

City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 4, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube channel.

Aldermanic Chamber

City Services and Environmental Policy

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor; New Haven, CT to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2023-0176](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE HISTORIC WOOSTER SQUARE ASSOCIATION AS A PASS-THROUGH FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CTDECED) AND SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY, INCLUDING ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS, REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS TO HISTORICAL WOOSTER SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD.
- 2) [LM-2023-0237](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00 AND TO PARTNER WITH ART CT 770 LAND, LLC TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 112 CHAPEL STREET
- 3) [LM-2023-0238](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 AND TO PARTNER WITH RONSAL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 135 FULTON TERRACE
- 4) [LM-2023-0239](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 AND TO PARTNER WITH CONNCORP, LLC, TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT DIXWELL PLAZA
- 5) [LM-2023-0086](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE GRANT AWARD FROM UNITED ILLUMINATING TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS.

- 6) [LM-2023-0207](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A FIVE (5) YEAR GROUND LEASE BY AND BETWEEN GATHER NEW HAVEN, INC. AND THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN
- 7) [LM-2023-0123](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT \$37,000 FROM THE CONNECTICUT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL.
- 8) [LM-2023-0085](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, EXECUTE, ACKNOWLEDGE, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE CONNECTICUT RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE MILL RIVER TRAIL.

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair;

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 202 at 200 Orange Street; New Haven, CT 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Sarah Miller, Sal Punzo, Thomas R. Ficklin, Jr., and Troy Streater.

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE HISTORIC WOOSTER SQUARE ASSOCIATION AS A PASS THROUGH FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CTDECD) AND SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY, INCLUDING ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS, REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS TO HISTORICAL WOOSTER SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

2. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00 AND TO PARTNER WITH ART CT 770 LAND, LLC TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 112 CHAPEL STREET.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street; and Joe Minsky, Regional Manager at ArtoFrames, 115 River Street, presented this item.

In response to Alder Miller, Mr. Piscitelli and Mr. Minsky confirmed that the company is contributing approximately \$1 million to the cleanup.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Piscitelli confirmed that if they do not receive this grant, they will look for funding from additional sources. Mr. Minsky confirmed that they are hoping the project moves forward, as they need the additional room to expand their framing business.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved items # 2, 3, and 4 seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. All of the Alders

spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

3. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 AND TO PARTNER WITH RONSAL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 135 FULTON TERRACE.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street, and Ronald Esposito, Ronsal Development; and Greg Baribault, Vice President Strategic Development, Gateway Terminal. The developer will be using the area to expand and construct a 28,000 warehouse to support the Gateway Terminal for importing and exporting materials like timber and steel.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Piscitelli and Gateway Terminal representatives confirmed that the additional truck traffic would be minimal, as the new warehouse is within ½ mile of rail. Mr. Piscitelli reviewed how the city supports this project because it is keeping truck traffic to a minimum.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved items # 2, 3, and 4 seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

4. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 AND TO PARTNER WITH CONNCORP, LLC, TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT DIXWELL PLAZA.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street; and Paul McCraven, President and CEO of ConnCorp LLC, 50 Stonehenge Place, Cheshire presented this item.

In response to Alder Festa, CEO McCraven confirmed the buildings would not be demolished at this time. Mr. Piscitelli asks they we all advocate for the funding, so construction can begin. CEO McCraven confirmed they are hoping to start work in 60 days.

In response to Alder Miller, Mr. Piscitelli confirmed there was not a match required from the city.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved items # 2, 3, and 4 seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

5. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE GRANT AWARD FROM UNITED ILLUMINATING TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Steve Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability, presented this item. Reviewed how the funds would be used to reach out to targeted neighborhoods and especially to residents who are not native English speakers.

In response to Alder Festa, Executive Director Winter confirmed half of the funds would be used for outreach. Confirmed if we did or did not receive this grant, it would not affect whether the city worked with other community partners to educate residents.

In response to Alder Streater, Executive Director Winter confirmed there is not a specific age group being reached but specific neighborhoods.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 5, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

6. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A FIVE (5) YEAR GROUND LEASE BY AND BETWEEN GATHER NEW HAVEN, INC. AND THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Evan Trachten, Acquisition and Disposal Specialist, and Leigh Youngblood, Interim Executive Director at Gather New Haven, presented this item.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Youngblood reviewed how the food harvested does benefit their various programs including a wellness program. Mr. Trachten reviewed how they value the work that Gather New Haven does and the value that the community gardens add to the neighborhoods.

In response to Alder Miller, Executive Director Youngblood reviewed how they do rent gardens from private owners as well. Discussed how the gardens are run by community members.

In response to Alder Festa, Executive Director Youngblood discussed how the gardens provide a place for social gathering too.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 6, seconded by Alder Sal Punzo. Alder Singh moved to amend Schedule A to include the square footage of the community gardens, seconded by Alder Punzo. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the amendment. The motion was unanimously approved, and the amendment passed. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed, as amended.

7. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT \$37,000 FROM THE CONNECTICUT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Rebecca Bombero, Deputy CAO; Annie Mixsell, Tree System Coordinator; and Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Director at Urban Resources Initiative (URI), presented this item. Reviewed how the grant funding would be used to remove stumps and trees in neglected areas.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Murphy-Dunning reviewed how the stumps and trees to be removed with this grant were chosen. Discussed how having so many stumps throughout Fair Haven are preventing new trees from being planted. Deputy CAO Bombero and Ms. Mixsell spoke about how using this grant to remove these stumps and trees will allow the city to use their funding for tree/stump removal in other areas of the city.

In response to Alder Ficklin, Ms. Murphy-Dunning discussed how the trust between URI and the city was built over time. Reviewed how the relationship started with planting trees in 1995. Spoke about how they work with the city staff closely and work together.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Murphy-Dunning reviewed how there is a street tree inventory map available on URI's website that includes Wooster Square Park and New Haven Green as well. <https://uri.yale.edu/maps/street-tree-inventory-map>

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 7, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

8. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, EXECUTE, ACKNOWLEDGE, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE CONNECTICUT RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE MILL RIVER
TRAIL.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved to read and file item # 8, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. All of the Alders spoke in favor of reading and filing this item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Sal Punzo. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:05 p.m.

Alder Troy Streater moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Sal Punzo. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 7:19 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mh9dvn0LE_E.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II