

Minutes of April 2, 1962
Meeting of the 7th Board of Representatives
Stamford, Connecticut

3336

A regular meeting of the 7th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on Monday, April 2, 1962 in the Cafeteria of the Dolan Junior High School, Toms Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Paul D. Shapero, at 8:05 P.M.

INVOCATION was given by Rev. Joseph D. Kucharik, Trinity Luthern Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The President led the members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 39 members present at the calling of the roll. However, Mr. Macri arrived shortly thereafter, changing the roll call to all 40 members present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Meeting of March 5, 1962

The Minutes of the above meeting were accepted, with the following corrections:

Page 3325, 4th paragraph from bottom of page, starting with "MR. JOHNSON inquired" to be changed to read:

"MR. JOHNSON inquired if this insurance is just based on the experience of the employees of the City of Stamford, or is it combined with some other group."

Page 3331, 3rd paragraph from bottom of page, starting with "MR. GERONIMO said he" to be changed to read:

"MR. GERONIMO said he had read in the newspapers that the Tax Assessor *in Darien* is not going to assess fallout shelters to their full value....." etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEERING COMMITTEE

The President read the following report:

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT
Meeting held Monday, March 19, 1962

A meeting of the Steering Committee was held on Monday, March 19, 1962 in the Mayor's office, City Hall, at 8:00 P.M.

The Chairman, Paul D. Shapero, presided. All members were present, with the exception of Mr. Baker and Mr. Mulreed.

The following matters were discussed and acted upon:

- (1) Additional appropriations previously approved by the Board of Finance on March 8, 1962, as follows:

- (a) \$2,250.00 - SUNSET HOME - Code 430-1801, Maintenance (Rehabilitation of Plumbing) (Mayor's letter 3/1/62)
REFERRED TO FISCAL COMMITTEE AND EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
- (b) \$11,300.00 - WALLACE STREET - (Cost of improvement, of which \$8420.00 is to be assessed against property owners involved - See Resolution No. 384, page 3314 2/5/62 Minutes) (Mayor's letter of 3/2/62)
REFERRED TO FISCAL COMMITTEE and PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE
- (2) Proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 65 Supplemental, to strike out the last sentence in Section 3.4, substituting a provision to appeal from the decision of the Commissioner of Health. REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE (See Mayor's letter of 3/16/62)
- (3) Proposed Ordinance concerning approval of City of Stamford joining the SOUTHWESTERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY PLANNING REGION (Pursuant to provisions of Sec. 1 of Public Act 613, as defined by Public Act 448, 1959 Session of the General Assembly)
(Note: Previously referred to Legislative & Rules Committee and the Planning & Zoning Committee - See item #3 under Feb. 19, 1962 Steering Committee report - see Minutes of 3/5/62, page 3321, item #3)
ORDERED ON AGENDA UNDER LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE and PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE
- (4) SEASIDE AVENUE - Flooding and improper drainage conditions
(Originally brought up by Mr. Kuczo and Mr. Connors, 10th District Representatives) (See item #13 under Steering Committee Report, page 3322, Minutes of 3/5/62)
ORDERED ON AGENDA UNDER PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
- (5) Petition No. 282 - Confirmation of CENTRAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. request to hold annual MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, Wednesday, May 30, 1962 - ON AGENDA UNDER PETITIONS
- (6) Petition signed by 13 members of the Board of Representatives, requesting compensation for members of Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Representatives -- REFERRED TO EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
- (7) Petition for acceptance of MITCHELL STREET, in accordance with provisions of Ordinance No. 79 (Brought up by Mr. Cushing, 1st District Representatives at 3/5/62 meeting under "New Business" - See page 3335)
REFERRED TO PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE
- (8) Personnel Commission report of meeting held Feb. 19, 1962 - REFERRED TO PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

(9) Concerning how information may be obtained on building procedures in the Board of Education

There was some discussion on the above subject and the method whereby the Board can obtain information on building procedures in the Board of Education and other municipal building work throughout the city.

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

(10) Letter from Stephen Kelly and Gerald Rybnick, 12th District Representatives, concerning Capital Projects Budget (Copy ordered sent to Chairman of Fiscal Committee)

(11) Letter from Peter Delaney concerning flying the flag of the Irish Republic in City Parks on St. Patrick's Day - Noted and filed

(12) Resolution concerning appointment of 5th Charter Revision Committee ^{SSion}
REFERRED TO CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE for drafting

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul D. Shapero, Chairman
Steering Committee

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

MR. MEYERS, Chairman, presented his Committee report at this time. He said a meeting was held by the Committee on March 27, 1962, with the following present: Rose Farina, Jack McLaughlin, George Russell and Robert Meyers. He reported that matters on the agenda for his committee were unanimously approved.

(1) \$2,250.00 - SUNSET HOME - Code 430-1801, Maintenance (Rehabilitation of Plumbing) (Mayor's letter 3/1/62)

MR. MEYERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by MRS. CLARKE, who said her committee also concurred in the approval. (Education, Welfare and Government Committee) CARRIED unanimously.

(2) \$11,300.00 - WALLACE STREET - Cost of improvement, \$8,420.00 of which is to be assessed against property owners involved - See Resolution No. 384, page 3314 of 2/5/62 Minutes. (Mayor's letter 3/2/62)

MR. MEYERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Connors.

MR. RUSSELL, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee, to whom this had also been referred, said his committee concurred in the approval. CARRIED unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE:

Proposed Ordinance concerning approval of City of Stamford joining the SOUTHWESTERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY PLANNING REGION (Pursuant to provisions of Sec. 1 of Public Act 613, as defined by Public Act 448, 1959 Session of General Assembly) (See item #3 under Steering Committee report, page 3321, Minutes 3/3/62) (Mayor's letter 2/19/62)

MR. BAKER said his committee had met the evening of March 27, 1962 and it was decided to hold a joint public hearing on the Legislative & Rules Committee and the Planning & Zoning Committee on the above matter. He said the hearing would be held the evening of April 10, 1962 in the Auditorium of Dolan Junior High School to sound out public opinion. After this the Committees will be better equipped to come in with a recommendation to the Board as to what should be done.

Mr. Baker said he was making this report as the Chairman of the senior committee; this having also been referred to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

MR. NOLAN asked if this hearing would be merely for the information of the members of the Board.

MR. BAKER said the hearing would be open to the residents of this area as well as Board members. He said there have been many requests from people outside the community who wish to appear and should be permitted to do so.

MR. CONNORS said he thought the hearing should be restricted to the people of the City of Stamford alone.

MR. RUSSELL said the Committees had discussed this at length and they thought the hearing should be open first to the residents of this City and then to out-of-towners to speak either for or against it, as it was not a Stamford project.

THE PRESIDENT reminded the members that it has been the practice of this Board to leave matters that have been referred to committee up to the Chairman of the committee involved as to how these matters should be handled.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

SEASIDE AVENUE - Flooding and improper drainage conditions Petition from residents (See item #13 under Steering Committee report, page 3322, Minutes of 3/5/62 and page 3018, Minutes of 3/6/61)

MR. BLOIS, Chairman, reported on the above matter. He said he had spoken to several people on this matter - that it is a Capital Project and is scheduled for next year. He moved that the petition be placed on file.

MR. CONNORS wanted to know why this has to be held up for another year. He said the petition was signed by 70 residents who are tired of waiting for something to be done. He said the members know that this Board cannot initiate appropriations and wanted to know why he had been advised to bring this to the attention of the Board when it is quite obvious they cannot act on a matter that is not within their jurisdiction.

MR. SCARELLA MOVED that the petition be referred to the Commissioner of Public Works for appropriate action. Seconded.

After considerable further debate, Mr. Nolan amended Mr. Scarella's motion, which was seconded and CARRIED that the petition before the Public Works Committee on Seaside Avenue be referred to the Mayor to take whatever action he may deem appropriate to remedy the situation.

HEALTH & PROTECTION COMMITTEE:

MR. GERONIMO, Chairman, presented his Committee report at this time. He said the Committee met with members of the Health Commission on March 20, 1962 to discuss all matters regarding the health program of the city.

He said it was agreed that one of the most pressing and urgent needs was for a qualified Sanitary Engineer who would coordinate matters between the various city boards, namely Public Works, Health Department, Planning and Zoning Board, with an echelon of coordination. Re the matter of on-the-spot inspection of food outlets, restaurants and establishments where the food handling and those connected with various phases of serving the public, in which routine inspection is now at a minimum, should be intensified. He said this could be supplemented by increasing the number of Inspectors in the Health Department.

MR. GERONIMO said the Committee feels that the addition of the above mentioned personnel should be given serious consideration.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE:

MR. RUSSELL, Chairman, presented his committee report. He said a meeting was held on March 19, 1962, with the following members present: F. Melzer, R. Meyers, J. Mulreed, G. Russell, with A. Shanen absent.

(Note: Committee report does not follow the Agenda)

(1) Acceptance of Roads as City Streets:

MR. RUSSELL presented the following roads for acceptance. He said all maps referred to are on file in the office of the Town and City Clerk. These roads are accepted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 92 Supplemental. He MOVED for acceptance. Seconded and CARRIED unanimously:

ABEL AVENUE - Easterly section, extending from a dead end, approximately 237 feet to Hope Street and Westerly section, extending from a dead end, approximately 107 feet to Coolidge Avenue, as shown on Maps Nos. 1042 and 2994.

*ACRE VIEW DRIVE - Extending from the already accepted portion, northerly to and including a temporary turnaround. Length, approximately 900 feet; width 27 feet, as shown on Map No. 7227.

*CRICKET LANE - Extending westerly and southerly from the westerly line of Acre View Drive to and including a turnaround. Length, approximately 945 feet; width 27 feet, as shown on Map No. 7227.

*Note: These roads were held over in Committee since November 1961, due to having been received too late to be acted upon during the winter months, as stipulated by Ordinance No. 92 Supplemental.

(2) ABEL AVENUE - Ordinance for final adoption, to change name to KENNEDY LANE
(Approved for publication at 3/5/62 meeting--see page 3332)

MR. RUSSELL MOVED for final adoption of the following Ordinance. Seconded by Mrs. Austin and Mr. Melzer:

ORDINANCE NO. 99 SUPPLEMENTAL
CHANGING THE NAME OF A PORTION
OF ABEL AVENUE TO KENNEDY LANE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT:

A portion of the following street name shall be changed as shown below:

Change that portion of Abel Avenue from intersection with Hope Street and continuing westerly for approximately 237 feet to KENNEDY LANE.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its enactment.

MR. SCARELLA asked a question. He wanted to know what was meant by a "portion" of Abel Avenue, and did this mean that the other portion was not acceptable?

MR. RUSSELL explained that he had checked with the office of the Corporation Counsel and had been informed some time ago that street name changes would have to be done by the Board of Representatives and would require an Ordinance. He also explained in answer to Mr. Scarella's question, that there is a natural divider which makes two separate streets out of Abel Avenue and as there is no throughway from one part of the street to the other that it is best to have separate names, thus avoiding confusion. He said both sections of Abel Avenue are acceptable.

MR. JOHNSON asked if this, being an Ordinance, should not have gone through the Legislative & Rules Committee first. Mr. Russell replied "No."

A VOTE was taken on Mr. Russell's motion for final approval of Ordinance No. 99. CARRIED unanimously.

MR. RUSSELL MOVED for SUSPENSION OF THE RULES in order to take up the following matter which was not on the agenda for this evening. Seconded by Mrs. Austin, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Mead. CARRIED.

(3) Resolution Concerning the Directing of Improvements on MITCHELL STREET
(In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 64 of Charter)

MR. RUSSELL explained that the majority of property owners on Mitchell Street have requested that the above road be improved in conformity with specifications as set forth in Ordinance No. 79 Supplemental, pursuant to the powers granted under Chapter 64 of the Stamford Charter.

(Note: Refer to petition dated 3/5/62, signed by 11 residents of Mitchell Street)

MR. RUSSELL MOVED for approval of the following resolution. Seconded and CARRIED unanimously:

RESOLUTION NO. 387

DIRECTING IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CARRIED
OUT ON MITCHELL STREET

BE AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD:

That it is the opinion of the Board of Representatives that the public health, safety, welfare, convenience and necessity require the construction and layout of the highway known as MITCHELL STREET, in conformity with the specifications set forth in Ordinance No. 79 Supplemental of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Stamford; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the intention of the Board of Representatives, with the approval of the Mayor, to construct and lay out said highway, together with any curbing, drainage or other incidental installations required to carry out said project pursuant to the powers granted it under Section 640 of the Charter of the City of Stamford; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor be and is hereby requested to direct the Department of Public Works to do the preliminary engineering work, including preparation of surveys, plans, profiles, specifications and estimates of the total cost of the improvement and to submit a report thereon to the Commissioner of Finance, who shall make estimates of the value of any land proposed to be taken and of the amounts of the benefits or damages which should be assessed against or in favor of each piece of property affected; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor be requested to submit a report thereon to the Board of Representatives; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that approximately seventy (70%) per cent of the cost of the work and improvements as aforesaid shall be assessed against the properties benefited thereby; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all necessary and requisite steps be taken toward the construction and layout of said highway, curbing, drainage and incidental installations in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 64 of the Charter of the City of Stamford.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

MR. SHANEN, Chairman, submitted his committee report. He said the committee unanimously approved three petitions submitted to them.

- (1) Petition No. 282 - Confirmation of approval given CENTRAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. to hold annual MEMORIAL DAY PARADE on Wednesday, May 30, 1962

MR. SHANEN said he had expedited matters on the above petition, by consulting the President, Majority and Minority Leaders who confirmed the action of the

Committee by giving permission to the Central Veterans Association for their parade, subject to the approval of the Police and Fire Departments and compliance with City Ordinances and insurance regulations.

MR. SHANEN MOVED for confirmation of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Kelly and CARRIED unanimously.

- (2) Petition No. 283 - From KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS for permission to hold a parade on Sunday, May 6, 1962 (In honor of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas P. Coleman)

MR. SHANEN read the request and MOVED for approval, contingent upon the organization obtaining all needed insurance coverage and the observance of all City Ordinances and the approval of the Police and Fire Departments. Seconded by several members and CARRIED unanimously.

- (3) Petition No. 284 - From YANKEE DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION, 43rd National Convention - For parade on Saturday, June 30th and dedication on June 28th of the YANKEE DIVISION HIGHWAY

MR. SHANEN MOVED for suspension of the rules to bring the above request on the floor. Seconded and CARRIED.

MR. SHANEN MOVED for approval of the above request, subject to certain stipulated conditions - that all insurance coverage be obtained, the observance of all City Ordinances and the approval of the Police and Fire Departments. Seconded by Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Clarke and Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. SHANEN explained that the route of the parade would be along Yankee Division Highway, south to Summer Street, to Broad Street, to River Street, to Main Street, disbanding at St. John's Park.

MR. McLAUGHLIN asked if they intended to parade from the Parkway down to the Town Hall. (laughter)

MR. SHANEN said it would appear that way.

THE PRESIDENT said it was a great tribute to their strength.

MR. GERONIMO asked for permission to question the Chairman, which was given.

He asked where did the powers and duties of the Patriotic and Special Events Commission enter the picture. He said he thought they had something to do with this sort of thing.

MR. SHANEN quoted from the amendment to the Charter which passed the November 7, 1961 referendum, as follows:

To amend Chapter 50 by adding thereto Section 502.4, as follows:

Sec. 502.4. Powers and Duties of the Patriotic and Special Events Commission.

The patriotic and special events commission is authorized to arrange for all patriotic and special

events for which the City of Stamford provides funds or otherwise participates, such as observances of patriotic and other holiday celebrations. The commission shall specifically make arrangements for appropriate observance of Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day and other national holidays and for receptions of distinguished visitors to the city. Under the provisions of Chapter 61 of the Charter, it shall furnish annually a budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the ensuing year, sufficient to provide for appropriate observance. The Commission is to act as liaison between said City and all interested individuals and organizations who may wish to participate in such patriotic and special events. Said commission may receive gifts of property or money for patriotic and special events and shall maintain proper financial records and shall render a report annually to the mayor, the board of finance and the board of representatives, in accordance with Section 508.

MR. SHANEN said there seems to be considerable embarrassment to the committee concerning these parades. He said apparently it was an oversight on the individuals who submit these requests and if they would submit their requests enough in advance of the parade or whatever it may be, that these requests can then be filtered through the proper channels and thus avoid considerable confusion.

VOTE taken on the above Petition No. 284. CARRIED unanimously.

EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE:

MRS. CLARKE, Chairman, presented her committee report on the following matter:

- (1) Petition signed by 13 members of the Board of Representatives, requesting compensation for members of Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Representatives (See item #6 under Steering Committee report)

Report of Education, Welfare & Government
Committee - Meeting held March 29, 1962

The Education, Welfare & Government Committee met in the Weed Memorial Library, Springdale, Thursday, March 29, 1962 at 8 P.M.

The following members were present: Anthony Truglia, Daniel Baker and Hilda Clarke. Absent were William Walsh and Vincent Vittl.

Inquiry into what other Connecticut cities are doing along these lines produced the following:

NORWALK - 15 member Council - \$1,000 a year

NEW BRITAIN - 15 member Board of Aldermen - \$750 a year; and \$1,000 for Mayor, pro-tem of Board

WATERBURY - 15 member Board of Aldermen - \$350 a year; President of Board - \$750.

WALLINGFORD - 9 member Board - \$500 a year

TORRINGTON - 6 member Board of Councilmen - \$10 per meeting attended; required to meet once a month, but average is 3 or 4 times. Other Boards serve without pay.

A spot check, or informal poll of some members of each of the three Boards was made with these general results:

Those in favor felt that, with continued growth of Stamford and the resulting heavier work load for the various Boards, there should be some remuneration.

That a nominal fee would be helpful in meeting those incidental expenses in any political position.

That the public would better appreciate the many hours of work by the Boards if it had to pay something for it.

Those opposed felt it should be a privilege to serve Stamford and that we shall always have dedicated citizens willing to give service without financial reward.

That some would seek election for purely selfish reasons, if paid.

That if elected Boards are paid, appointive Boards would also apply.

The Committee noted several other points: Stamford has 55 members between the three Boards mentioned for payment.

And - Any favorable action on this matter should not be passed to benefit the Boards holding office at that time.

Under Chapter 40, page 24, Section 402.1 of the Stamford Charter, entitled "Board members" no provision is made to pay either elected or appointed Board members. Therefore, the Committee made no decision, but with the permission of the Board, recommends that these findings be passed on to the Charter Revision Committee and Charter Revision Commission for study or action.

MRS. CLARKE moved the findings of the Committee be passed on to the Charter Revision Committee and to the Charter Revision Commission, when appointed, for study or action. SECONDED.

MR. JOHNSON commended the Committee for a very fine report. He said that although he had signed the original petition, he is now opposed to salaries being paid to city boards and that he had voted in the Republican caucus to oppose any compensation being paid to city boards, and wished it noted in the records that the Republican members of this board are opposed to any compensation being paid to the members of the boards mentioned in the report and had so voted in caucus.

MR. NOLAN said he had not made up his mind one way or the other, although he had signed the petition.

MR. SCHWARTZ spoke against this being referred to the Charter Revision Commission. He said "let's stop right here - nip it in the bud".

MR. KUCZO said he personally does not feel he should get paid for serving as a member of the Board.

MR. SCARELLA said he wished to go on record as being opposed to any compensation being paid to city boards.

MR. CONNORS said he also was opposed to the motion.

MRS. CLARKE said she was perfectly willing to withdraw the motion, because the Committee had made no recommendations one way or the other.

MR. NOLAN said he thought the information that the Committee had prepared should be given to the Charter Revision Committee and saw no harm in doing this.

MR. MELZER said he signed the petition and is in favor of it being forwarded to the Charter Revision Committee.

MR. KELLY said he had served for seven terms and had never been compensated as yet and did not wish to be. (applause)

After a great deal of further debate a VOTE was taken on Mrs. Clarke's motion to refer this matter to the Charter Revision Committee. The motion was LOST by a VOTE of 21 in favor and 16 opposed.

THE PRESIDENT stated that the report would be entered in the records.

- (2) Concerning possibility of revising the method of administration of contracts entered into by the City and employment of professional advisors to assist in the task (Letter of 1/22/62 from Robert Meyers 7th District Representative - Referred at Steering Committee meeting held 1/22/62 - See Minutes of 2/5/62, page 3299, item #5)

MRS. CLARKE reported on the above matter as follows:

In reference to construction of schools and all other public buildings, WHAT IS THE CITY BUYING? To obtain information on methods and building specifications whereby such buildings are constructed in accordance with applicable standards.

In view of the nature of this assignment and the necessity of interviewing those knowledgeable in this field, the Committee request an extension of time before reporting to this Board.

Hilda S. Clarke, Chairman,
Education, Welfare & Government Committee

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

MR. OPPENHEIMER, CHAIRMAN, presented the following committee report at this time:

Report of Meetings held on
March 6, 1962 and March 13, 1962

On Tuesday, March 6, 1962 at 8 P.M. the Urban Redevelopment Committee met at the Urban Redevelopment Commission headquarters, 308 Atlantic Street.

Present from the Committee were Messrs. Anthony Esposito, George Connors, Benjamin Kozlowski, James Mulreed, William Murphy, David Oppenheimer, Michael Sherman and William Walsh.

The Commission was represented by Mrs. Dwight Marshall, Messrs. Louis Greenbaum, James Carey, Jr., Paul Plotkin, Salem Shapero and Jack Toth. Mr. Howard Allaway and Mr. Peter Sileo represented the Board of Finance.

After a brief synopsis of the several phases of the plan and its costs, the meeting became a lively question and answer session. Of most interest, were problems concerning relocating residents and business, municipal financing, obligations of future boards and legislative actions that can be expected in the future. Mrs. Marshall mentioned that an up-to-date model of the quadrant (Southeast Quadrant) has been put on display at City Hall. It will be manned by members of a group of attractive, well-informed, live models, led by Mrs. F. H. Dutcher. They will be on duty Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer questions relating to the Plan. The meeting was adjourned promptly at 10 p.m.

On the following Tuesday, March 13, 1962, a meeting was held at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's office. Present were Messrs. Michael Sherman, William Murphy, Carmine Longo, George Connors and David Oppenheimer. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss specific questions in more detail than is possible in the larger joint meetings.

The questions were about condemnation procedures, fair value appraisals of land and buildings, disposition of City-owned property, relocation, and the Hartford and New Haven redevelopment projects. It was decided to concentrate the next meeting on appraisal techniques and relocation procedures. Other interested committees of the Board of Representatives will be invited to participate.

A trip to inspect the New Haven redevelopment projects, Sunday morning, April 8th has been arranged. This will permit the members of the Committee to see the advantages, as well as some of the errors that can occur in Urban Redevelopment Planning, with a view toward avoiding such errors in Stamford. Interviews with key persons involved in the New Haven project have been planned.

We feel we owe it to the voters of Stamford to take full advantage of the experience of other communities in the field of Urban Renewal.

David E. Oppenheimer, Chairman
Urban Redevelopment Committee

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE:

MR. MELZER, Chairman, said his Committee met and unanimously recommended the adoption of the following resolution. He MOVED for approval of the resolution and stated that a 2/3rd vote would be necessary for approval. Seconded by Mr. Nolan and CARRIED unanimously:

RESOLUTION NO. 388

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION (5TH)
IN THE CITY OF STAMFORD UNDER
PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC ACT NO. 465

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives of Stamford, Connecticut, in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of Public Act No. 465 of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, in its 1957 Session, as presently amended, that there shall be a Charter Revision Commission in said city, whose duty it shall be to make revisions or amendments to the Charter of the City of Stamford; that the Commission, consisting of nine (9) members, shall serve until November 1, 1962, and shall report to the Board of Representatives not later than its August 1962 meeting on any proposed amendments or revisions which may be voted upon at the November 1962 elections.

MR. JOHNSON asked the President when the Commission would be appointed. The President replied that he would confer with him and Mr. Nolan before making the appointment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Concerning bringing the Charter and the Code of General Ordinances up-to-date

MR. RUSSELL said he would like to know when the Charter and the General Ordinances would be brought up to date. He said it was his understanding that this work was supposed to be done and that it is very difficult for Board members to try to keep these in any semblance of order in their present form. He asked that this matter be considered at the next meeting of the Steering Committee and see if something cannot be done to bring the Charters and the Code of General Ordinances up-to-date in the proper manner.

Announcement of Changes in Committee Assignments:

THE PRESIDENT announced the resignation of Mrs. Eleanor Austin as a member of the Charter Revision Committee and her replacement by Mr. James E. Mulreed.

Dangerous situation re: gas and water main cutoffs during fires
(Buried under pavement)

MR. MORRIS and MR. SCHWARTZ, 16th District Representatives, introduced the following letter (dated April 2, 1962) on the above subject. It was referred to the Steering Committee for proper referral to committee:

April 2, 1962

Hon. Paul D. Shapero, President
Board of Representatives
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Shapero:

It has come to our attention, as a result of the recent disastrous downtown fire on Atlantic Street, that a serious condition presently exists throughout the City of Stamford.

You may recall that during the fire in the old downtown Sarnier block, gas began burning. It took the Power Company approximately three hours to locate the curb cutoff, because the cutoff was buried beneath many inches of blacktopping and was difficult, if not impossible, to locate. In a given situation, if a cutoff is not located quickly, a severe explosion can occur, particularly when the fire is so intense that firemen cannot get to the cutoff at the meter. The same situation exists as to water cutoffs, particularly those situated near fire hydrants.

In addition, according to investigation, there are presently more than 300 water cutoffs which are buried in the streets of Stamford, thus impeding expeditious location in emergency situations.

Because of the importance of ready accessibility to both gas and water cutoffs, we urge that immediate action be taken by the Board of Representatives to remedy these potentially dangerous conditions. The public safety certainly warrants action.

In particular, we suggest that a revision of Section 21 of the Code of Ordinances be made, to include "gas" as well as water cutoffs. In addition, Section 613 of the Plumbing Code needs revision. This section presently merely requires that building other than dwellings have a conveniently accessible stopcock outside of a building to allow the supply to be shut off. This provision should be expanded to apply where gas is supplied to theaters, churches, schools, factories, multi-family dwellings, as well as other buildings where large numbers of persons assemble.

It should be pointed out that no protection is presently given to inhabitants of multi-family residences, either in our ordinances, plumbing code, or state regulations. Certainly these people, who comprise a large segment of our community, deserve our interest and warrant our prompt attention, so as to avert possible catastrophies.

The proposals contained in this letter have been concurred in by the various Fire Chiefs in Stamford. They are whole heartedly in support of these recommendations and urge their immediate adoption.

(signed) Ronald M. Schwartz
Thomas A. Morris
16th District Representatives

Minutes of April 2, 1962

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion, duly seconded and CARRIED the meeting was adjourned.

vf

Velma Farrell

Velma Farrell
Administrative Assistant
Board of Representatives

APPROVED:

Paul D. Shapiro

Paul D. Shapiro, President
Board of Representatives


