

The Organizational Meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held Monday, December 4, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

# MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor David R. Martin, per Charter § C3-10-11.
2. **INVOCATION:** By Reverend Frances Sink.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Led by Mayor David R. Martin.
- <sup>1</sup>4. **ROLL CALL:** By Legislative Officer Valerie Rosenson. There were 38 members present and 2 members absent. Reps. Adams, Aquila, Coleman, Cottrell, de la Cruz, DePina, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Giordano, Graziosi, Jacobson, Kolenberg, Lee, Liebson, Lion, Lutz, Mahoney, Matherne, McGarry, McMullen, Michelson, Miller, Moore, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pendell, Pia, Pratt, Quinones, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Wallace, Watkins and Zelinsky present; Reps. DeLuca and Figueroa absent or excused. (See [Vote Record 2034](#)).
- <sup>2</sup>5. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Martin administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor Martin read the following address to the members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives:

Let me begin by invoking my authority under the Charter in Section C3-10-5, the right to address any Board of Commission at any meeting.

So let me first thank you all for serving on our legislative body. It is an honor, a privilege, and a profound responsibility that the Stamford voters have entrusted to you.

I spent 8 years as President of this Board, that's twice as long as I have served as Mayor. As this Board's President I began every meeting with the same call to order. *"My fellow representatives, now is the time to consider the issues and opportunities of our day, and make the decisions that will shape our future."*

When we "consider issues and opportunities" it often means that we are holding a debate. On your board there will be many

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debates – but please remember that, despite what you might hear on the news every night, the goal of these debates is NOT to defeat an opponent, the goal of your debates is to find better solutions for our great City.

So as you consider the issues and opportunities of our time, do not become diverted by “alternative facts”, lies, insults or the bullying that have become so much of public discourse. We must use our precious Freedom of Speech to find help find truth, not to sow lies, anger, or fear to defeat the aspirations and ideas of others.

Although consensus is often preferred, at times you will be unable to reach consensus – and at times you will simply disagree. Despite these disagreements, we must still make timely decisions. We cannot postpone our decisions indefinitely while we wait to find consensus.

And we must work together. For all city officials, both Democrat and Republican, share the responsibility for making the decisions that will shape our future.

We should all be proud of our great city. But while much has been done to solve many of the problems of the past, there is much that still remains to deliver on the promise of tomorrow.

I would like to believe that I have all the answers. But that is not true, I do not have all the answers – and even if I did, I cannot do it alone.

My opponents ran spirited campaigns, and while the voters chose our track record of success, our commitment to values, and our priorities for the future, the campaign brought out important issues and choices.

As we move forward, as your mayor I will be mindful, and as elected officials must be all be mindful, that none of us have a monopoly on good ideas – and should consider the point-of-view of those with whom we may disagree.

In that spirit, over the next few months we will work with you to consider:

- new zoning enforcement procedures,
- a significant commitment to re-building our processes and software infrastructure to improve our citizen service and increase transparency,

- Modernizing our purchasing to reduce bureaucratic delays and improve cost effectiveness while maintaining fairness to potential bidders.
- And because I believe it is a good direction, we will even bring to you a resolution supporting what I understand is a recent decision by the Registrars of Voters to reinstate distribution of the “I voted” stickers at our elections.

Some of these issues will be simple, but many are complex, or will require additional resources. At times we will be forceful advocates for what we think is best, at other times we will present the realistic alternatives and ask your Board to make a choice. It is a sign of strength if we can trust one another to make good choices.

And let me be clear, although Robert’s Rules of Order may lure you into the false assumption that you are simply voting yea or nay on an ordinance or a budget, in truth, your votes are choices about the future.

Whatever the opportunity or issue — large or small — we must never forget that we are stewards of this great city and our obligation and responsibility, first and foremost, is to make the choices for our residents that will shape and brighten our future.

Finally, most of you heard my remarks at my swearing-in this last Friday, so I will not repeat them here, except to say . . . Stamford is one of our country’s most successful, and most diverse cities, I believe it is our honor to help advance our country’s unique aspiration, and solemn pledge, as first advanced by Thomas Jefferson:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”*

So let us leave this room tonight resolute in our determination to make Stamford a model for a better America — where we honestly search for the truth, where we each take responsibility for our choices and decisions, with liberty, justice, and opportunity for all. Let us leave this room tonight resolute in our determination to make our great city the very best place to live, the very best place to work, and the very best place to raise a family . . . . not just for today, but for the generations to come.

I am proud to be Mayor of this great city. I trust we will all work with each other to continue to make Stamford the jewel of Connecticut and New England, and a shining example for all of America.

Our work is far from done.

- a. The Mayor appoints two Temporary Tellers. Mayor Martin appointed Benjamin Lee and J.R. McMullen as Temporary Tellers
- b. The Mayor entertains motions for a Temporary Chairperson. Rep. de la Cruz moved to appoint Jonathan Jacobson as Temporary Chair; said motion was seconded.
- c. Vote is held on the election of the Temporary Chairperson. The vote to appoint Jonathan Jacobson as Temporary Chair was approved unanimously (Rep. Jacobson abstaining).

**<sup>3</sup>6. TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON** takes chair.

- a. Temporary Chairperson entertains motions for a Temporary Clerk. Rep. de la Cruz moved to appoint Elise Coleman as Temporary Clerk; said motion was seconded.
- b. Vote is held on election of Temporary Clerk. The vote to appoint Elise Coleman as Temporary Clerk was approved unanimously (Rep. Coleman abstaining).
- c. Adoption of Rules of Order for the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives ([29<sup>th</sup> Board Rules](#)). Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Rules of the 29th Board of Representatives were adopted unanimously (Rep. McMullen abstaining).

**7. NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT** of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives. Rep. Zelinsky moved to elect Matthew Quinones as President of the Board; said motion was seconded.

- a. Vote on election of President of the Board. Matthew Quinones was unanimously approved as President of the Board (Rep. Quinones abstaining).

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**48. PRESIDENT** takes chair.

- a. President appoints two Tellers and two Alternate Tellers. President Quinones appointed Reps. Lee and McMullen as permanent tellers and Reps. Aquila and Michelson as alternate tellers.
- b. President entertains motions for a permanent Clerk of the Board. Rep. de la Cruz moved to appoint Susan Nabel as permanent Clerk of the Board; said motion was seconded.
- c. Vote on election of a permanent Clerk. The motion to approve Susan Nabel as Clerk of the Board was approved unanimously
- d. Clerk takes over duties.
- e. President announces the names of the Majority and Minority Leaders, who have been elected by their respective parties. President Quinones announced that the Democratic Caucus elected Rodney Pratt as its Majority Leader and Gloria DePina and Virgil de la Cruz as Deputy Majority Leaders. The Republican Caucus elected Mary Lisa Fedeli as its Minority Leader and Steven Kolenberg as its Deputy Minority Leader.
- f. President appoints Parliamentarians. President Quinones appointed Jonathan Jacobson and Charles Pia, Jr. as Parliamentarians.
- g. President appoints Sergeant at Arms. President Quinones appointed Philip Giordano as Sergeant at Arms.

**59. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.** The President appoints members to the Standing Committees, naming the chair of each Committee first. The Committees listed below are those of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives.

- a. Appointments Committee: (9 members) Annie M. Summerville, Chair; Dennis Patterson, Vice Chair; Anabel Figueroa, Steven Kolenberg, Alice Liebson, Raven Matherne, Marion McGarry, Charles Pia, Jr. and Rodney Pratt.
- b. Fiscal Committee: (11 members) Monica Di Costanzo, Chair; Anzelmo Graziosi, Vice Chair; Elise Coleman, Mary Fedeli, Anabel Figueroa, J.R. McMullen, Lindsey Miller, Eric Morson, Susan Nabel, Charles Pia, Jr. and Tom Pendell.
- c. Legislative & Rules Committee: (9 members) Benjamin Lee, Chair; Elise Coleman, Vice Chair; Mary L. Fedeli, Jonathan Jacobson, Bob Lion, Lindsey Miller, Susan Nabel, Charles Pia, Jr. and John R. Zelinsky.

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- d. Personnel Committee: (9 members) Mary L. Fedeli, Co-Chair; Anabel Figueroa, Co-Chair; Gloria DePina, Bob Lion, J.R. McMullen, Susan Nabel, Denis Patterson, Tom Pendell and John R. Zelinsky.
- e. Land Use/URC Committee: (9 members) Virgil de la Cruz, Co-Chair; Charles Pia, Jr., Co-Chair; Megan Cottrell, Anzelmo Graziosi, Benjamin Lee, Bob Lion, Bradley Michelson, Nina Sherwood and Annie M. Summerville.
- f. Operations Committee: (9 members) Jonathan Jacobson, Chair; John R. Zelinsky, Vice-Chair; Terry B. Adams, Elise Coleman, Benjamin Lee, Dennis Mahoney, Ines Saftic, Nina Sherwood and David Watkins.
- g. Public Safety and Health Committee: (9 members) Jeffrey Stella, Chair; Eric Morson, Vice Chair; Philip Giordano, Steven Kolenberg, Diane Lutz, Raven Matherne, J.R. McMullen, Rodney Pratt and Nina Sherwood.
- h. Parks and Recreation Committee: (11 members) Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair; Marion McGarry, Co-Chair; Marc Aquila, Virgil de la Cruz, Philip Giordano, Raven Matherne, Rodney Pratt, Ines Saftic, Jeffrey Stella, Lila Wallace and David Watkins.
- i. Education Committee: (9 members) Diane Lutz, Chair; Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair; Marc Aquila, Virgil de la Cruz, Robert “Gabe” DeLuca, Monica Di Costanzo, Jonathan Jacobson, Mavina Moore and Jeffrey Stella,
- j. Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee: (7 members) Gloria DePina, Chair; Lila Wallace, Vice Chair; Bradley Michelson, Mavina Moore, Denis Patterson, Robert Roqueta and Ines Saftic.
- k. Transportation Committee: (7 members) Steven Kolenberg, Chair; Robert “Gabe” DeLuca, Vice-Chair; Monica Di Costanzo, Philip Giordano, Mavina Moore, Tom Pendell and Lila Wallace.
- l. State & Commerce Committee: (7 members) Lindsey Miller, Chair; Robert Roqueta, Vice-Chair; Terry Adams, Anzelmo Graziosi, Alice Liebson, Dennis Mahoney and Marion McGarry.
- m. Steering Committee: (21 members) Matthew Quinones, Rodney Pratt, Susan Nabel, Gloria G. DePina, Virgil de la Cruz, Mary L. Fedeli, Steven Kolenberg, Monica Di Costanzo, Anabel Figueroa, Jonathan Jacobson, Steven Kolenberg, Ben Lee, Diane Lutz, Dennis Mahoney, Marion McGarry, Lindsey Miller, Rodney Pratt, Charles Pia, Jr., Jeffrey Stella and Annie Summerville.

**<sup>6</sup>10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** The President names and appoints members to Special Committees, if necessary. President Quinones appointed Monica Di Costanzo to the WPCA; Susan Nabel and Mary Fedeli to the Unclassified

Employee Sick Bank Committee; Elise Coleman to the Enterprise Zone Board, Lindsey Miller and J.R. McMullen to the Property Revaluation Review Committee; Annie Summerville and Mary L. Fedeli to OTHRA; President Quinones will serve on will serve on the Stamford Arts & Culture Commission with Steven Kolenberg. President Quinones and will also serve on CERF, SEMS, the Mill River Collaborative, the Blight Hearing Committee, the Camera Review Committee, the Food Truck Committee, the DSSD and the School Building Committee.

**11. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING.** President Quinones announced that the Regular Meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Representatives will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. The Steering Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 11, 2017 and the deadline for submissions is Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).