The regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held at the Walter R. Dolan Jr., High School Cafeteria on Monday, May 2, 1955. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. George V. Connors, at 8:15 p.m.

Invocation was given by Mons. John Hayes, of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Connors introduced Mrs. Farrell, the new secretary, who will begin her duties on May 16th.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk. There were 29 present, and 2 arrived late. The absent members were William Kaminski, Joseph Milano, Phil C. Coulter, Barbara Winsor, Edward G. Ryba, Thomas M. Killen, Jack McLaughlin, Hayes Blake Hoyt, and Rutherford G. Huizinga.

Mrs. Zuckert moved that the minutes of our April 4th meeting, as printed be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Longo, and voted unanimously.

FISCAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Samuel Picciallo, Chairman, mentioned the question of a breakdown on Snow Removal as requested last month. Each member has a copy of the report. Mr. Iacovo asked, "Don't we have, under the General Maintenance of Public Works Department, an allocation for maintenance and repairs? Why should repairs come out of the Snow Removal fund?" Mr. Chase, Supervisor of Highways, who was present, was asked to answer the question. He said: "This equipment is used solely for snow removal, therefore it should be charged against snow removal." Mr. Iacovo asked if the City did not have a welder, to which Mr. Chase replied, "yes, to take care of our regular equipment but not plowing equipment." Mr. Iacovo felt that only the cost of salaries, special parts, sand, etc. should be charged to snow removal, and the balance should be taken care of by the regular department. Mrs. Zuckert inquired what becomes of the balance of $2,959.28 in the Snow Removal account. It was stated that this sum goes back into the General Fund. Mr. Vitti remarked that when he was superintendent of streets, some time ago, they used to spend more than $30,000 during the winter months for snow removal, and that Mr. Chase should be congratulated on spending only $17,000.

LEGISLATIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. Plotkin, chairman, reported that his committee met on April 21st and discussed the SHRUBBERRY ORDINANCE, and moved for the adoption of the following:

Ordinance No. 47 (Supplemental)

Chap. 23, Sec. 7. No hedge, shrubbery or full board fence or any other obstacle other than a building or natural earth embankment shall be maintained or permitted at a height more than three 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.

This ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its
Seconded, and put to a vote with the result of 27 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Collyer and Mrs. Murphy). It was now new to the discussion. The committee also discussed Chap. 7, Sec. 4 of the General Ordinances, which relates to the use of pistols, air rifles, B-B guns, etc. The purpose was to suggest something to outlaw sling-shots. A little quick re-thinking showed a State Ordinance referring to "sling-shots," but this is a sort of sand-bag with a brick in it. After preparing an ordinance using the words "sling shot," his committee conferred with Chief Kinsella, who sent two detectives to look at the proposed ordinance. They approved it. It gave 15 days notice for the ordinance to take effect, so that storekeepers and jobbers could dispose of their stock of sling-shots.

Mr. Plotkin moved for adoption of this ordinance, and Mr. Murphy seconded it.

There followed a lengthy discussion. Mr. Collyer asked if this prohibited spring-operated guns, etc. The answer was yes.

(Mr. Irving Snyder arrived at this time)

Mr. Lewis was in sympathy with the proposed ordinance, but felt it was a little extreme and harsh, since BB's and stones could be expelled from sling-shots and be dangerous, but then peas held by the breath alone should be in that same category, and peas were clearly a more dangerous and deadly shot.

Mr. Topping asked, "If a man is in possession of a bow and arrow, and does shooting, would this be prohibited, since we have a number of archery enthusiasts in this city?"

Mr. Plotkin said this was a good thought.

Mr. Murley said he felt it would be absolutely impossible to enforce this ordinance. The use of BB guns and air guns and similar devices is prohibited. To prohibit running, prohibits the sale of these items. He discussed the subject with Mr. Hagen of the Youth Department of our Police Force. It may be true, they sell sling-shots, but when he was a youth, he made his own and he did not believe we could, by ordinance, prevent children of today from taking a couple of pieces of elastic and making a sling-shot out of them.

As to toys, mentioned by the other speaker, he felt we could prohibit their sale, but he was sure the Retail Merchants Association would strongly oppose the sale of a harmless toy. There is possible injury by "thrown stories" or "dry-reeds." He offered an amendment to the proposed ordinance, that we send the ordinance back to the committee and give our individual members a chance to make suggestions.

Mr. Russell felt this was a good idea because, we are duplicating some of our present ordinances.

Mr. Fredericks moved that it be re-committed to committee. Seconded by Mrs. Zuckert, voted unanimously.
Mr. Plotkin referred to the proposed new rules for the Board, on which nothing definite has been done, and since the terms of the present representatives expire next December, he felt there should be a meeting on that.

Mr. Plotkin said he had a proposal from the Mitchie Company, about revising our Code of General Ordinances. This matter will be brought up at a later meeting.

Also, the subject of a lease on Jack's Rowboat Basin will be brought up another time, after the matter has been thoroughly investigated.

Mrs. Zuckert called attention to two bills now before the State Legislature, H B 1162 concerning motorists stopping each way when a school bus stops, and suggested the Board send a letter to Mr. Matteo, Chairman of the Motor Vehicles Committee indicating our interest and support of the bill. The other bill has to do with a clarification of the present statute concerning passing school buses and appointing school-bus operators as special policemen while on duty (H B 159 introduced by Mr. Andrews).

Mrs. Zuckert moved for suspension of the rules, in order to discuss these bills, seconded by Mr. Snyder and voted unanimously.

Mrs. Zuckert moved that the Board contact the chairman of this Motor Vehicle Committee, indicating our interest in H B 1162 which requires traffic in both directions to stop when a school bus is receiving or discharging school children.

Seconded by Mr. Fredericks, and voted on unanimously.

Mr. Snyder inquired if any of the bills contain provision for school buses being properly marked or identified. Mrs. Zuckert replied that that is H B 159 which is quite lengthy.

As H B 1162 was the bill just voted on, Mr. Fryder's comments were declared out of order. Mr. Snyder then suggested that in writing about H B 1162 we also request that school buses should be properly identified as such.

Mr. Mulreed said the difficulty is that the interpretation placed upon the words in the statutes, about marking school buses, has never been clarified. It is in the hands of the prosecuting attorney, Mr. DeVita; also there is no change needed in the law but in the enforcement of it. He stated he felt it would be rather dangerous for us to signify our approval of something until it has had a thorough study.

Mr. Fredericks moved that we proceed with our regular order of business. Seconded and carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. Murphy, chairman, reported he had no report until next meeting.
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Topping reported that his committee met on April 26th and recommended that the Public Works budget be passed without any changes. Also the capital projects budget. However, they felt that the $100,000 allotted for the Broad St. Extension should be used to establish building lines on the present street, at the earliest possible moment, before any new buildings are started on Broad Street, etc.

The Committee objected to $20,000 for new garbage collection trucks, but now understand it is meant for new Public Works trucks.

They also recommended that before any new garbage trucks are obtained, a survey be made to the advisability of using private collectors -- New Britain uses such and has shown a saving of $50,000 per year.

Bridge St. bridge is progressing at good rate; concrete being poured, after which there will be a 28-day waiting period for it to set and cure. Suggested this be named the GOLD STAR MOTHERS MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

HEALTH AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Longo spoke about the distressing situation of people being dispossessed, in his neighborhood, on account of the THRU-WAY, and having no place to go. About 200 families are involved. The State buys the properties, shuts off the water, orders the families to move almost at once. The only way people can get water temporarily is to pay the Water Co. $30 fee. People are moving from one house to another, for about a month at a time. One family with four children, whose house had a fire, had water shut off and had to go to railroad station for their daily water needs. Mr. Ryan from the State comes DOWN THERE EVERY DAY and tells them to get out.

He suggested we keep the Quonset Huts at Shippan instead of knocking them down, also the Elm St. School will be vacant soon. Why can't we, now in the time being, house families. He had a long talk with Mr. Laturney of our Welfare Dept., who said it will end up with having to put people in hotels and the City will have to pay for it. He talked to Mr. Hanrahan about the situation and has not heard from him yet.

Mr. Connors suggested a letter be sent to the Board, but Mr. Longo said we cannot wait that long. Mrs. Bromley suggested we refer the matter orally to the Health & Protection Committee.

Mr. Mulréd, for a point of information, asked if we were not supposed to appoint a committee to look into the Housing Authorities' workings. If so, he thought this particular matter should be referred to the reactivated committee.

Mr. Connors named the following Housing Committee:

Frank LiVolsi, Chairman
Frank Longo
Pat Fortunato
Dwight Marshall
P. Wardham Collyer

Mr. LiVolsi said this problem is much more drastic and both Housing Authorities should be contacted at once and a list should be made so that we know how many people need housing as a result of the THRU-WAY. He will call on the Legislative Committee to start this committee right. You need joint action by both Housing Authorities before the situation gets out of hand.
Mrs. Peatt stated it seemed to her the Health Dept. would not allow the water to be turned off in these places.

Mr. Longo said he contacted the Health Dept. who said they knew nothing about it. They did not condemn the houses so he asked them to look into the matter. Never heard from them since April 12th. The houses are condemned by the State.

Mrs. Zuckert understood that when the State takes over any house, the people no longer pay rent. If they do, they should get after the landlord.

Mr. Longo said when the State buys a house they pay the owner 2/3rds. The landlord still collects rent. People ask the landlord to turn on the water and he refuses.

Mr. Lewis felt that this is a serious problem and needs immediate action and these two committees should get together as soon as possible and do something about it.

Mr. Lewis also remarked that the Health & Protection Committee should do something about various traffic lights, that Washington Ave. & North St. needs one badly, and suggests that the Committee inquire about this from the Police Chief.

WELFARE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Kelly, Chairman, stated that after a lengthy meeting, his committee talked with the Tax Collector, Mr. John Connolly, about mailing beach admission stickers to car owners. There are about 28,000 passenger cars listed in Stamford, and Mr. Hunt, of the Board of Recreation, will have the necessary stickers in the office of the Tax Board by the first of June and they will be sent out with the car tax bills.

Mr. Murphy asked, what about owners of cars who are tax exempt as a result of Veterans Service. Mr. Rhoades said that this and other problems will have to be ironed out as the years go by.

Mr. Jachimczyk moved that we accept Mr. Connolly's offer to mail out these identification stickers. Seconded by Mrs. Bankowski, and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Request from Mayor Quigley for appointment of Mr. Herbert C. Rice to the Personnel Committee.

Chairman, Mr. Kaminski was absent.

Mr. Mulreed stated that at our last meeting Mr. Kaminski read the qualifications of Mr. Rice. He was very much impressed, but Mr. Kaminski made one statement which caused him to vote against Mr. Rice, who he thinks by experience would be an asset to the City. The statement was that Mr. Rice was in favor of loosening up a little bit on the qualifications for the Personnel Director. He felt that such a move would be dangerous to our merit system. He was hopeful that Mr. Kaminski would correct that statement, since he could not vote for a man if it would jeopardize the interest of our City by giving us a personnel director who is not qualified.
Mr. Fredericks said that the specific question was asked of both Mr. Sotire and Mr. Rice. The latter expressly stated that he was not in favor of the rigid requirements laid down by that committee appointed by the Personnel Commission for the selection of a personnel director. That was his definite flat statement and the committee's report so reflected it.

Mr. Robert Lewis said he would like to abstain from voting because he did business with Mr. Rice. That as far as lowering the bars, in his position Mr. Rice has many employees and it is not his intention to lower the standards to that degree. He certainly cannot hate a man for supporting the Mayor.

Mr. Wardham Collyer moved that Mr. Lewis be excused from voting. Mrs. Bromley seconded the motion, put to a vote it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lohgo suggested the matter be referred back to the Committee.

Mr. Fredericks disagreed, as the committee's report is on the record.

Mr. Kelly asked if we had a second report from the committee. Mr. Connors replied in the negative.

Mr. Kelly asked, on re-submitting a name should it not be referred back to the committee.

Mr. Fredericks, one of the committee members, said no. He also said we balloted on Mr. Rice after we had Mr. Kaminski's report.

The vote was taken, 31 members present, Mr. Lewis abstaining, and the result was 15 for, 15 against. Vote declared lost by Mr. Connors.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Mr. Connors, Chairman, read a letter received from Frank J. Daley of 27 Webb Avenue on the subject of the 1955-1956 budgets and its possible effect upon our rate of tax.

Mr. Jachimczyk moved that the Board as a whole give our chairman a vote of confidence. Seconded by Mrs. Zuckert, and voted upon unanimously in the affirmative.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The following resolution was presented to the Board by the Assistant Corporation Counsel, Mr. Arthur L. DiSesa:

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

It does hereby authorize Thomas F. J. Quigley, Mayor of the City of Stamford, to apply to the State Board of Education, State of Connecticut, for State Aid and further authorizes said Mayor to accept or reject such State Aid Grant in the name of the City of Stamford on the following school building projects:

NEWFIELD Elementary School,
STEVENS School Addition.
Mr. Mulreed moved for adoption of the resolution; seconded by Mr. Rhoades, voted on and unanimously accepted.

PETITIONS

Mr. Steve Kelly reported the following:

Petition from Stamford Girls' Club, Inc. 172 Greyrock Place, to have balloons dropped over the City one day during National Girls' Club Week, May 9 to 13. He moved for granting the request. Seconded by John Cook. Voted on unanimously, in the affirmative.

Petition from Fairfield County Cerebral Palsy Assn., 951 Park Ave., Bridgeport, to exhibit on May 28 and 29 a 35-foot space ship in Woodside or Cummings Park. Mr. Kelly moved adoption of the request, seconded by Mrs. Bromley. Voted on, unanimously, in the affirmative.

However, Mr. Kelly wondered whether there were not restrictions on the use of Cummings Park for such an affair, when admission is charged, as it will be. Opinion of Mr. Hanrahan to be sought before issuing permit.

Petition from Springdale Parent-Teacher Assn. to erect banner streamer across Hope St. May 12 to 14th, advertising school fair. Discussion arose as to dangerous situation that may arise from such a project.

Mr. Kelly moved that petition be granted subject to approval of the Police Dept. Seconded by Mr. Rhodes, put to a vote and carried unanimously in the affirmative.

Mr. LiVolso suggested that liability insurance might be necessary on this.

Mr. Kelly asked for suspension of the rules, to act on four petitions that were handed to him this evening. He also asked for some decision of the Board concerning petitions being handed in on the night of our meeting.

Mr. Connors suggested the Advocate and WSTC give publicity to the fact that the Steering Committee meets the Tuesday preceding the regular monthly meeting of the Board and that any petitions received after that night will be held over to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. LiVolso said that the Steering Committee has a difficult task -- all requests are of a civic nature and it seems too much to set a dead-line for acceptance. Instead, we should give a vote of confidence to Mr. Kelly for his patience on this committee.

Mr. Rhoades stated he knew the Committee would appreciate a vote of confidence, but if the radio station and Advocate emphasize the fact that these things have to be in by the Tuesday preceding the regular meeting, we could still act on emergencies but we should establish in people's minds what it means.

Mr. Iacovo said we learn by experience, but if one of these organizations did not get what they wanted, that would be a different story.
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Mr. Kelly's request for suspension of the rules seconded by Mr. Fredericks, put to a vote and unanimously voted on.

Petition from Lions Club to hold music festival on June 5th at the Stamford High School on Sunday, June 5th. Mr. Kelly moved for approval, seconded by Mrs. Zuckert, unanimously adopted.

Petition from Stamford Museum and Nature Center to erect signs in Bedford Park and Atlantic Square during May, in re their $100,000 initial campaign fund drive.

Mr. Rhoades felt that there were other ways of advertising such campaigns and did not approve of large signs, especially in Bedford Park.

Mr. Collyer asked if such signs contribute to the success of a campaign, and personally opposed the request.

Mr. Kelly's personal opinion is that it blights the appearance of the park.

Mr. Mulqueen felt that the acquisition of the new Museum was of interest to the City, and did not think we should deny them the right to erect the signs but ask them to bear in mind that the signs should not detract from the beauty of the parks and be of such size and so launched so as not to hide the beauty of the park.

Mr. Topping said he has been concerned about the size of these signs and asked if the Board could not set a maximum size, perhaps referring it to the Legislative & Rules Committee.

Mr. Murphy said a thought for the future is that we have a number of traffic notaries strung around town, could they not be put to some use? Another member wondered if this would make for safe driving.

Mrs. Bromley felt we should not oppose this request of the Museum tonight, but establish a definite policy at a later date.

Mr. Snyder said he noticed Bedford Park has a Red Cross sign still up and the drive is over. (Drive not over but lagging)

Mr. Longo suggested, instead of nipping up the parks, we have them use ropes and ballast.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly to grant request of Stamford Museum & Nature Center, seconded by Mr. Jachimczyk, voted upon unanimously in the affirmative.

Petition from St. Andrew's Church to operate Fair on their grounds on June 13th. Since this is on private property someone suggested we refer the matter to the Corporation Counsel to ascertain if permit is necessary. Mr. Kelly moved for adoption of the request. Seconded by Mr. LiVolsi, voted upon unanimously in the affirmative.

Mr. Fredericks said this question has come up before, about an affair being on private property, and if the Corporation Counsel rules it needs no permit, there is no use taking up the time of our Board.
Mrs. Bromley said she thought Mr. Hanrahan told us some time ago that church property, which is tax exempt, has to be voted on.

Request from St. John's Luther League, asking for waiver of $25 fee which they paid for permit to sell flags. Some time ago the Board decided not to establish a precedent, and Mr. Rhoades moved that we refer the request to the Finance Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Cool. Voted on, unanimously, in the affirmative.

Mr. Connors presented a petition with 75 signatures, in regard to a badly needed improvement on Stillwater Road. Amount involved $50,000. He further said there was a mis-statement in it, because none of that sum was to be used for a Bridge Street approach. This is in the 1955-1955 budget.

Mr. Mulreedy stated since this is a budget matter, it would be dangerous to discuss it before the Board tonight.

No action taken. It is to be referred to the Fiscal Committee.

Mr. Connors read a letter from the South End Taxpayers & Property Owners' Assn. stating that they do not desire the name of DYKE PARK changed as discussed in our April meeting. No action taken.

Mr. Connors read a letter received from Mr. William Katz, Chairman of the Parking Authority, asking approval of installation of parking meters on Summer Street and also Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Connors moved that the matter be referred to the Health & Protection Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Bromley, voted on with favorable results, unanimously.

Mr. Connors presented a letter received from the Planning & Zoning Director, Mr. Wachter, re application of the Estate of Helen W. Smith for change in the Master Plan, property being located on Hope Street, corner of Glenbrook Road, and decision of the Planning Board having been questioned.

Mr. Connors suggested the matter be referred to the Planning & Zoning Committee, also the Legislative & Rules Committee.

Mr. Plotkin said the Board should instruct the committees how they want them to look at this matter (either as a full-fledged hearing and look into the matter, or just review the action of the Planning Board.) Nothing in the Charter states just how an appeal should be considered. He thought we should set up now an approach that we will use in this and other appeals.

Mr. Jachimczyk moved that the two receptive committees just review the minutes of the Planning Board's decision, without going into a full hearing, which would be costly and time-consuming for the members of the committees and the applicants.

Mr. Cash seconded the motion.

No further action taken at this time. Mr. Plotkin read from the Charter, a reference about jurisdictional factors that must be found out before any action can be taken.
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Mr. Mulreed asked if the briefs had been filed, to which Mr. Jachimczyk replied no, just the minutes of the hearings and the reasons for their decisions.

Mrs. Bromley said according to her understanding, we have sixty days in which to determine this, so that at our next meeting why would it not be wise for our two committees to have met on this subject and decide which way it should be handled?

Mr. Jachimczyk: "You have a court stenographer's record."

Mr. DiSesa gave his opinion about the "referral" date, to which Mr. Fredericks replied, if it refers to referral it means referral in accordance with our rules. The Steering Committee did not receive this and tonight this is our meeting of referral. Otherwise, under our rules, we could not operate.

Mr. Jachimczyk: On an appeal, you do not have a public hearing. You review the findings of the Planning Board.

Mr. Plotkin asked, is it the understanding of this Board that we shall only review the evidence?

Mr. Lewis: "That is my understanding that we have settled the issue. Mr. Plotkin seems to be in a great rush about the decision of how to do this. Your referral to the committee is in order and the committee can determine whether they require a public hearing.

Mr. Russell: "I think that we want to have a little time to think this over and one of the ways is to refer it to a committee. In a committee meeting we can get more detailed study to see how such a matter should come up. The Steering Committee should not take action so that it becomes a part of this agenda."
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Mr. Murphy:  "There is in my mind a question about the sixty days. The failure of the Board of Representatives to either approve or reject said amendment within such time limit shall be deemed as approval of the Planning Board's decision. I heard, before the meeting, that people were against it, so we had better watch our step."

Mr. Snyder asked the Board to hear Mr. DiSesa.

Mr. DiSesa:  "The nature of this power of approval, Sec. 522.4 is judicial in character. On appeals to the Court of Common Pleas they do not hold another public hearing — they decide whether to reverse or approve the decision of the Planning Board, on the record. As far as the questions of fact are concerned, they are determined by the Court purely on the record. If that is what your Board wants, they could do it."

Mrs. Zuckert asked if the Board was technically a court, to which Mr. DiSesa replied, yes.

Mr. Plotkin:  "I don't want to rush anything through but want to know how the committees are to handle it, either review or a public hearing. A recommendation how to proceed, not on the merits.

Mrs. Bromley:  "This is a vital, important thing, as Mr. Murphy says. But if the committee feels we should act on it before July, we could come to a special meeting.

Mr. Murphy:  "We will have to find out from Mr. Hanrahan."

No further action taken on Mr. Jachimczyk's motion, seconded by Mr. Cash.

Mr. Wardham Collyer, said that within the past month the Cities & Boroughs Committee of the Legislature had bills under consideration. Mr. Mulreed attended the session and did his usual competent job and presented our views to them. He thought the Board should thank Mr. Mulreed for acting on our behalf. He read a letter he had prepared and moved for its adoption, addressed to Mr. Albert Snyder, chairman of the Cities & Boroughs Committee, Hartford. He moved that this letter be transmitted to Mr. Snyder. Seconded by Mr. Topping, carried unanimously. A rising vote of thanks was also given to Mr. Mulreed.

Mr. Murphy, speaking again about the Smith matter, said, "If Mr. Hanrahan gives us an opinion that it has to be acted upon next month, could our committee come back with a recommendation?"

Mr. Fredericks:  "I think, under the circumstances, you would have to have the president call a special meeting."

Mr. Caputo announced that the Housing Committee and Health & Protection Committee would meet in the Mayor's Office at 7 p.m. on Friday evening, May 6th.

Mr. LiVolsi:  Would it be in order for the Board of Representatives to write to the City and Town Housing Authorities and inform them of the fact that we have formed a regular committee?"
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Mr. John Cook invited all the members to come to the new Glenbrook Firehouse on May 21st, when the new building is dedicated.

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Zuckert, seconded by several members.

Meeting closed at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alphonse C. Jachimczyk
Clerk