

Cassetti: Waste to Energy Plant at Former Farrel Site *Citizens Stunned as CT Post Quotes Mayor on Future Plans*

ANSONIA - The Cassetti administration pushed through the sale of the W Ansonia residents were stunned by a statement by Mayor Cassetti in the August 30 edition of the CT Post. The article: "Last part of Ansonia's SHW Casting plant set to come down this weekend as city eyes development" included this quote about Cassetti's views on development at the site: "Potential uses could be a clean burn waste disposal plant and power facility, and a ceramics manufacturer."

The article continued: "When it comes to the clean burn plant, Cassetti also said it would save the town millions in tipping fees for the disposal of waste and generate power for the city, which could also be sold to surrounding towns. He said that with clean and environmentally friendly technology, that the plant wouldn't generate any pollutants for nearby residents."

Environmental scientists would disagree with Cassetti, who has no known background in public health or environmen-



tal science. Scientists have pointed out that coal power plants are widely understood as the most air-polluting energy source, but few realize how much worse trash incinerators are for air quality.

This analysis is not a radical conclusion. The New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation proved, in a 2011 analysis, that the state's 10 trash incinerators are dirtier than the eight coal-burning power plants that were still operating at the time (all of the coal power plants have since closed, but the 10 in-

cinerators remain). Except for sulfur dioxide, trash incinerators are dirtier than coal on the six other pollutants the state compared (nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, mercury, lead, and cadmium).

It should be noted that Cassetti's economic development director, Sheila O'Malley, was recently hired to lead the Shelton Economic Development Corporation. She will be paid \$120,000. O'Malley's income is likely to increase following the recent decision of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen to approve a proposal to pay \$50,000 annually to O'Malley's new organization for economic development services. There was never a public hearing on the proposal before the vote

In her new position, O'Malley

ater Pollution Control Authority, a major city asset to the Aquarion Company for \$41 million in December of 2024. By May of 2025, \$39 million or nearly 96% of the proceeds had already been spent by the city leaving only \$1.8 million in the city treasury.

Mayor Cassetti's finance director, a fellow Republican from a neighboring town working part-time to manage a \$60+ million annual budget provided a list to the Valley Independent Sentinel detailing the administration's practice of selling municipal assets to pay for current budget deficits. At the time of the budget passages by the GOP-controlled Board of Aldermen, the taxpayers were not informed that the budgets were seriously out of balance.

Kurt Miller told the Valley Independent: "We've been using one-time revenue sources to pay for recurring expenses. So essentially what we've been doing is we've been paying our mortgage with our savings account."

The Valley Independent Sentinel noted in the June 30 article: The city's use of WPCA money to bolster its operating budgets is not without critics.

It was cited as one of the reasons S&P Global Ratings downgraded Ansonia's credit outlook from stable to negative in 2024.

S&P Global Ratings issue bond ratings for municipalities. Bond ratings are essentially credit ratings, and affect how much a community can borrow and at what interest rate.

S&P Global Ratings didn't lower Ansonia's bond rating, but

THE HAZARDOUS EFFECTS OF WASTE TO ENERGY PLANTS

Waste-to-energy plants release harmful pollutants like dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particles that damage air quality and harm human health. They also produce toxic ash that can contaminate soil and water, while emitting greenhouse gases that undermine climate goals and cleaner waste solutions.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS



Air Pollution - Release of dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide contribute to climate change.



Toxic Ash Residue - Hazardous ash requiring special disposal can contaminate soil and groundwater.



Water Pollution - Risk of leachate and chemical runoff affecting rivers, lakes, and aquifers.



Resource Inefficiency - Discourages recycling and waste reduction by prioritizing incineration.

HEAVY METAL (LEAD, MERCURY) RISKS



Heart & Lung Diseases



Neurological Diseases



Cancer

TOXIC CHEMICALS (PFAS, DIOXINS) RISKS



Heart Attacks



Strokes



Birth Defects



Lung Infections



Increased Asthma Risk

“If the people of Ansonia choose me as their Mayor, I will absolutely block any waste-to-energy plant in our city.”

- Frank Tyszka

will work with Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti, a longtime proponent of a waste-to-energy facility for trash disposal. However, none has even been approved for construction in Shelton, which contains five times the land area of Ansonia.

Ansonia is one of Connecticut's smallest cities in land area and the resultant smokestack emissions and massive garbage truck traffic to and from a waste to energy facility would seriously strain the city's resources, public health and neighborhood property values.

Cassetti has never retracted his statements to the Connecticut Post and the article has never since been edited or corrected.

expressed concern about budgets relying too heavily on the WPCA money.

"The negative outlook is driven by Ansonia's plans to use one-time proceeds from the sale of \$41 million of wastewater assets to fund recurring budgetary expenditures through fiscal 2030," the report stated.

Despite Miller's admission and the warnings from S&P Global Ratings against using one-time revenues for current operating expenses, Cassetti and Miller repeated the dangerous practice in Ansonia's current budget for Fiscal Year 25/26 which went into effect just months after the sale and the ratings agency warnings.

Mayor Cassetti Creates Sweetheart Job Deals for GOP Insiders, Double-Dippers

Nearly \$1 Million: No Hearings, No Competition, No Applications, No Candidate Search

Despite a ratings analyst downgrade of the city's financial status and a repeat of the financial practices warned against in the report, Ansonia Mayor David Cassetti has gone on a hiring spree.

Without abiding by any provisions of the normal city employment process, including applications, interviews, or even a basic competitive process, Cassetti appointed a loyal Republican stalwart to be an operations and human resources director. Longtime GOP Alderman Joseph Jaumann was quickly appointed to the position

despite having no experience in either of the functions described in his new title.

Taxpayers will be required to pay more than \$825,000 in direct employment and benefit costs with thousands in additional perks for Jaumann, a longtime Republican political insider.

City Budget Director Kurt Miller has been assigned the role of managing the city's \$67 million budget. He is being paid more than \$60,000 for that function despite already working full-time as the Director of Administration for Seymour.

He is paid \$135,000 for that position.

Miller has no set hours for his position in Ansonia which closed the recent fiscal year having spent more than \$4 million over the budget total set last year. Miller is seeking another pay increase for part-time role in Ansonia.

Finally, former economic development chief and close Cassetti insider Sheila O'Malley is also enjoying a "double-dipper" benefit courtesy of Ansonia taxpayers. O'Malley, who touted economic plans that later gave away huge tax abatements

for unbuilt projects is now working full-time running the Shelton Economic Development Corporation at a salary of \$120,000.

O'Malley is also closely allied with Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti who has been a longtime proponent of a regional trash-to-energy facility in the lower Naugatuck Valley.

The Ansonia Board of Aldermen recently approved paying \$50,000 to O'Malley for working part-time to continue running Ansonia's economic development.

KURT MILLER'S DOUBLE DIP SPECIAL



Seymour Chief Admin Officer: **\$135,000**

"Rarely Show" Mystery Job: **\$60,000**

Budget Managed Part-Time: **\$70 MILLION**

HOW HIRING WORKS IN ANSONIA CITY HALL UNDER CASSETTI

HOW IT SHOULD WORK

Post job publicly with clear qualifications

Accept applications from all qualified candidates

Fair interview process with multiple candidates

Hire based on merit and experience

Competitive but reasonable salary

Standard benefits package

Background check for municipal experience

Transparent process for taxpayers

HOW IT DOES WORK

No competition allowed - rigged process

Job "created" for one specific person

\$130K first year salary + escalator

\$35K health package

\$825K total 5-year deal value

7 weeks vacation from day one

Lives 1 mile away but can work remotely

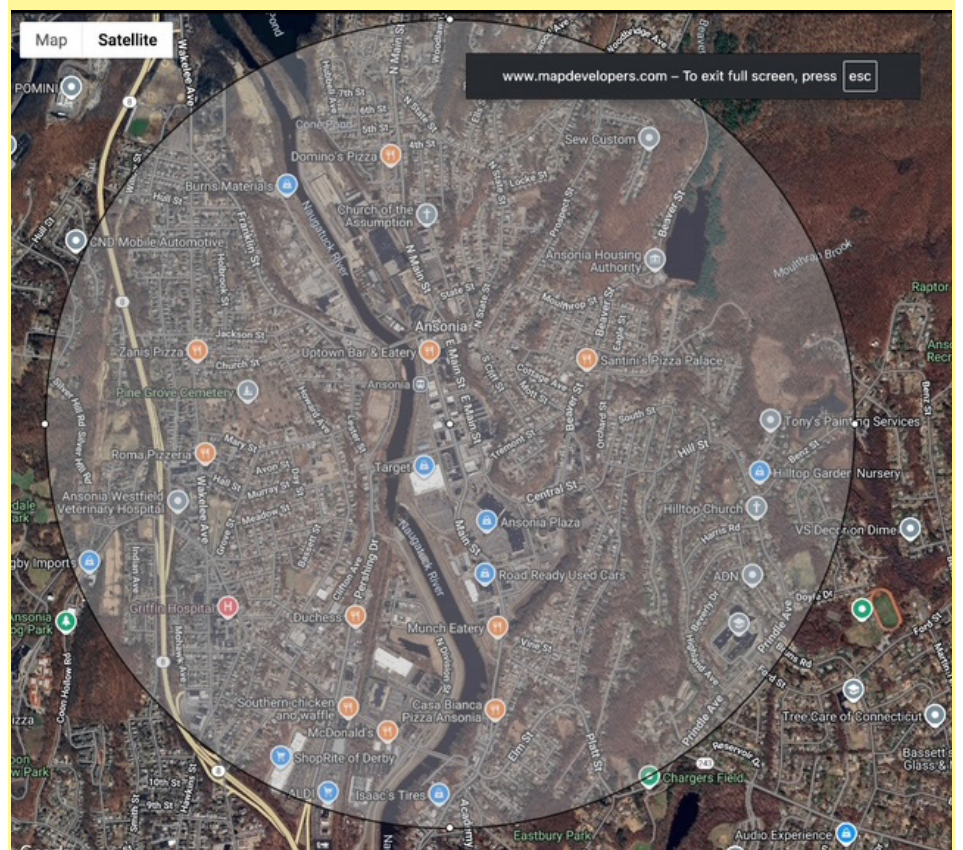
Taxpayers pay for legal education fees

Zero municipal or HR background

WPCA SALE

- Rushed process with public input ignored by rubber-stamp Republican Board of Aldermen
- \$41 million in proceeds used to fill massive annual budget holes
- Less than \$2 million left from proceeds only 150 days after the sale
- Aquarion pays no property taxes for ten years to Ansonia
- 38% sewer use rate increase temporarily offset by short-term "rate stabilization fund."

“*Why was Mayor Cassetti so eager to sell the WPCA to Aquarion that he rushed the process to and then gave out a 10 year tax abatement?*”



One Mile Radius

My Common Sense Fiscal Reform Program for Ansonia

FRANK TYSZKA, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

Common sense tells us that you can't sell the car to pay the mortgage and expect it to be a smart long-term strategy. By selling the WPCA, that's what the gang of privileged insiders at City Hall has been doing.

They are spending away our city's future & leaving the bill to all of us.

My goal is to make living in Ansonia more affordable, not less, for our people, and I believe we can achieve this.

My Common Sense Fiscal Reform Program for Ansonia can build a brighter future that works for all of us - not just the privileged few.

A Professional Finance Team

Demand Qualifications, Not Partisanship

1. Hire a professional finance director who devotes full-time to improving and managing our city's finances. Currently, the city's budget director is a political appointee who moonlights in Ansonia with no set hours or accountability. The city budget that ended on June 30 was \$4 million over what was set last year. This is unacceptable. A professional finance director certified in the Certified Public Finance Officer program by the Connecticut Government Finance Officers Association will help us save money for our city. Working together we will carefully track our government spending to assure best financial practices for our taxpayers.

2. Issue an immediate RFP for city auditor and municipal bond counsel. It's clearly time for a change in the required professional services for our community and I will post the positions, review all applicant financial and legal qualifications and make the best professional selection for our city.

3. Demand city audits be filed on time rather than the chronic "never on time" practice of the current administration. All departments will be required to assure this

process is followed.

4. Hire a professional forensic financial auditor to rigorously examine the following:

- All state & grants received by the city.
- Use of the monies from the sale of the WPCA.
- All "no-bid" contracts awarded by the current administration including those classified as "emergency."
- Use of city credit cards by city officials.
- The financial agreement for the solar project on East Main Street and the fuel cell contract. Neither of these required city contracts have been filed with the Town Clerk's Office as required by state law and the city charter.
- All employment agreements and retirement agreements that occurred during the last 10 years.
- Reasons behind regular budget overruns including the most recent fiscal year budget overrun of \$4 million.
- Other matters requiring careful review to protect city taxpayers.

5. Work closely with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments to identify financial savings through their shared services program. Some functions and municipal purchases can save money

6. Cooperate with the State of Connecticut Municipal Finance Advisory Commission and the Office of Policy & Management to adopt best financial practices and standards for the City of Ansonia.

I will also put an end to the millions in excessive legal fees paid to one individual who runs everything while dispensing questionable legal advice. Put an end to these outrageous employment contracts for privileged political insiders. And stop giving away enormous tax abatement benefits to connected people while calling it economic development.

– Frank Tyszka



Frank Tyszka

- Lifelong Resident of Ansonia
- Graduate - Ansonia High School
- Graduate - United States Merchant Marine Academy
- Veteran - United States Naval Reserve
- Officer - USS Lexington - Naval Aircraft Carrier
- MBA - Sacred Heart University - Top Student in the Program
- Elected to Two Terms - Ansonia Board of Aldermen
- Fire Commissioner
- Police Commissioner
- Shift Supervisor - Pratt & Whitney Company
- Quality Engineer - Sikorsky Aircraft
- Married for 46 years to his college sweetheart, Paula Gantomso Tyszka
- Father of two grown daughters
- Grandfather to Ava
- Lifelong Parishioner - St. Joseph's Church in Ansonia
- Eucharistic Minister & Member, Parish Council
- All-State Halfback - Ansonia High School
- Three-year starter - Ansonia High School Baseball

Voting Information

Early Voting is Monday, October 20, -Sunday, November 2, 2025, 10 AM - 6 PM.

Tentative location for early voting is Hilltop Hose, 80 Pulaski Highway

POLLING PLACES:

Wards 1 & 2, Ansonia Armory, 5 State Street
Ward 3, Holy Rosary Church, 10 Father Salemi Drive

Wards 4 & 5, Ansonia Middle School, 115 Howard Avenue, (rear entrance on Day Street)

Ward 6, John G. Prendergast School, 59 Finney Street

Ward 7, John C. Mead School, 75 Ford Street

ANSONIA'S NEW DEMOCRATIC TEAM

Mayor: Frank Tyszka

Town Clerk: Beth Lynch

Treasurer: Joe Confinante

Board of Education:
Dave Knapp, Steven Adamowski

Sherriffs: Sean Rowley & Chris Grizzle

Board of Alders

Ward 1: Jacquelyn Daniels & Tyler Kennedy

Ward 2: Frank Pergola & Jaylen Daniels

Ward 3: Sean Rallis & Adam Prestin

Ward 4: Rohan Brown & Noah Darrow

Ward 5: Chris Rogers & Patricia DaSilva

Ward 6: Karl Williams & Dan Stahl

Ward 7: Lisa Glazer & Anne Lynch

Aquarion to Pay No Property Taxes to Ansonia for 10 Years Details Emerge On Rushed WPCA Process; No Bidders

Ansonia residents continue to raise questions over the sale of the city's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to Aquarion last December.

When learning that the sale included a provision apparently agreed to by Mayor Cassetti and Corporation Counsel John Marini, granting Aquarion a 10-year tax abatement, one resident

stated: "The more we learn, the worse this deal gets for the people of Ansonia."

City taxpayers will make up the taxes that the water company could have paid. The sale also includes a 38% increase in the sewer use rate for ratepayers.

Further digging uncovered the fact that the sale process was not open to other water

treatment firms that might have offered a better price or more favorable terms.

There is no indication that anything was done improperly on the Aquarion side of the transaction, as the sale was approved by the Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA).

However, PURA's legal role

is to review such transactions to protect the utility's ratepayers but not the city's. That responsibility belongs to Ansonia's legal counsel and financial officials.

Nearly all of the city's \$41 million proceeds were gone within months of the sale. Despite assuring residents that the annual city budgets were in balance at the time of passage, the money was used to plug mas-

sive spending gaps in those same budgets.

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