

TO: Mayor Gene F. Eriquez and Members of the Common Council

RE: Minutes of the Special Common Council Meeting held February 29, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Eriquez. The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were recited. The members were recorded as:

PRESENT - Scalzo, Abrantes, McAllister, Arconti, Coladarci, Boynton, Buzaid, Valeri, Machado, Shuler, DaSilva, Esposito, Levy, Basso, Carboni, Fox, Mead, Setaro.

ABSENT - Charles, Gomez, Butera

18 Present - 3 Absent

Mr. Charles had a previous commitment
Mr. Gomez and Mrs. Butera were working

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING - To be held on the 29th day of February, 1996 at 7:00 P.M. in the Common Council Chambers in City Hall for the purpose of acting upon the item listed below.

Mr. DaSilva made a motion that the call and return of service be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Setaro. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Eriquez expressed his gratitude to the Common Council Members for attending the meeting on such short notice and to the City Clerk's Office for insuring that proper notice was given promptly. He acknowledged the Danbury Fire Department, career and volunteer, the Police Department, the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshalls, the City Engineer Jack Schweitzer, the Superintendent of Public Utilities William Buckley, the Supervisor of Public Building Maintenance Rick Palanzo, the Director of Finance, Dominic Setaro, the Risk Manager Tom Fabiano, the Building Department, especially Leo Null, Mr. Tarsi and Mr. Moffa and last, but not least, the Library Director Betsy McDonough for the cooperation and leadership they have shown during the tragedy that has befallen the City.

He stated that he is also grateful for the countless offers of service, space, money, books and goodwill from the citizens of Danbury.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

1. John Hoffer, President, Danbury Library Board of Directors - Thanked the Mayor and City staff for the speed in which they responded to the fire.

Mayor Eriquez stated that Wayne Curtis of Rotary Club has a trust for charitable purposes and they have dedicated \$10,000 for library renovations.

Mayor Eriquez also stated that Stew Leonards has pledged the proceeds from the Wishing Well and will match any donations.

1. - COMMUNICATION - Letter from Acting Corporation Counsel Eric Gottschalk requesting that as a result of the disastrous fire at the Danbury Public Library, the Common Council consider allow the Purchasing Department to waive the customary bid process, where necessary. This would allow us to arrange, through our insurance carrier, for the hiring of rehabilitation and construction experts and to purchase equipment, furniture and books to replace those destroyed. He also requested that the Common Council approve a short term, month to month lease of space offered by the Union Savings Bank at the Galleria on Main Street.

Mr. Levy made a motion to accept the communication. Seconded by Mr. Esposito.

The Mayor outlined the extensive damage and also the clean up schedule. The insurance carrier allows \$25,000 for rental reimbursement

Mr. Boynton asked for a draft of the lease. Mayor Eriquez stated that it was not yet ready. He said that the offered space is 45,000 square feet and is in ADA compliance. Union Savings Bank has offered the space rent free. Mr. Gottschalk explained the negotiations that have taken place thus far.

Mr. Boynton offered an amendment to the main motion to allow the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel to enter into negotiations for a short term lease with the Union Savings Bank for space at the Galleria. Seconded by Mr. DaSilva.

Mrs. Basso asked if this space will be big enough. Mayor Eriquez said that it would as services will be on a limited basis. The Library Director and her staff feel that the space is adequate. There have been other offers of storage space as necessary.

Mr. Levy asked if the lease will cover all costs. Director of Finance Dom Setaro stated that we will have to provide them with a certificate of insurance.

Amendment passed unanimously.

Mr. Setaro offered a further amendment to authorize the Purchasing Department and the Mayor to waive the customary bid process for contract and purchases as needed for the restoration of the library. Seconded by Mr. Boynton.

Miss Fox asked if the building will be restored up to fire codes. Mayor Eriquez stated that it would. Mr. Buzaid asked what would be done to modify the night depository so that this does not happen again. Mayor Eriquez stated that the new circulation desk and night drop box will be fire proof. Mr. Arconti asked if there would be anticipated budget expenses. Mayor Eriquez stated if the process continues there will not be a budgetary requirement. Dom Setaro stated that we may have to re-appropriate some money. Mr. Boynton asked if a special fund for donations would be set up. The Mayor stated that there would be but all donations would still come before the Common Council.

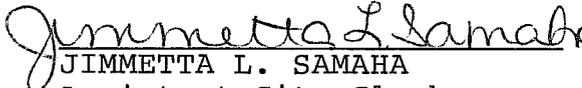
The amendment passed unanimously,

The main motion, with two amendments, passed unanimously.

Mr. Arconti stated that he was impressed by the leadership shown by Mayor Eriquez and Library Director Betsy McDonough during this crises

There being no further business to come before the Common Council a motion was made at 7:47 P.M. by Mr. Mead for the meeting to be adjourn

Respectfully submitted,


JIMMETTA L. SAMAHA
Assistant City Clerk