

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1985

19th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stamford, Connecticut

In compliance with Section 304.5 of the Charter of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, an ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the newly-elected 19th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, was held on MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1985, in the Legislative Chambers of the Board in the Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, Second Floor, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by MAYOR THOM SERRANI, after both political parties had met in their respective caucus rooms, at 8:20 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Thom Serrani.

MAYOR THOM SERRANI: The 19th Board of Representatives Organizational Meeting is now convened per order of Charter Section 304.5. Invocation will be by the Rev. Ronald S. James, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, 1101 Bedford Street, Stamford.

INVOCATION was given by the Rev. Ronald S. James, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford:

"Good evening, members of the Board, Mr. Mayor, assorted other persons here present, I want to begin by, just for a minute, defining what an Invocation is. My mother spent a lot of money to send me to graduate school to learn all these languages, and I know that she'd be glad if I would get a little mileage out of that.

"An Invocation means to call upon something, or someone, someone, I take it whose special presence is requested and sought by those who are gathered; and truth-in-package laws prompt me to say something about the One whom I invoke. This is the God principally disclosed in the history of Israel and for my Christian faith, also in the first century rabbi named Jesus. This is the God who brings the miracle of human consciousness out of the dust of this planet of ours, who wishes to meet us on our life's journey, who loves this broken world of ours. This is the God of my faith, and of my tradition, and the One whom I invoke when I come into your midst tonight. Will you join me in prayer?

"God of our world and of our lives, we pray your blessing on this group of men and women, who make decisions about the life of our City. Give them guidance in the work they do for us all and the genuine concern for all of our citizens, rich and poor, old and young, conservative and liberal, black and white, Hispanic and Oriental, since we are all your children.

INVOCATION (continued)

"Give to all of them, and to each of them, an open heart and an honest mind so they may decide wisely and well that together we may build a community with integrity, strength, beauty, faith in You, and a share of the good things in life for us all. Amen."

MAYOR THOM SERRANI asked for a few prayers for Chief Joseph Kinsella who died this morning.

REV. JAMES: "I think that all of us, at a time when a public servant has died, reflect on the meaning of that person's life and the time of public service that the person has given to the community and all of its citizens; and it would be most appropriate if we would spend a moment in silence. Let us pray.

"God, our Father, we thank You for the life and service of JOSEPH KINSELLA, and we commit him to your care. Amen."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by Mayor Thom Serrani.

MAYOR THOM SERRANI said we have a special guest with us tonight, Mrs. Shirley Dobry, who will lead us in "America".

MS. SHIRLEY DOBRY sang "America".

MAYOR THOM SERRANI thanked Ms. Dobry for her rendition of "America". There was much applause.

MAYOR THOM SERRANI said the Administrative Assistant, Helen McEvoy, would Call the Roll.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Administrative Assistant. There were 40 members present, none absent.

PRESENT

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Rosanne Begel     | (D) |
| Maria Nakian      | (D) |
| Stanley Esposito  | (R) |
| George Jepsen     | (D) |
| Claire Fishman    | (D) |
| Richard Lyons     | (D) |
| William Heins     | (R) |
| Gerald Rybnick    | (D) |
| Frank Mollo       | (D) |
| Thomas Burke      | (R) |
| Jeanne-Lois Santy | (R) |
| David Martin      | (D) |
| Thomas Pia        | (R) |
| Nicholas Pavia    | (R) |
| Audrey Maihock    | (R) |
| James Rubino      | (R) |
| Barbara McInerney | (R) |
| Ellen Bromley     | (D) |
| Roger Taranto     | (D) |
| Annie Summerville | (D) |

PRESENT

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Jeremiah Livingston | (D) |
| Thomas Clear        | (D) |
| Lathon Wider        | (D) |
| Donald Donahue      | (D) |
| Mildred Perillo     | (D) |
| S. A. Signore       | (R) |
| Katie Glover        | (D) |
| Terrence Martin     | (D) |
| Scott Morris        | (D) |
| Patricia McGrath    | (D) |
| John Zelinski       | (D) |
| James Dudley        | (D) |
| Joseph DeRose       | (D) |
| Ruth Powers         | (D) |
| David I. Blum       | (D) |
| David Jachimczyk    | (D) |
| Mary Lou Rinaldi    | (D) |
| W. Dennis White     | (D) |
| John Boccuzzi       | (D) |
| Sandra Goldstein    | (D) |

MAYOR THOM SERRANI declared a QUORUM present.

SWEARING IN OF THE MEMBERS

MAYOR THOM SERRANI asked that in recognition of the members present, that as each one's name is called, that the member stand and be recognized for the swearing in, as he administers the Oath of Office: Richard Lyons, First District; Dennis White, First District; John Boccuzzi, Second District; Katie Glover, Second District; George Jepsen, Third District; Lathon Wider, Third District; David Jachimczyk, Fourth District; Gerald Rybnick, Fourth District; Jeremiah Livingston, Fifth District; Mary Lou Rinaldi, Fifth District; James Dudley, Sixth District; Annie Summerville, Sixth District; Thomas Pia, Seventh District; James Rubino, Seventh District; Donald Donahue, Eighth District; Ruth Powers, Eighth District; Mildred Perillo, Ninth District; Frank Mollo, Ninth District; Nicholas Pavia, Tenth District; Terrence Martin, Tenth District; John Zelinski, Eleventh District; Stanley John Esposito, Eleventh District; David Blum, Twelfth District; Claire Fishman, Twelfth District; Thomas Burke, Thirteenth District; William Heins, Thirteenth District; Rosanne Begel, Fourteenth District; Patricia McGrath, Fourteenth District; Joseph DeRose, Fifteenth District; Roger Taranto, Fifteenth District; Sandra Goldstein, Sixteenth District; Ellen Bromley, Sixteenth District; Scott Morris, Seventeenth District; Thomas Clear, Seventeenth District; Jeanne-Lois Santy, Eighteenth District, S. A. Signore, Eighteenth District; Audrey Maihock, Nineteenth District; David Martin, Nineteenth District; Barbara McInerney, Twentieth District; Maria Nakian, Twentieth District. Mayor Serrani asked the members to raise their right hands, and he administered the Oath of Office: "Do you members gathered here this evening, elected to the Board of Representatives on November 5, 1985, do solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge the duties of said office according to law, so help you God? (The members each responded "I do".) The Mayor congratulated them all.

He said now that they are all official and before they move on to the rest of the Agenda, he wished to take this opportunity to say a few words.

"Those of you who have been here before, and those of you who are joining the Board for the first time, do have some unfinished business to deal with from the past few years. I would just like to mention a few points that I would like to see accomplished in this next term. Obviously, we have all heard about the Green Belt and the Open Spaces, and that need still exists today, and will exist in the future for our people here in the City. Open Spaces are a very important aspect for the quality of life here in Stamford. We will be looking for your support on the Green Belt issues along the Rippowam River, and other Open Spaces during the next two years. City Hall, obviously, the centralization of government here in Stamford, and making it more efficient, making it react, making it respond, making it plan for the future is going to be very important. We have to deal with this issue, as you can see all around you, we do have our problems and they must be dealt with shortly. Burdick School's disposition as one of our vacant properties. Accessory housing and using school buildings for housing such as the proposal for Burdick, which will be before you shortly, and is something that has to be dealt with in these next few months. Riding herd on the Federal Government to re-start and finish our long-awaited Transportation Center will be on the minds of many in the next few months. Collectively,

MAYOR THOM SERRANI (continuing): "We must ride herd on the Federal Government to have that project completed. We have some continuing business. We have some new business actually that we have to deal with. I want to see this City establish a rapid transit system along the New Canaan Branch Line for the East Side of Stamford. The project is now being studied by the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency and that report should be forthcoming to us in the next number of months for us to act upon, along with the State. Construction of our computerized traffic lighting system downtown and throughout the City will be important along with other projects to speed traffic along, including enforcement of laws, and business and governmental actions to insure that our City is not strangled by its traffic. I will be seeking from you, in the months to come, with your counsel and advice, the establishment of a high-level position in City Government, to exclusively deal with and handle human resources issues for the City of Stamford. We are one of the few cities, if any, in the country that do not have individuals dealing with some of the human resources questions of our time. Housing questions, relocation questions, shelter for the homeless, coordination of non-profit organizations and social service agencies in the City to provide for those services for those who are highly needy in the community and do have need for our support and help, so we will be seeking that from you in the next few months, with details to come.

"We have continuing business to deal with, complying with the fire codes not only in this building but all of our public buildings, including our schools and city offices. Obviously, making City Government more professional and business-like through systems, processes and procedures, and through the people we appoint to various boards and commissions making decisions in our City. We will continue to work and insist that written regulations and policies for all departments be established in the months to come, and the years to come. We know the job is difficult and long. I do believe very strongly that we have the talent, we have the resources, and we, collectively, have the commitment to do the job and to do the job extremely well. I look for your cooperation in meeting our mutual goals during the next two years. And I might add that there is a little-used Section of the Charter which I intend to use this time, sparingly, but I do intend to use it when requested, and when I feel that I should do this to encourage the communication between the Legislative Body and the Mayor's Office. It is Section 303 of the Charter which says the Mayor has the right to appear before any board and address it at any meeting, as I am addressing you tonight with those general concerns which will become more familiar in the next two years, and addressing you with more specific concerns as the issues, bills, and requests do come down. I think this is an extremely great opportunity for us all to work together and make things work for the City, and I look forward to it as I know all of you are looking forward to it. Good luck and congratulations, and my best wishes to all of you."

#### APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY TELLERS

MAYOR THOM SERRANI appointed DENNIS WHITE and MARY LOU RINALDI as Temporary Tellers. He requested Motions for a Temporary Chairperson.

MRS. McINERNEY stated that as a point of clarification, it has been the usual custom of the Board to appoint two Temporary Tellers, one from each side of the aisle. She asked if he would entertain an appointment from the Republican side of the aisle.



MAYOR THOM SERRANI said he had no idea, but if it was that important, he would do it. In fact, there will be four Temporary Tellers, and he asked Mrs. McInerney for the names of two Republicans to serve.

MRS. MCINERNEY said Mr. Burke and Mrs. Maihock.

MAYOR THOM SERRANI asked the Temporary Tellers to come up to the podium. He asked for Motions for a Temporary Chairperson.

MR. LYONS nominated Mr. Donahue as Temporary Chairperson.

MR. WIDER Moved that nominations be closed. Seconded.

MAYOR THOM SERRANI asked that one ballot be cast for Mr. Donahue as Temporary Chairman, and asked him to come to the podium and assume his duties.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE thanked the Mayor and said they certainly have many challenges before them. He is sure this Board and the Mayor's Office can work together to resolve many of these issues for the good of the City as a whole. The next Order of Business is to appoint a Temporary Clerk of the Board.

A Motion was made to place the name of Patricia McGrath in nomination for Temporary Clerk.

MRS. PERILLO Moved to close nominations. Seconded. CARRIED.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE asked that one ballot be cast for Mrs. McGrath as Temporary Clerk, and asked her to come to the podium and assume her duties.

TEMPORARY CLERK McGRATH took the Clerk's position.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE asked for a Motion to adopt the Rules of Order of the 18th Board for the 19th Board of Representatives.

MR. WIDER Moved for that adoption. Seconded.

MRS. NAKIAN said she has two proposed changes to the Rules of Order. The first is on Page 2, Paragraph 4, it is to now read "The President may rise to put a question, or to address the Board, and may read sitting." Moved and Seconded.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE called for a voice vote on Mrs. Nakian's Motion. CARRIED.

MRS. NAKIAN said her second proposed change would be on Page 4, that on the list of STANDING COMMITTEES, that CHARTER REVISION AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE be deleted as a Standing Committee, and made a Special Committee. And that LABOR CONTRACTS LIAISON COMMITTEE become a Standing Committee; and also that STEERING COMMITTEE is changed from 19 to 20 members; APPOINTMENTS is changed from 9 to 10 members; LEGISLATIVE AND RULES is changed from 9 to 10 members; PERSONNEL is changed from 7 to 8 members; PUBLIC WORKS AND SEWER from 7 to 9; and LABOR CONTRACTS LIAISON from 3 to 5 members. Moved and Seconded.

RULES OF ORDER (continued)

MRS. McINERNEY agrees with the removal of the Charter Revision and Ordinance Committee from the group of Standing Committees, but she did not understand that that committee would remain intact as a Special Committee. She understood that only Charter Revision Committee would be a Special Committee. She Moved to delete the wording "ordinance revision" from the title of the committee and that it be "Charter Revision Committee".

MRS. NAKIAN agreed with Mrs. McInerney that the special committee would be "Charter Revision Committee" and that ordinances would be an on-going matter, separately. She Seconded Mrs. McInerney's amendment.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE said that Fiscal Committee should be 10 members, which it has been for two years, for the record.

Mr. Donahue called for a voice vote on Mrs. Nakian's Motion as amended by Mrs. McInerney. Seconded. CARRIED.

MRS. POWERS Moved for a change on Page 6, "Regular Order of Business" to read as follows:

- "(a) Invocation
- (b) Roll Call
- (c) Committee Reports
- (d) Resolutions
- (e) Petitions
- (f) Acceptance of the Minutes
- (g) Communications from the Mayor, other Boards, and Individuals
- (h) Old Business
- (i) New Business
- (j) Adjournment

Seconded.

MRS. McINERNEY said she would be in total agreement with that since they have been practicing that way for many years without ever changing the Rules.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE called for a voice vote on Mrs. Powers' Motion. CARRIED.

MR. WIDER Moved for adoption of the Rules of the 18th Board as amended. Seconded. CARRIED, voice vote. The Rules of the 19th Board are in effect.

ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT FOR THE 19th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. BOCCUZZI: "I would like to put on the floor of the 19th Board the name of a young lady who I believe in the past two years, the previous two years, for a total of four years as President of the Board, has done a great job in carrying out not only Board business, but City business. The old members know her by the name of "Sandy". The new members who have already met her will find that Sandy Goldstein will be there whenever you need her, will be willing to work with you on any problems you have on the Board, will be willing to steer you in the right direction for you to get any information you want. I think we are very fortunate to have a young lady of this caliber who is willing to take on the presidency of the Board for another two years. It is indeed a great honor to put the name of Sandy Goldstein on the floor for President of the 19th Board of Representatives. Seconded by Mr. Wider.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT (continued)

MRS. PERILLO Moved that nominations be closed. Seconded by Mr. Wider.  
CARRIED.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN DONAHUE called for a Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot to elect Sandra Goldstein as the President of the 19th Board of Representatives. Moved. Seconded. CARRIED, voice vote, with one in opposition, being Rep. John Zelinski.

MRS. SANDRA GOLDSTEIN assumed the CHAIR of the PRESIDENT of the 19th Board.

PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN: "Thank you very much. I love it when John Boccuzzi nominated me for President because he is the only one any more who calls me a "young lady". Thank you for those kind words. Thank you for the confidence that you have placed in me once again by electing me to the presidency of the 19th Board. I have had the privilege of serving with most of the people who are sitting right here, right now; and your collective commitment to the principle of representative democracy and public service has been extraordinary. Tonight, the 31 of us, myself included, are joined by new members who bring fresh ideas of very healthy idealism that many of us need. And an enthusiasm that I hope will be infectious. Many people have asked me why after ten years of service, I chose once again to run for the Board of Representatives, and as I look out, I know there are a number of people here who have been asked the same thing because there are a number of people here who have served for five terms. I want to recognize them because I know they were faced with those same questions that I was faced with. They are John Boccuzzi (1965), Jerry Rybnick (1956), Jerry Livingston, Lathon Wider, Mildred Perillo, John Zelinski, David Blum, Jeanne-Lois Santy, Audrey Maihock, and Barbara McInerney, all who have served this City for ten years or more. The reason I have continued, and I am sure for most of them, too, is that this Board of Representatives is truly democracy in action, probably the way our forefathers dreamt it up, and that is with all our problems and all our disputes, we represent the rich and the poor, the old and the young, the sick, the healthy, every racial group, every religious group, and that's the way it is in our country. Those people who drafted our City Charter 35 years ago, had a profound respect for this Board that they created because they invested in us the power to address virtually every issue that can come before this City. And through the years, various Boards have attempted to deal with these issues with intelligence, fairness and independence. These next two years, the 19th Board will face some very heavy issues. Working together and working in coordination with other Boards, and the Mayor's Office, I am sure we will have a Board that we can be proud of and a Board that will be responsive to its constituents' needs and will have the strength to tackle difficult matters that will face us. Thank you once again for the confidence."

PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN appointed two permanent TELLERS: JAMES DUDLEY and STANLEY ESPOSITO, a Democrat and a Republican.

The ALTERNATE TELLERS will be SCOTT MORRIS and NICHOLAS PAVIA.

ELECTION OF A CLERK FOR THE 19th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. WIDER: "I stand out of due respect for the lady that I am going to nominate for Clerk of the Board. Very few women in the City of Stamford can do what she can do, and I have witnessed this more than one time.

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE BOARD (continued)

MR. WIDER (continuing): "She has been called upon to handle emergencies and did not hesitate. She did it, without excuse. The girl comes from Alabama, and very few people that you can form the kind of respect because I was there and I know (laughter and clapping). She has really, seriously, proven to this City that she has so much value, there is no way we can put it into words. It really gives me great pleasure and honor to nominate Ms. Anne Summerville as permanent Clerk of this Board." Seconded by many.

THE PRESIDENT entertained a Motion by Mr. Rynbick to close nominations. She called for a voice vote, which was unanimous. One ballot was cast for Ms. Summerville for Clerk of the Board.

MS. SUMMERVILLE: "I appreciate your confidence, but Lathon, you almost made tears come to my eyes. Thank you for that beautiful nomination. For those of you who I didn't see stand, don't raise your hands."

ELECTION OF DEPUTY ACTING MAYOR

PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN said she will entertain Motions to nominate the Deputy Acting Mayor of the City of Stamford.

MR. JACHIMCZYK said it is with a great deal of honor and personal pleasure that he places in nomination for Deputy Acting Mayor, a man who is already the official Mayor of the Cove/East Side, and the man who probably has more experience and qualifications for being Mayor than the Mayor for the City of Stamford has, and that person is his co-Representative and his friend, Mr. Jerry Rybnick (much clapping). Seconded by many.

MR. BURKE said he had, at the last Board, the privilege of Seconding Mr. Rybnick for this position, and he did not let Mr. Burke down. He performed well under tremendous stress. He knows that Jerry will do an admirable job, and he again<sup>15</sup> very privileged and honored to Second his nomination again; and just to remind him as they say in the South, even in Alabama, the South will rise again, Lathon.

MR. LIVINGSTON said, perhaps, the South may rise again, but it won't happen in this decade. It is with great honor and privilege to Second the nomination of a man who is a man among men, his dear friend, Jerry Rybnick.

MRS. McINERNEY said it gives her great honor and pleasure to Second the nomination of Jerry Rybnick as Deputy Acting Mayor. She has known Jerry for many years now and has found him to be a man of great integrity, deep feelings for his fellow man, and one who takes pride in every one of those years he has served as a member of the Board of Representatives. She is especially happy to know that when the Mayor is temporarily absent, or has a disability and cannot serve, that in accordance with Section 302.1 of our Charter, that Jerry Rybnick will be there when Thom Serrani won't be there. It is a job that he has long held and he is the only one who deserves to be in that office when Thom Serrani is unable to be there, in accordance with our Charter.

MR. WIDER Seconded those comments.

MR. SIGNORE Seconded, also, the nomination of Jerry Rybnick as Deputy Acting Mayor of the City of Stamford. Back in 1975 when Mr. Signore was elected to the Board of Representatives, Jerry welcomed him, was kind to him, and was



ELECTION OF ACTING DEPUTY MAYOR (continued)

MR. SIGNORE (continuing): always there with a ready smile, a handshake, a pat on the back and encouragement. This is coming from a Republican. And coming back here on the Board tonight, there was Jerry Rybnick, it was again Jerry Rybnick who greeted Mr. Signore with a handshake and a warm smile, and Mr. Signore is happy to be back on the Board with Jerry and to serve with him.

MRS. PERILLO Moved that nominations be closed. Seconded. CARRIED.

THE PRESIDENT asked the Clerk to cast one ballot on behalf of Jerry Rybnick for Deputy Acting Mayor.

MR. RYBNICK said after hearing so many good compliments, he can hardly sit still here tonight. He thanked every one for their confidence in him as Deputy Acting Mayor.

THE PRESIDENT said the next Order of Business is to announce the names of the Majority and Minority Leaders, The Democratic Majority Leader is JOHN BOCCUZZI. Two Assistant Majority Leaders are MILDRED PERILLO and RICHARD LYONS. The Republican Minority Leader is BARBARA McINERNEY. The Assistant Minority Leader is SAL SIGNORE.

The PARLIAMENTARIAN is DONALD DONAHUE. RICHARD LYONS is the ASSISTANT PARLIAMENTARIAN.

The STANDING COMMITTEES of the 19th Board were appointed by the President. (See the attached list.)

There is a mandated Charter Revision before the Body for this session.

Also, the CHAIR is appointing a Committee to study the priorities, issues and action plans that were articulated by the focus groups that you were part of at our Legislative Seminar. Everyone has in his or her packet tonight, those issues that were discussed. The Seminar was very exciting. It was a fabulous exchange of ideas, and now the ideas should be put into action and find the positive agenda for the Board in relation to correcting some of the problems.

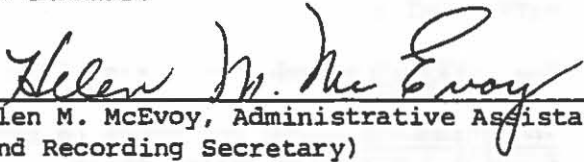
The Board is reminded of what is becoming an annual Christmas Party. It is going to be held Sunday at Taranto's at six o'clock. There will be lots of good food, lots of interesting surprises, and the President hopes everyone will be there.

The date of the first regular meeting of the 19th Board of Representatives is December 16, 1985.

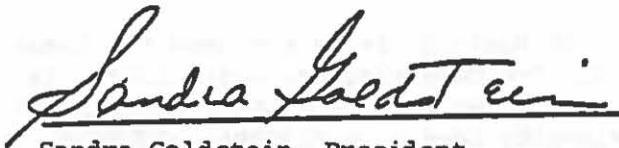
Following this meeting, the first meeting of the Steering Committee will be in the Democratic Caucus Room.

ADJOURNMENT

MR. LYONS Moved for Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board. the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M., after the Motion to Adjourn had been Seconded, and CARRIED.

  
Helen M. McEvoy, Administrative Assistant  
(and Recording Secretary)

APPROVED:



Sandra Goldstein, President  
19th Board of Representatives  
City of Stamford, Connecticut

SG:AMS:HMM  
Encs.