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The regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held at the Walter R. Dolan Junior High School Cafeteria on Monday, April 4, 1955. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. George V. Connors, at 8:15 P.M.

Invocation was given by the Rev. Russell M. McGowan of the First Congregational Church.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk. There were 35 present, 5 absent. The absent members were Joseph Caputo, Phil C. Coulter, Paul A. Plotkin, William D. Murphy and Helen J. Peatt. Mr. Plotkin and Mr. Murphy arrived later.

Mr. Longo moved that we accept the minutes of the March 7th meeting as printed. Seconded by Mr. Ryba, and unanimously voted.

FISCAL COMMITTEE

Samuel Picciallo, Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, submitted the committee's report, recommending the approval of the following additional appropriations appearing on the agenda:

a. Samuel Picciallo moved approval of \$1,800. for Code 550.4, Advertising, requested by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Doris Zuckert, and carried unanimously, 34 members voting YEA.

b. Samuel Picciallo moved approval of \$90 for Code 550.3, Postage and Stationery, requested by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Mary Bankowski, and carried unanimously, 34 members voting YEA.

c. Samuel Picciallo moved approval of \$500 for Examinations for the position of Personnel Director, requested by the Personnel Commission. Seconded by Vincent J. Vitti and carried unanimously, 34 members voting YEA.

(Mr. Snyder inquired whether Mr. Picciallo had any idea how this is to be spent. Mr. Huizinga stated that in an examination of this type they would have people conduct the examination, who are experts in their line, and the expenses of these people have to be paid, also the advertising necessary.)

LEGISLATIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. Plotkin not being present at this time, the item was passed over until his arrival.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

No report; chairman, Mr. Murphy, absent.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas Topping, Chairman, announced the committee had no report.

Mr. Frank LiVolsi asked for an "extension of delay" in regard to the Bridge Street Bridge. Mr. Topping said the contractor, when he ordered the steel, ordered the same weight of section as for the Broad Street Bridge, instead of a longer span for the Bridge Street Bridge. As a result, they have to put reinforcing plates at the bottom of the girders, which is now being done. As soon as the reinforcement plates arrive they will be welded to the girders and the work will resume. Mr Chase, Supervisor of Highways, said he did not think this delay would hold up the final completion of the bridge more than two weeks. Because of the open winter, the bridge contractor was ahead of schedule on pouring of the cement for the abutments. Mr. Mulreed suggested that Mr. Topping, in his report, cover the three weeks that no work has been done on the bridge, because people in the neighborhood are perturbed about conditions there. He is to explain that they are waiting for these plates. Mr. Fredericks asked, is it not true that the material going into the bridge will not add any additional cost to the City? Mr. Topping answered "yes."

Mr. Lewis asked to bring to the attention of the Public Works Committee the fact that something should be rectified. Speaking as representative of the 7th District, Bedford Street is a complete disgrace to the City of Stamford, and he would not be surprised if our legal department isn't confronted with quite a few bills for broken springs. He has complained to Mr. Scarella, Public Works Commissioner, about the pitiful condition of the street as a result of the sewer line recently laid there. From North and Hoyt we are widening the street but it should be brought to the Public Works Committee's attention that there is a lack of something along the line in our contract with the company that did the work on Bedford Street -- five out of seven nights he had to call the Police to put more red lights there. He thought it would not be many more weeks before our suppliers of asphalt will be in business and Bedford Street should have immediate attention.

Mr. Plotkin arrived at this time.

LEGISLATIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. Plotkin, chairman of the Legislative and Rules Committee, presented a SHRUBBERY ORDINANCE for publication, to replace the present Chap. 28, Sec. 7, on page 152 of the Code of General Ordinances. The new ordinance is as follows:

ordinance No 47

"No hedge, shrubbery or full board fence or any other obstacle other than a building or a natural earth embankment shall be maintained or permitted at a height more than four feet above the street grade on that portion of any corner lot commencing at the corner point of a street line on the street side of the lot and running in either direction along the street for a distance of not less than twenty-five feet and within the triangle thus formed by both street lines and a line connecting the above mentioned termini of both street lines."

The Mayor had requested a change in this ordinance, changing the 4'

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height to 2' and the 25' distance to 30'. When the Committee took this up they ran into a few problems. There was no point of reference. It does not state whether it refers to a 4' hedge or refers to 4' from the street level. A man may have a 4' hedge on a bank 6' above the street level, which would be a total of 10'. It doesn't say anything about the land in between the corner. You have a corner where the two streets intersect and a leg on each street. So a hedge 20' high, 6' from the street line, that was not covered. The Committee thought if we covered those two points it might be sufficient. We tried to put in a reference to street grade so that you would be allowed 4' from the street grade, and we tried to cover the triangular piece of land between the two legs. We added "natural earth embankment" because it applies to present hedges and bushes, but the moment the ordinance is enacted the property owner has to cut it down to size. As to future developments, we can get together with the Planning Board and see that future streets, when they are cut through, will conform with this idea. He moved for adoption for publication. Mr. Topping asked, where we mention "earth embankment," suppose you have a stone retaining wall which is over 6' high. Would this ordinance require a man to tear this down? Mr. Plotkin said "no". He also said, "Suppose a fellow has a tree we would not want him to take it up. The ordinance will have to be administered by the Police with common sense."

Mr. Collyer congratulated the committee on doing a good job, but felt that the 4' requirement should not be allowed to stand. In recent months he has become aware of hazardous situations in the City, caused by hedges that were too high. For instance, property at Washington and North Streets comes to his mind. There is a serious traffic hazard there. Of course the greater amount of traffic is caused by the closing of the Bridge Street Bridge as the contributing factor. He did not believe the hedges exceed the 4' limit but is sure they constitute a hazard. If 2' seems harsh he would like to see it cut back to 3'. It is necessary for public safety that a maximum height of 3' be maintained; he would even like to see it 2'.

Mr. Snyder: In view of the question Mr. Collyer raised, I move that the matter be referred to the Health & Protection Committee for them to make further study in regard to the height which should be in the ordinance. No seconder.

Mr. Lewis: I would like to amend it to read 3' instead of referring it to the Health & Protection Committee, where it might get lost. Seconded by Mr. Collyer.

Mr. LiVolsi stated that at present, on North and Washington Avenues, coming down north, you have two "stop" signs on Washington Ave. so the other driver goes ahead, assuming he has the right-of-way. What we need is "stop" signs on the four corners.

Mr. Mulreed: Our committee has not had a chance to meet since Mr. Plotkin consulted the Corporation Counsel. He asked Mr. Plotkin if the height of 4' was at the suggestion of the Corporation Counsel. Mr. Plotkin said he discussed it with Arthur DiSessa.

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Mr. Mulreed recalled that 3' was the height he discussed.

Mr. Plotkin accepted Mr. Lewis' amendment. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Plotkin asked for a Suspension of the Rules, since he had a resolution presented by Mr. Vittti, representative of the 3rd District, asking that Dyke Park in the south end of the City of Stamford, be renamed Edward A. Gonnoud Park. Mr. Plotkin moved for Suspension of the Rules, seconded by Mr. Longo.

Mr. Jachimczyk spoke against it because the residents of the South End, where Dyke Park is located, have met and formed a committee who are making an attempt to pick out a name, (probably of a service-man) that would be suitable. He recommended that it be referred to Committee for further study.

Mr. Vittti said he was approached by taxpayers of the South End, and other people, to present this resolution. Edward A. Gonnoud was in the U. S. Navy in World War One, was mayor two terms, councilman many years, and he knows of no better name than Edward A. Gonnoud for this park.

Mr. Mulreed spoke on the motion to suspend the rules. Put to a vote, there were 9 in favor, 26 opposed. Motion lost. It is to be referred to Steering Committee.

Mr. Kaminsky made a request to refer to the Legislative & Rules Committee. He realized the Board might be called "ordinance happy" as Mr. Plotkin stated, and referred to Chap. 7, Sec. 4 of the Code of General Ordinances, making it unlawful to shoot any BB rifle or pistol, air rifle or similar device, etc." He would like that Committee to amend this section, or write a new ordinance, prohibiting the sale and purchase of sling shots and pea shooters. An accident in his family occurred two hours ago which moved this action. He said we have considered comic books, talked about juvenile delinquency, and here we have our local stores equipped with all kinds of devices that shoot missiles.

Mrs. Hoyt suggested that this subject should come under New Business.

Mr. Kaminsky moved for Suspension of the Rules, seconded by Mrs. Bromley.

Mr. Huizinga felt that what Mr. Kaminsky said is all right but not in order and should come under New Business.

Mr. Kaminsky withdrew his motion, and Mrs. Bromley withdrew as seconder.

HEALTH AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Killeen announced he had no report, but took issue to a statement made early in the meeting, that if something is referred to his committee it would "get lost."

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Mr. Lewis referred to an appropriation for \$2,000 that was approved for the Police Department. He happened to be away at the time, but called attention of the chairman to the fact that anything for \$2,000 or over should be brought to the Committee. He felt if we are going to act as a Board, let's follow the rules of procedure.

WELFARE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Kelly, for the Welfare & Recreation Committee, reported that they had decided to ask the Tax Commissioner, Mr. Connolly, to place in the envelopes of the outgoing bills for car taxes, stickers for the taxpayers to put on their windshields as a means of identification for use at the beaches, parks and the parking areas of the beaches and parks by residents of Stamford. Mr. Connolly agreed to take this matter up with his Board for their approval.

The Committee and the Board of Recreation discussed the urgent need for sanitary facilities and the sewer line on Cove Island, and necessary repair or re-building of the bridge for safe access to and from the island before anything else is done or planned for Cove Island.

No action taken.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kaminski, Chairman, read the committee's statement on Mr. Herbert C. Rice for membership on the Personnel Commission, and moved for the acceptance of the appointment. Vote was taken, by paper ballot. Result: 16 yeas, 20 nays.

Mr. Kaminski read the committee's statement on Thomas F. Hanrahan for membership on the Personnel Commission, and moved for the acceptance of the appointment. Vote was taken, by paper ballot. Result: 35 yeas, 1 nay.

Mr. Kaminski read the committee's statement on John E. Sotire for membership on the Personnel Commission, and moved for the acceptance of the appointment. Vote was taken, by paper ballot. Result: 19 yeas, 17 nays.

Mr. Kaminski referred to Chap. 70, Sec. 706 Personnel Provisions, of the Charter in regard to residency requirements of employees. He stated that the Committee selected to seek a new Personnel Director has a number of applicants from outside of the City of Stamford, and felt that in view of Sec. 706, we should suspend the rules and vote on this subject. Therefore, he moved that we suspend the rules. Seconded by Mrs. Bromley. Put to a vote, result: 33 yeas, 1 nay (Mr. Iacovo opposed.)

Mr. Kaminski said that ordinarily we would wait until appointments are made when an applicant is not from Stamford, but this case is different. He moved that we waive local residency for the Personnel Directorship. Seconded by Mr. Huizinga.

Mr. Mulreed wondered if the Corporation Counsel's office has given his opinion as to whether this applied to the Personnel Director. Mr. Kaminski said it referred to full-time employees. Mr. Mulreed said he knew of several instances where we have not waived the provisions of this chapter.

Mr. Fredericks said that elected or appointed refers to those appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Representatives. The Board of Representatives has nothing whatsoever to do with the Personnel Director neither does the Mayor act directly on the appointment of the director. He could not see why the Board should be asked to waive a requirement that has not got anything to do with the direct appointment problem.

Mr. Jachimczyk moved that we hear from Mr. Sotire on the subject. Seconded by Mr. Longo. Voice vote taken, motion lost.

Mr. Kaminsky stated that the wording of the section is confusing but since it is under Chap. 70 which deals strictly with Personnel and considering no harm can be done, he saw no harm in waiving the residency in this particular case.

Moved that we waive the residency clause. Voted on, and carried, unanimously.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No report.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jachimczyk stated that he had left the report at his office, so it will have to be held over until the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

None

PETITIONS

Petition # 187
a. Stephen Kelly moved that we grant the petition of the Stamford Boxing Club to use the Magee Ave. grounds from May 23 to 28 for a carnival for the benefit of their recreational program. Carried unanimously.

Petition # 188
b. Stephen Kelly moved that we grant the petition of the Arabic Temple #40, State of Conn., Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America, for a short parade on Sunday afternoon June 5th. Carried Unanimously.

Petition # 189
c. Stephen Kelly moved that we grant the petition of the Stamford Yacht Club to hold their annual fireworks display on July 4th, 1955, under the usual conditions. Voted on and carried unanimously.

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#190
d. Mr. Kelly moved that we grant the petition of the Americans of Polish Descent of Stamford, to hold a parade on Sunday, May 15th. Approved unanimously.

#191
e. The Springdale Veterans of Foreign Wars request permission to hold a carnival at the Springdale Fire Dept. grounds from May 30th to June 4th. The original letter of application has not yet been received, but Mr. Kelly will assume the responsibility for it. Approved unanimously.

#192
f. Mr. Kelly moved we grant petition of Belltown P.T.A. Assn. to use Belltown School Grounds for fair on Saturday, May 7th. Board of Education has already approved the project. Approved unanimously.

#193
Mr. Kelly asked for Suspension of the Rules for a petition that came in late but it was imperative that we act on it tonight. Approval granted unanimously.

This refers to request from West Side Democratic Club to use Magee Ave. lot for week of April 25 to 30th for a carnival, for benefit of the Mickey Lione Baseball League. Approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Jachimczyk stated that last month a motion was made that Mr. Wachter of the Planning Board furnish us with maps on the proposed Cowing Place extension and Mr. Wachter is ready to address us tonight on the subject.

A large map was set up at the front of the room, and Mr. Wachter went into lengthy discussion with members, on the subject. Rep. McLaughlin mentioned another plan, than the original, to go through Research Drive and not disturb any of the areas where people are already complaining, in opposition to the move. Mr. Scarella also answered questions on the subject of proposed drainage that the City plans to do through that area. Mr. Rhoades moved that since the Board of Finance has not yet approved of funds for this project of road extension, it might become an academic subject for another year, and that we go on to the other business of the board.

Mr. Murphy arrived at this time, and the president called for the report of the Planning and Zoning Committee. Mr. Murphy reported that the Lions Club has already constructed a bus waiting station in front of St. Joseph's Hospital, before receiving the Committee's final approval, so there is not much that can be done about it. He asked for a vote of approval of the project, and it was granted unanimously.

Mr. Huizinga stated that April 21 is Stamford Day in Hartford, and moved that we appoint, as a representative to speak on the Stamford bills, Mr. James Mulreed, with expenses paid. Seconded, voted on and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. LiVolsi presented a resolution, as follows:

Resolution No. 199

Whereas the Stamford City Housing Authority was created under Section 4, Act #299 of the General Statutes, Chapter 52,

Whereas there exists a question of doubt that the City Housing Authority has been operating and performing in accordance with the objectives of the Housing Laws of the State of Connecticut,

Therefore be it resolved that the Stamford Board of Representatives proceed under Section 204.2 of the City Charter to appoint a committee for the purpose of investigating the City Housing Authority.

Mr. LiVolsi commented that the housing shortage is becoming more acute, we are talking about parcels of property for development for one purpose or another, and our slums are still in existence. There are many facts which will be brought out if this committee is appointed. If anything at all, it will mean a welfare program which I know our people in Stamford will appreciate. The fact that we have two existing authorities is a joke. Mr. LiVolsi moved for the adoption of this resolution. Seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Mrs. Bromley suggested that we give it to the Legislative & Rules Committee. Mr. LiVolsi said he had thought of that, but it is a matter for the Board to appoint a special committee and proceed according to the Charter. Mr. Huizinga stated that if we refer it to the Legislative & Rules it would come up with wording that would be more satisfactory.

Mr. LiVolsi, in order to satisfy the doubt in some minds, read one section of the State Housing Act, Section 931. He further stated that the Town Housing and the City Housing Authorities do not speak to one another.

Mr. Huizinga stated that if we could enumerate four or five facts, we could simply say we believe these regulations are not being followed.

Mrs. Hoyt said, couldn't we say a committee finds need for investigation?

Mr. Snyder: Would Mr. LiVolsi accept an amendment to his proposal and remove that section in regard to the "doubt" and simply have it state that the Board of Representatives asks that there be an investigation in order that we may determine the degree of efficiency at which it is operating? Mr. Fredericks referred to the minutes of a former meeting when this subject was discussed.

Mr. Mulreed: I thought I made it clear about the Housing Committee of the Board of Representatives. It was created for the sole purpose of looking into the needs for additional housing. It was not the intention of the Committee to investigate the City or the Town Housing Authority. So, re-activating that committee would not serve the purpose that Mr. LiVolsi would like to have served.

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Mr. Snyder: Would Mr. LiVolsi be agreeable to accepting that amendment on the proposed resolution, striking out the section about "doubt". He did so.

Put to a vote and carried by 32 yeas, 4 nays.

Mr. Kaminsky: I am opposed because I thought we had a ruling from the Corporation Counsel that the Housing Authority is a State Agency.

Mr. LiVolsi: The opinion of the Corporation Counsel is not in accordance with the State Housing Authority.

Mrs. Kaminsky asked for a Suspension of the Rules to read a letter sent to the Mayor, and a reply received from Commissioner Scarella about the condition of Dyke Park. It was voted to send this request properly to the Steering Committee.

Mr. William Kaminsky moved to refer to the Legislative & Rules Committee a request to draft an amendment to Chap. 7, Sec. 4 of the Code of General Ordinances, or a separate ordinance which would prohibit the sale and use of sling shots and pea shooters. Seconded by Mr. Fredericks.

Mr. Mulreed spoke on the subject. He was on the original committee that prepared the ordinance. They banned the sale and use of sling shots and numerous other projecting missiles. They found it very difficult to word that section to allow the sale of harmless toys and yet at the same time the use of those harmless toys in a manner which might inflict an injury. They considered these games sold around Christmas-time as target toys. They did put in B-B guns because they knew they must be barred, but it was very difficult to re-word the ordinance to take care of a sling-shot. He thought this was something that would require a little guidance on the part of the parents because these devices could be home-made, whereas B-B guns must be manufactured and purchased. Rubber bands fall into that category.

Mr. Kaminsky stated he did some fast researching and came up with an ordinance passed in Cleveland strictly on sling-shots and pea-shooters. He knows we cannot prevent air-guns in factories exploding, for instance. We are attempting to eliminate the sale of comic books -- he could control that at home -- but he could not control the exuberance of his child if he went outdoors and bought a sling-shot. An accident to his son, this evening, was done by a very nice child who just went into a store, bought the sling shot and picked up a stone and used it.

Mrs. Zuckert said she believed the City of New York has just passed a bill against the sale and manufacture of toy pistols and the like.

The question was moved and vote taken in the affirmative, to refer the matter to the Legislative & Rules Committee.

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Mr. Iacovo brought up the subject of Snow Removal. \$17,000 has been expended and the snow did not seem great enough to warrant that expenditure. He would like to have the Fiscal Committee report at our next meeting concerning this expenditure: what it was spent for.

Mr. Iacovo so moved, seconded by Mr. Fredericks, carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bromley moved for adjournment. 10:45 P.M. Several voices seconded this, and unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,

George V. Connors
President