplied without cost to other dwellings and inhabitants of the City, seconded by Aage Feldtmose and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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James Mulreed submitted two Resolutions re State Aid for school projects and MOVED their approval, seconded by Patrick Scarella and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. RESOLUTION #147 - Re State Aid for Belltown-Willard Elementary School
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT:
It does hereby authorize the Mayor to file for a grant for Public school building project under provisions of Chapter 77, Section 341b of the accumulative supplement of the General Statutes Revision of 1949 for assistance in financing the public school building for the Belltown-Willard Elementary School as described in said application.

4. RESOLUTION #148 - Re State Aid for Stevens Elementary School Addition.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT:
It does hereby authorize the Mayor to file for a grant for Public School building project under provisions of Chapter 77, Section 341b of the accumulative supplement of the General Statutes Revision of 1949 for assistance in financing the public school building for the Stevens Elementary School addition as described in said application.

5. James Mulreed MOVED, at the committee's Recommendation, to amend the Resolution submitted 8/4/52 re Sewer Authority and to vote its adoption.

Patrick Hogan who drew up the original Resolution accepted the amendment. The motion was seconded by Patrick Scarella and Resolution #149 was adopted UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION #149 - Re Sewer Authority

Inasmuch as the Sewer Commission was created under authority granted by Chapter #33a of the 1949 Supplement of the General Statutes and by an ordinance pursuant thereto

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that it is the opinion of the Board of Representatives that the Sewer Commission of the City of Stamford is the only agency empowered to acquire, construct and operate a sewerage system in the City of Stamford as authorized by the provisions of said Chapter and amended by Ordinance #10 Supplemental.

Barker
6. James Mulreed read the letter sent by Dr. Brown to Mayor Quigley with reference to Resolution #146 adopted August 4, 1952 on use of beaches at the East and West ends of Fairview Avenue.

James Mulreed MOVED that the State Health Authorities be contacted to ascertain whether violation of State Sanitary Code, Regulation #117, was being made in these specific instances, seconded by Ralph Nau.

At this time the report from the Welfare & Recreation Committee was read by Stephen Kelly. This committee also reported that they were not in accord with Dr. Brown's letter in view of present existing conditions on the presently operated public beaches. They suggested that Dr. Brown advise the interested committees what is needed at the beaches to bring them under the Code to make the Stamford beaches safe and sound from a health standard. The Committee recommends that this matter be kept open for further study and action.

Catherine Cleary stated she felt Dr. Brown's statement was in order and that if the Board expected Dr. Brown to enforce laws, it was necessary that they give him their complete cooperation.

The MOTION was brought to a vote and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Stephen Kelly MOVED acceptance of the Welfare & Recreation report that the matter be kept open for further consideration and study, seconded by Robert Lewis. It was suggested that a vote be taken after discussion of Item 7, #2, on the Agenda. (Review of Ordinances re beaches and parks).

7. RESOLUTION ON RENT CONTROL

James Mulreed MOVED that the Report from the Committee on Housing be read at this time, seconded by George Connors and CARRIED.

The report was read by Karl Young giving a summation of the findings of the Committee on shortage of rental housing in Stamford; also suggesting that the present committee be discharged and that an advisory committee be set up on housing to confer and advise the Mayor, Housing Authorities and Urban Redevelopment of existing needs in the city.

Helen Bromley MOVED that a letter of appreciation be sent to the retiring Committee and also that a letter be sent to the Mayor suggesting this Commission.

Fred Littleworth requested that action be deferred on this motion until later.

James Mulreed referred to minutes of August 4, 1952 and the report of the Legislative & Rules Committee covering Rent Control. James Mulreed stated the committee unanimously agreed that the Resolution as presented should be adopted and so MOVED, seconded by Patrick Scarella.

Helen Bromley MOVED that we hear from a delegate on both sides, the tenants and the landlords, seconded by Babette Ransohoff and CARRIED.

Mr. Leredu spoke for the tenants, pleading the cause for rent control because of the shortage of available rents, stating the landlords were making money because of the cut in services and he did not believe the landlords would live up to the agreement of a 10% maximum increase. When asked whom he represented, Mr. Leredu stated "The Peoples Party", Union affiliations with the AF of L and some Fairlawn tenants.

Mr. Leonard Merrell spoke for the Landlord's Association. He submitted a proposal signed by most of the large apartment owners in Stamford and other landlords agreeing to a maximum rent increase of 10% on rents if controls are lifted and further that a committee of four tenants from the Board of Representatives, four landlords and an appointed Director, preferably a minister, be appointed to control any inequities, thereby lifting Federal Controls. Mr. Merrell was questioned by several of the representatives.

Mrs. Lyman spoke for the Stamford Red Cross Home Service in favor of Rent Control mentioning some of the more difficult and serious conditions now prevailing in Stamford in veteran families.

Paul Plotkin MOVED, seconded by Ralph Nau, to hear from the Corporation Counsel on whether the State Act would automatically come into effect. John Hanrahan stated it would be difficult to say just what would happen but more than likely the State would set up a Board or Commission to follow through on Rent Controls. He was consulting the Attorney General.

Helen Bromley MOVED that action be held up until more information can be obtained to be considered at a Special meeting in September, seconded by Dr. Somma and defeated by a vote of 12 in favor, 22 opposed.

James Mulreed requested a Roll Call vote, seconded by Patrick Scarella, on the adoption of the Resolution extending Rent Control. The vote taken by roll call was as follows: Against - David Waterbury, Babette Ransohoff, Helen Bromley,

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Ralph Nau, John Cameron, Webster Givens. FOR - Joseph Caputo, William Kaminski, Paul Plotkin, Patrick Scarella, James Mulreed, Clifford Waterbury, Dr. Somma, Aage Feldtmose, Walter Seely, Robert Lewis, Leon Staples, Catherine Cleary, Michael Holahan, Frederick Littleworth, Patrick Hogan, George Connors, William Murphy, Stephen Kelly, John Sandor, Joseph Zdanowicz, Katherine Kaminski, Dr. Dolan, Vito Longo, John Cook, Helen Peatt, Joseph Carlin, George Russell, Harold Clark, Karl Young, Jr., Edward Hogan. The four absent members - Theodore Donohue, Joseph Mancusi, John Charleson and John Canavan.

RESOLUTION #150 - Rent Control extended to April 30, 1953.

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD:

WHEREAS, there exists in the City of Stamford a substantial shortage of rental housing accomodations which requires the continuance of Federal rent control after September 30, 1952.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BODY, acting under the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "Defense Production Act Amendments of 1952" that Federal rent controls shall be continued in the City of Stamford until April 30, 1953.

Fred Littleworth then submitted a Resolution which was read re appointment of a committee to prepare legislation to set up a rent control board or commission within the City of Stamford, said committee to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Representatives.

Patrick Scarella MOVED that same be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee, seconded by John Cook and CARRIED.

8. INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS

a. MERIT SYSTEM

James Mulreed MOVED for acceptance of certain changes in the Amendment to Strengthen the Merit System as published in the Stamford Advocate on August 9, 1952 and for the adoption of said amendment under Resolution #151 so same may be placed on the ballots for referendum vote at the November 4, 1952 election. Changes in the amendment were accepted and the MOTION was seconded by Joseph Carlin and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Directly after the title "Amendment to Strengthen the Merit System" change same to read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of number 336 of the Public acts of 1951 of the State of Connecticut, the Board of Representatives hereby initiates the following amendment of the City of Stamford Charter, number 312 of the special acts of 1947 as amended and directs that it be submitted" - - - etc. and etc.

Section 1 should read as follows: "Section 204.3 of said act is amended to read as follows: The Board of Representatives at its organization meeting shall appoint an Appeals Board of four of its members, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party, to hear appeals by members of the police department and fire department and other employees in the classified service, and to hear charges made by the mayor against the chief of police or the chief of the fire department, pursuant to Chapter 72 and to Section 740 as amended. The Board of Representatives - - -"

Section 2 should read as follows: "Section 400 of said act is amended to read as follows: The departments of Stamford shall be: The law department, the welfare department, the public works department, the finance department, the health department, the police department, the fire department, the department of civil service and the city and town clerk's office."

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Section 12 should read as follows: "Section 738 of said act is amended to read as follows: "The controller shall not pay any salary or compensation for service as an employee to any person holding a position in the classified service or to any person holding a position not enumerated in Section 734...." etc. and etc.

RESOLUTION #151 - Amendment to Strengthen the Merit System
(Details on file with the Clerk)

- see copy after these minutes

b. ZONING

James Mulreed MOVED that the Amendment Regarding Zoning be deferred for action until later in September when a special meeting will be held, seconded by Stephen Kelly and CARRIED.

c. CLARIFY PROCEDURE FOR FINANCING CAPITAL PROJECTS

James Mulreed MOVED that the Amendment to Clarify Procedure for Financing Capital Projects be changed to read as follows and its adoption for referendum vote at the November 4, 1952 election.

Directly after the title "Amendment to Clarify Procedure for Financing Capital Projects" change to read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of number 338 of the Public Acts of 1951 of the State of Connecticut, the Board of Representatives hereby initiates the following amendment of the City of Stamford Charter, number 312 of the special acts of 1947 as amended, and directs that it be submitted to referendum of the electors of the City of Stamford in the general election to be held Tuesday, November 4, 1952, and that the City and Town Clerk provide for such referendum by including said amendment in the public notice of said election together with a statement that the opportunity will be given the electors to determine whether the City of Stamford Charter shall be amended to - -" etc. and etc.

Section 7 change to read as follows: "This amendment shall take effect November 4, 1952 provided it is approved at a referendum of the electors on that date."

Changes in the amendment were accepted and thereupon the Board adopted this amendment entitled "Amendment to Clarify Procedure for Financing Capital Projects" as Resolution #152, copy of which is on file with the Clerk. Motion was seconded by Patrick Hogan and CARRIED by a vote of 32 in favor, 4 against.

RESOLUTION #152 - Amendment to Clarify Procedure for Financing Capital Projects.
(Details on file with the Clerk)

(see copy after these minutes)

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Karl Young MOVED the Committee report be placed on file, seconded by James Mulreed and CARRIED (See #7, under Legislative & Rules Committee, Page 525.)

HEALTH & PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Robert Lewis read the Committee Report. The Committee recommends that further study be given the matter of the City Dump at Scofieldtown Road.

Mr. Lewis also asked if the open position for switchboard operator was for the Police Department. In a study of the telephone situation at Precinct #1 and #2, it was revealed that there was a private line (48-9830) for use of the Board of Public Safety.

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Joseph Zdanowicz MOVED acceptance of the report, seconded by Karl Young and CARRIED.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Joseph Zdanowicz stated there was no report as the meeting of the committee lacked a quorum.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. David Waterbury reported that Larkin Street was considered an emergency project by his committee

Helen Bromley MOVED that a reply be sent to Mr. Manning's letter that it is the sentiment of the Board that the problem of Larkin Street is an emergency, seconded by Catherine Cleary and CARRIED.

2. David Waterbury reported on the dump at Scofieldtown Road. He stated the stench from raw uncovered garbage carried for some distance and the oil being dumped by local factories and being burned every so often permeated the air with a terrific odor.

Webster Giveas MOVED that action be followed up after a full report has been submitted on the Mayor's investigation, seconded by Helen Bromley and CARRIED.

3. David Waterbury reported that there was a rock ledge blocking the end of Joffre Avenue. It would appear that the road was never brought through because of the rock ledge in the road and therefore has never been accepted by the City.

Helen Peatt expressed the need that something be done to alleviate the situation.

Karl Young MOVED that the report be placed on file, seconded and CARRIED.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Joseph Caputo read the report in the absence of George Connors, Chairman, who had left the meeting prior to the report.

The appointments were confirmed as listed below:

Urban Redevelopment Commission- William Pitt, 27 in favor, 4 opposed
Term to expire August 7, 1957.

Building Committee - Arthur Mitchell, 30 in favor, 1 opposed.
Alfonse Vacca, 29 in favor, 2 opposed
Term to expire December 1, 1953

Since it was provided in the request that the Building Inspector be a member of the Building Committee, no vote was necessary to confirm the appointment of Arthur Swinnerton.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee report was read by John Cameron. Leon Staples MOVED its acceptance to be placed on file, seconded and CARRIED.

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

A letter was read from Mayor Quigley advising the Board of the reappointment of James J. Healey on the City of Stamford Housing Authority, term to expire October 1, 1956.

A letter was read from Mayor Quigley advising the Board of the appointments to the Review Committee requested in accordance with Ordinance #17 Supplemental to be as follows:

Joseph F. Canuto - Board of Representatives
Harold Frankel - Zoning Board
Ralph Rich - Planning Board

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND INDIVIDUALS

Letter was read from Corporation Counsel John Hanrahan re Resolution #145 adopted 7/21/52 on Building Lines.

James Mulreed referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee report for this meeting stating that it was agreed that further information from the Planning Board was necessary before an Ordinance covering Broad and Summer Streets could be considered.

Karl Young MOVED that the matter remain in the Legislative & Rules Committee, seconded and CARRIED.

Beaches and Parks

Babette Ransohoff MOVED that the Legislative & Rules Committee review the ordinances relating to beaches and parks in sufficient time so that this Board can have a very clear picture prior to the budget for 1953-1954, seconded by Patrick Hogan and CARRIED.

Hubbard Heights

Letters were read from the Building Inspector and the Chief of the Turn of River Fire Department stating that the Hubbard Heights building had not been condemned by them for demolition. These letters were in answer to requests authorized at the August 4, 1952 meeting.

Webster Givens MOVED that the letters be placed on file, seconded by Patrick Scarella and CARRIED.

Babette Ransohoff MOVED for Suspension of Rules to submit for consideration a Resolution submitted by William Kaminski, seconded by Karl Young and CARRIED.

William Kaminski submitted a Resolution requesting copies of correspondence, resolutions, etc. to be sent the Majority and Minority leaders relative to important matters of the Board, at the discretion of the Clerk.

Karl Young MOVED that the Resolution be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further study, seconded by Ralph Nau and CARRIED.

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BUSINESS ON THE CALENDAR

A letter of resignation submitted by Joseph Mancusi from the 3rd District was read.

Joseph Carlin MOVED that his resignation be accepted with regret and placed on file, seconded by Catherine Cleary, and CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette S. Ransohoff,
Clerk