

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2013
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 8:00 P.M. EST. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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 Rilling called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. He announced that there had been a request to swear in the Council Members individually.

The Mayor then administered the oath of office to the Council Members in the following order: John Igneri, David McCarthy, Eloisa Melendez, Jerry Petrini, David Watts, Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, John Kydes, Michelle Maggio, Phaedrel Bowman, Travis Simms, Douglas Hempstead, Richard Bonenfant, Sharon Stewart, Bruce Kimmel and Glenn Iannaccone.

Mayor Rilling then administered the oath of office to Atty. Mario Coppola.

ROLL CALL.

Ms. Herring then called the roll.

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant Mr. Glenn Iannaccone Ms. Sharon Stewart	Mr. Douglas Hempstead Mr. Bruce Kimmel
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. David Watts
District B:	Ms. Phaedrel Bowman	Mr. Travis Simms
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D:	Ms. Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco	Mr. Jerry Petrini
District E:	Mr. David McCarthy	Mr. John Igneri

There were fifteen Council members present. A quorum was present.

MAYOR.

Mayor Rilling then welcomed everyone who was re-elected back to the Council and congratulated the new Council Members. He said that the next two years would present opportunities to meet new challenges.

A. Appointments

1. Mario Coppola Corporation Counsel

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Mayor Rilling stated that the candidate for Corporation Counsel was a mayoral appointment and did not Council approval. He added that Atty. Coppola had been sworn in earlier in the meeting.

2. Donna King City Clerk

Mayor Rilling put forward the name of Donna King for City Clerk. He explained that due to some previous commitments, Ms. King will continue to work for the State of Connecticut for the next two weeks and will not take the oath of office until early December. Ms. Herring will continue to serve as City Clerk until Ms. King is sworn in.

B. Remarks.

III. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. General Council Business

1. Election of Council President -

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO NOMINATE DOUGLAS HEMPSTEAD AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

Mr. Kimmel went on to say that he had gotten to know Mr. Hempstead and was impressed with Mr. Hempstead's patience and respect for all views.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

Mr. Igneri said that he would like to speak on behalf of Mr. Hempstead. During the last two days, Mr. Hempstead had demonstrated the respect and patience that Mr. Kimmel had mentioned.

**** MR. PETRINI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE DOUGLAS HEMPSTEAD AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hempstead thanked the Council Members for the honor and said that he was honored to represent the City.

2. Announcement of Majority Leader.

Mr. Hempstead announced Mr. Jerry Petrini would be the Majority Leader.

3. Announcement of Minority Leader.

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Mr. Hempstead announced Mr. John Igneri would be the Minority Leader.

4. Appointment of Assistant City Clerk.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE NOMINATION OF ERIN E. HERRING TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY CLERK.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE ERIN E. HERRING TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY CLERK PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Appointment of Committees.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Finance/Claims - Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Room 231

Bruce Kimmel, Chairman
Doug Hempstead
John Igneri
David McCarthy
Jerry Petrini
Travis Simms
David Watts

Health, Welfare and Public Safety - Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Room 231

Michelle Maggio, Chairwoman
Richard Bonenfant
Phaedrel Bowman
Glenn Iannaccone
John Kydes
David McCarthy
Sharon Stewart

Land Use and Building Management - First Wednesday, 7 p.m., Room A333

Richard Bonenfant, Chairman
Phaedrel Bowman
Glenn Iannaccone
Bruce Kimmel
Sharon Stewart
Eloisa Melendez
Jerry Petrini

Ordinance - Third Tuesday, 7 p.m. Room 231

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Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, Chairwoman
Richard Bonenfant
Doug Hempstead
Glenn Iannaccone
Travis Simms
Sharon Stewart
David Watts

Personnel - Fourth Wednesday, 6 p.m., Room 123

Glenn Iannaccone, Chairman
Phaedrel Bowman
Doug Hempstead
John Igneri
John Kydes
Michelle Maggio
Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco

Planning - First Thursday, 7 p.m., Room 231

Doug Hempstead, Chairman
Richard Bonenfant
Bruce Kimmel
John Kydes
Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco
Travis Simms
Sharon Stewart

Public Works - First Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 231

David McCarthy, Chairman
John Igneri
Bruce Kimmel
Michelle Maggio
Eloisa Melendez
Jerry Petrini
David Watts

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs - Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Room A333

Jerry Petrini, chairman
Phaedrel Bowman
Michelle Maggio
David McCarthy
Eloisa Melendez
Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco
John Kydes

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Adoption of Council Rules

Mr. Hempstead said that the current council rules were adopted in 1996 and there had been few changes.

- The previous 15 minute limit on public speaking at Council meetings has been eliminated.
- The Council meeting time will start at 7:30 p.m.
- Council Committee chairs have been requested to include public participation as part of their committee agendas.
- A request has been made to the Mayor to submit information on appointment of candidates to Council Members 10 days in advance.

Mr. Hempstead then read the change to Rule #3 – “For appointment to City Boards, Commissions and Agencies, the Common Council respectfully requests that resumes be submitted to the Common Council members at least 10 days in advance.”

Mr. Hempstead said that the changes were made to allow the public more participation in the meeting

Mr. Petrini noted that there was a grammatical change to Rule 14, which should be “at” instead of “for”. Mr. Hempstead confirmed this. Mr. Hempstead added that Rule 18 should read “all reports from Committees shall be submitted to the Common Council by the Committee Chair or designee.”

Mr. Kimmel asked about the last sentence of Rule #3, which addresses exceptions. Mr. Hempstead replied that that final sentence had been deleted from the rule. He then re-read the rule as listed above.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADOPT THE COUNCIL RULES AS AMENDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Remarks

Mr. Hempstead explained that the Council uses Mason's Rules that do not require seconds. He then encouraged the new six members to ask questions. There are two additional members who had been Council Member previously.

Mr. Hempstead then quoted Norwalk’s first Mayor, Francis Burnell who on October 8, 1913 said regarding what a Council Member is obligated to do:

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“At the outset, let us remember that though having been placed here by a majority of the votes of the electorate of this City, you are here to serve as best we can, all the people, all the time, without favor to any person, section, or class over another. For this purpose, we must throw prejudice and personal desire to the winds, making it our sacred duty to treat all matters that will come before us with fairness and the best judgment that we are endowed “

Mr. Hempstead congratulated the Mayor on his election.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services