

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2009
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

ALL COMMON COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS OR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND OTHER PROPOSALS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moccia called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Posting of Colors and Flags was presented by combined ROTC members from Norwalk High and Brien McMahon High Schools, with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem sung by an ensemble group of members of Briggs, Norwalk High and Brien McMahon High School choirs.

Mayor Moccia asked Reverend Nellie Mann from Calvary Baptist Church to lead the group in a blessing and prayer of dedication.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Wink called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

Council at Large:

Mr. Fred Bondi	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	Mr. Richard McQuaid
Ms. Joanne Romano	Mr. John Tobin	

District A:	Mr. David Jaegar	Mr. Richard Bonenfant
District B:	Mr. Travis Simms	Mr. Carvin Hilliard
District C:	Mr. Nicholas Kydes	Ms. Laurel Lindstrom
District D:	Ms. Kelly Straniti	Mr. Clyde Mount
District E:	Mr. Andrew Conroy	Ms. Nora King

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Richard McGregor, cameraman, spoke to share his message of congratulations that he said he did not get a chance to do at last week's meeting. He stated he extended best wishes to the members who left the Council and to the newly elected members, and he wished all members good luck on the new term. He added a special request for the members to be careful not to hit the microphones when turning pages, as it creates a loud noise on the headphones. Mayor Moccia asked him how long he has been doing the job of recording the meetings, and he responded since 1976 at the old City Hall Building.

There were no other participants, and Mayor Moccia thanked the family members that were in attendance and stated that it was a fine show of support for the new members.

III. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RE-APPOINTMENTS

The following re-appointments were sworn in by Mayor Moccia, except for Daniel O'Connor, who was not present and was appointed but not yet sworn in, and Andrew Garfunkle, who was sworn in earlier that day.

1. Appointment of Corporation Counsel:
CHARTER § 1-223
ROBERT MASLAN (R) Term: 11/17/09 – 11/22/11
28 Douglas Drive, Norwalk, CT 06850
2. Appointment of City Clerk:
CHARTER § 1-233
ELLEN WINK (R) Term: 11/17/09-11/22/11
16 Nelson Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851
3. Appointment of Police Commissioners:
CHARTER § 1-297
DANIEL O'CONNOR (D) Term: 11/17/09-11/22/11
73 Newtown Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851
PETER TORRANO (R) Term: 11/17/09-11/22/11
104 Dry Hill Road, Norwalk, CT 06851
4. Appointment of Fire Commissioners:
CHARTER § 1-333
CAROL ANDREOLI (R) Term: 11/17/09-11/22/11
23 Sachem Street. Norwalk, CT 06850
MICHAEL COFFEY (D) Term: 11/17/09-11/22/11
52 Nursery Street, Norwalk, CT 06850
5. Brian Smith, Selectman
6. Peter Andreoli, Constable
7. Andrew Garfunkle, Town Clerk
8. Taber Hamilton, Selectman

REMARKS

Mayor Moccia referred to his memo that Reverend Bolden read in his absence to the Council members at last week's meeting. He stated that he wanted to again acknowledge the outgoing members and thank them for their service to the City. He congratulated those members upon their re-election, and welcomed those newly elected members of the Council. He added that it is not an easy job, and requires many evenings out at long meetings, and he encouraged the members not to underestimate their role and the important impact that their work and decisions have on the City.

Mayor Moccia stated that he is very honored to be re-elected as Mayor and looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead and wishes everyone continued success in their community efforts. He thanked those that were in attendance at the Mayor's swearing-in ceremony held prior to this meeting, along with the students from the high schools that participated in tonight's Council ceremony.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Moccia served as acting Council President and requested a nomination from the floor for the position of Council President.

1. Election of Council President

Mr. McQuaid stated that at last week's Council meeting, many of the out-going members thanked one member in particular for his on-going mentoring and record of bi-partisan leadership. He added that this member has a long-standing record of being a true leader and has led the Council through many challenges and accomplishments. Mr. McQuaid stated that with those statements of acknowledgement, he is proud to nominate Mr. Hempstead to the position of Council President.

Ms. Straniti stated that she wanted to second the nomination of Mr. Hempstead and added her acknowledgment of his consistent record of bi-partisan leadership. She added that she has had the honor to have worked along with him and he has served as a mentor, a role model, and he is highly regarded as the right person for the position.

Mr. Kydes stated that he, too, wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hempstead for his leadership role and consistent record of involvement with the City.

Mr. Bondi stated that he wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hempstead for his leadership role and consistent record of involvement with the City. He added that he has had the pleasure to have worked with Mr. Hempstead for many, many years and he has served the City very well.

Ms. Lindstrom stated that she wanted to make a statement in support of the nomination of Mr. Hempstead and added her acknowledgment of his consistent record of bi-partisan

leadership. She added that he has provided a positive give-and-take relationship with the Council members and she echoes the statements made by Mr. McQuaid.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he, too, wanted to add his message of support and acknowledge Mr. Hempstead for his leadership role and consistent record of fairness. He added that he has known him for seven years, he is always approachable to talk and discuss issues, and is not bent on a decision going his way, he is willing to negotiate and debate.

Mayor Moccia asked for nominations from the floor, three times as required, and hearing none the following election took place:

**** MR. MCQUAID MOTIONED FOR THE NOMINATION OF MR. DOUGLAS HEMPSTEAD TO THE POSITION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, NONE OPPOSED, NO ABSTENTIONS.**

VI. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mr. Hempstead stated that he humbly accepts the nomination, he sincerely appreciates the comments and vote of confidence in his ability, and he looks forward to a productive year.

Mr. Hempstead stated that before further announcements as listed on the agenda, he requested a moment of silence in memory of Paul Jones. He added that Mr. Jones was an active Norwalk resident who gave of himself in many ways for the betterment of the community, and he will be sadly missed. After the moment of silence, the following announcements were made:

1. Announcement of Majority Leader
Mr. Hempstead announced the Majority Leader will be Richard Bonenfant.
2. Announcement of Minority Leader
Mr. Hempstead announced the Minority Leader will be Laurel Lindstrom.
3. Appointment of Assistant City Clerk – Item was unanimously tabled.
4. Adopt Council Rules

Mr. Hempstead requested the item be tabled until next meeting pending further information, and added that Ms. Darlene Young will continue to serve as the Assistant City Clerk until a final decision is made.

Mr. Hempstead read the following list of Common Council Committees for 2009-2011:

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2009-20011 - FIRST YEAR

Douglas Hempstead, President

Richard Bonenfant, Majority Leader --- Laurel Lindstrom, Minority Leader

FINANCE/CLAIMS

Staff: Frederic Gilden, Comptroller
2nd Thursday: 8:00 p.m., Room 231
Nicholas D. Kydes, Chairman
Andrew T. Conroy
Douglas E. Hempstead
David Jaeger
Nora King
Kelly Straniti

Health, Welfare & Public Safety

Staff: Tim Callahan, Health Dept.
4th Thursday: 7:30 pm Health Dept.
Richard Bonenfant, Chairman
David Jaeger
Nicholas D. Kydes
Richard A. McQuaid
Clyde Mount
Travis Simms
Joanne Romano

LAND USE & BLDG. MGMT

Staff: Alan Lo, Public Works
1st Wednesday: 7:30 p.m., Room A333
Fred Bondi, Chairman
Richard Bonenfant
David Jaeger
Nora King
Richard A. McQuaid
Clyde Mount

ORDINANCE

Staff: Robert Maslan, Corporation Counsel
3rd Tuesday: 8:00 p.m., Room 231
Kelly Straniti, Chairwoman
Richard Bonenfant
Andrew T. Conroy
Carvin J. Hilliard
Laurel E. Lindstrom
Joanne Romano
John E. Tobin

PERSONNEL

Staff: H. James Haselkamp, Jr, Director
4th Wednesday: 6:00 p.m., Room 123
Joanne Romano, Chairman
Richard Bonenfant
Carvin J. Hilliard
Laurel E. Lindstrom
Richard A. McQuaid
Clyde Mount

PLANNING

Staff: Tim Sheehan, Redevelopment
1st Thursday: 8:00 p.m., Room 231
Douglas E. Hempstead, Chairman
Andrew T. Conroy
Carvin J. Hilliard
Laurel E. Lindstrom
Clyde Mount
Kelly L. Straniti
John E. Tobin

PUBLIC WORKS

Staff: Hal Alvord, DPW Director
1st Tuesday: 7:30 p.m., Room 231
Andrew T. Conroy, Chairman
Fred Bondi
Douglas E. Hempstead
Nora King
Laurel E. Lindstrom
Kelly L. Straniti
John Tobin

RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFF.

Staff: Michael Moccia, Director
3rd Wednesday: 8 pm Room A333
Richard A. McQuaid, Chairman
Fred Bondi
Richard Bonenfant
Nicholas D. Kydes
Laurel E. Lindstrom
Travis Simms
John Tobin

4. Appointment of Committees

Mr. Hempstead read the list of Committees as presented, and noted changes as follows:
Personnel: Replace Lindstrom with Simms.

Ms. Lindstrom requested clarification of the changes to the meeting schedule for the Land Use Committee, and Mr. Hempstead suggested a recess to discuss proposed changes to the meeting calendar.

Mayor Moccia called a recess to discuss procedures.

THE MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 8:30 P.M.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT 8:40 P.M.

Ms. Lindstrom stated that the first suggestion that the Mayor made was to have it say as is, and that they would work it out because they weren't able to do that in the few minutes during recess, and then if they're able to work it out they can switch off the next council meeting. Ms. Lindstrom asked that as soon as the council knows any of these changes that they let them know because it puts them at a disadvantage where they had set up all of their committees based on when they're available, and then to suddenly be told the committee dates and times have been changed makes it difficult. Mr. Hempstead noted that they did not get that information until last night themselves.

Mr. Hempstead presented the committee appointments (as listed on page 5) and noted that the agreed upon changes were as follows:

WPCA: Andrew Conroy, Doug Hempstead, Laurel Lindstrom

NFCC: Fred Bondi, David Jaeger

Historic Commission: Clyde Mount

Ms. Straniti added that a change to the meeting calendar was requested, as follows:

The Ordinance Committee meeting time was changed from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and if that poses a problem, to please let her know.

Ms. Lindstrom stated that five Republicans and two Democrats skews the whole proportionality rather than reflect the results of the City's election. She added that their caucus feels strongly that there should be equal or fair representation that would be reflective of the overall Council. Ms. Lindstrom went on to state that there were ten Republicans and five Democrats elected, which means for every one Democrat there should be two Republicans on the committees.

Mr. Bonenfant commented that Council members who were not assigned to their requested committees can still attend those committee meetings, participate and share ideas.

Ms. King stated that with a new council formed, the objective of practicing bi-partisanship is compromised by stacking the committees with a disproportionate ratio.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he strongly supports the statement made by Ms. Lindstrom and added that with other years and the majority party previously did not stack the committees. He stated that he echoed Ms. King's comment that this is not practicing bi-partisanship, and suggested the record be checked to verify that as the case.

Mr. McQuaid stated that he disagreed with Mr. Hilliard's comment and that a few years ago both he and Mr. Hempstead were on the other side and had a tough time when minority committee members were removed. He added that this is an opportunity to start fresh and move forward putting forth what the public has voted for.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOTIONED FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES TO CREATE A MORE PROPORTIONATE BALANCE OF MAJORITY/MINORITY AFFILIATION MEMBERS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: REPLACE BONENFANT WITH SIMMS.
PLANNING COMMITTEE: REPLACE MOUNT WITH KING.
RECREATION, PARKS/C.AFFAIRS: RELACE TOBIN WITH JAEGER.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR (LINDSTROM, HILLIARD, SIMMS, JAEGER, KING), 10 OPPOSED.**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2009-2011 AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. BONDI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 10 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED (LINDSTROM, HILLIARD, SIMMS, JAEGER, KING).**

**** MR. MCQUAID MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE COMMON COUNCIL RULES FOR 2009-2011 AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. KYDES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. REMARKS

Mr. Hempstead stated that the next two years are going to be rough, he read a quote from "JFK" that we all need to be heard. He asked the members to keep that in mind and he encourages them to respect the charge to move forward. He added that he wanted to echo

Mr. Bonenfant's comment that Council members who were not assigned to committees can still attend those committee meetings, participate and share ideas.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he encourages members to participate, to part political ways and work through philosophical differences, and stated again that it is important to follow through on commitments to attend committee meetings. He thanked all the families who attended the swearing-in ceremonies and stated that Mayor Moccia made a very appropriate statement this morning by acknowledging the families for their support.

He encouraged the members to continue to remember the need for people to be heard, and he suggested a Community Conversation Open Forum be held to get community participation on the discussion of issues that affect the future of the City.

In addition, he is suggesting the creation of a Liaison Council with the Board of Education, and stated that this is going to be a very, very difficult year.

Mayor Moccia added that he hopes we all can work well together, and reminded the members that it does not have to be confrontational. It can be a very healthy debate, which is positive and can hopefully be disagreeing without being disagreeable.

He added that the next meeting would be November 24, 2009 and in keeping with his tradition, all members are invited to a time of fellowship at Partners Café after the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. BONDI SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services