

SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2007

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Monday, November 12, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the Pitkin Community Center, Room F-3, 30 Greenfield Road, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Console, Forrest, Kotkin, Montinieri, Roberts, Walsh

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Absent: Councilor Hemmann

Councilor Adil lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, called the Organizational Meeting to order.

Pastor Wendy Vencuss of the Wethersfield United Methodist Church, said it was a joy and honor to be in Wethersfield and at the meeting. She gave the Invocation.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, administered the oath of office to Councilors Adil, Cascio, Console, Forrest, Kotkin, Montinieri, Roberts, and Walsh.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO APPOINT ANDREW S. ADIL AS CHAIRPERSON AND MAYOR**" seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Montinieri said that it was his pleasure to support a very dedicated and hard working leader. Mr. Adil has given to Wethersfield by serving on many Boards and Commissions, as a Town Council Member, and as Mayor. In each role his style has been characterized as caring and compassionate. Mr. Adil seeks to strengthen the Town through old fashion hard work. As a friend and colleague, he can say that Mr. Adil is a special dad to his children and works each day to balance work as a father with the time constraints of public service and work. His sons display his kindness and enthusiasm. This is no small accomplishment. His tenure the next two years will be marked by accomplishments that will reflect his heart and soul invested in the betterment of the Town. He will work with the entire community to make Wethersfield a better Town.

Councilor Roberts said that Andrew Adil is a dedicated servant to the people and puts in many hours and phone calls to get the pulse of the Town. He served admirably to replace Russ Morin when he became State Representative.

A roll call vote was taken. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

The meeting was turned over to Chairperson Adil.

Chairperson Adil thanked Councilors Montinieri and Roberts for their kind words and for the support of all those people at the meeting. He said that residents do not want to forget what today is Veteran's Day. He said the public must acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifice and heroism of the men and women past and present who have served. Without their courage, residents would not be here today holding free elections. A thank you must go out to all of those people who helped both sides in the past election. A lot of time and money is spent to get the Town to where it is. He thanked Shirley Steinmetz and Joe Coombs, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Democratic Committee, for their efforts to get the candidates on the Town Council and Board of Education and fill Boards and Commissions. Last, he must thank his family and his fiancée and her daughter. He said running for office is a team event. He said he looks to his Republican colleagues for their continuing support in passing an aggressive agenda over the next two years. The Town Council must rework its plans to give the Redevelopment Agency the tools it needs, work actively towards attracting new businesses in Town, and help to keep current businesses profitable. The Town must pursue all avenues to make the Town and Board of Education energy efficient. If all Councilors continue to work in a spirit of support and cooperation, the residents of the Town will be the winners.

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO APPOINT PAUL F. MONTINIERI AS VICE CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY MAYOR"** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Councilor Kotkin said that Paul Montinieri is a life-long resident and graduate of Wethersfield High School. He has had an immediate and positive impact on the Town after joining the Town Council this year. He has worked hard in the areas of economic development and infrastructure. Prior to joining the Town Council, he served on the Economic Development and Improvement Commission and served as Vice Chairperson. He uses his business acumen to scrutinize proposals brought before the Town Council and the Town budget. He works tirelessly with enthusiasm and intelligence on behalf of all residents. To a great extent, his skill comes from his work as a small businessman. He also worked in higher education administration. He uses that experience with his two children. His wife, Julie, was elected for her third term on the Board of Education last week with the most votes of any candidate. They are a couple that embodies the virtues of devotion to family and community service.

Councilor Walsh said that although new to Council ten months ago, Paul Montinieri was no stranger to local issues. He served on the Tourism Commission and Economic Development and Improvement Commission for many years. Once on Council, he quickly came up to speed on issues and asked thoughtful and insightful questions at caucuses and meetings. He is an energetic team player. He is a lot of fun to be around. He is also a leader. He knows the direction that he wants to take. He listens to others and works to build a consensus.

A roll call vote was taken. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri thanked Councilors Kotkin and Walsh for their warm reception. He thanked his wife and daughters for their support. He said that his parents are at the meeting and raised him in Wethersfield as a proud resident. He thanked his peers and the community for this opportunity to serve the community. He said that it is a privilege and obligation. He said he pledges to give all his energy and effort to work to continue to enhance the Town. He would like to share three points with the community and his peers tonight. He wishes to challenge the residents of Wethersfield to stay engaged and invested in a better Wethersfield by paying attention to the economic challenges that the Town Council faces as leaders. To provide greater schools and safe roads and high quality services in Wethersfield. The leadership will support this expectation by scrutinizing this budget, involving the community in the process. He challenged the leaders to raise the bar on bi-partisan collaboration by conducting the Town's business with initiatives that reflect all points of view. And to do so with respect to the fact that those sitting at the table tonight share a common hope to continue to provide direction to Wethersfield for a better Town and recognize that the Town is facing significant metro-economic forces. The Town needs creative ideas to address these challenges. The Town must welcome all view points and discuss initiatives to move the Town forward. Finally, he challenges the Town's community advocates to bring their voices to the exchange with civility and respect to the Town government. To remember that each member of the leadership of this Town has something in common, all are residents of this great Town. He believes the civility and respect will be met with a pledge to take opposing points of view and to weave those thoughts into a broader fabric of initiatives that will guide the journey and strengthen the Town Council's depth of thought and planning. This can only occur in an environment of mutual respect. Civility will be aptly met with cooperation. As a newly elected leader, he will work tirelessly for these goals.

Councilor Forrest said that he would like to thank his fiancée for her help in campaigning. He said campaigning is a fantastic time to talk about the issues of the Town. He said his parents have been advocates for him but also for other things that are going on in Wethersfield. He congratulated Mayor Adil and Deputy Mayor Montinieri, two fantastic leaders. He said that he looks forward to working with them to bring Wethersfield into the future. He said that this is a Council of nine and will listen to all views including other Councilors, the audience, and all residents.

Councilor Kotkin said that he wanted to thank the voters of Wethersfield for the opportunity to represent them for the next two years. He said that it was a great honor and he deeply appreciates the votes that allowed him to be on this Council. He said that he pledges to give residents a fair hearing and to continue to look for opportunities for savings and to try to create a Town that lives up to its history and continues to progress. He said that he would like to thank his family for their support. His wife spent hours putting together lists so the candidates could go door to door.

Councilor Console said that he would like to thank all of the voters who voted for him. He said that he was on the Town Council from 1979 to 1981 and has seen huge differences in the Town. He said that it is very exciting this time. He said that he will have an open door policy and will make his telephone number available. He said that he is here to serve the public and is looking forward to working with this Town Council and making changes in this Town.

Councilor Walsh said that he, too, would like to thank the voters for bringing him back for a second term. He said it is very exciting to be able to serve the Town. He thanked all of the candidates who ran. It takes a lot of effort to run; knocking on doors and making phone calls. It is easy to forget that not everyone is successful. He thanked all who put themselves forward so that residents had a choice. He thanked his wife, daughters, and in-laws for their support and understanding. He said that it is necessary to have a support system in order to run.

Councilor Cascio thanked the Veterans for all that they have done and continue to do for this country. He thanked his family, especially his wife. He said that of his thirty years married, he will have served 20 of them as an elected official at the end of his term. He said his wife and daughter work at the High School, helping to shape the lives of the youth of Wethersfield. He thanked the residents who allowed him to put signs on lawns and who wrote articles to the papers. He said that he is honored to again be on the Town Council. He said he will be the longest serving Councilor. He said he will do his best to control spending, encourage economic growth, and support quality education for the children. He will protect open space, maintain facilities, and address recreational needs for all age groups. He will help to establish and support an open government where no voice is silenced. He will support a long-term plan for the community, based on need and open communication. He will also work for respect and tax relief for senior citizens and better communication amongst Councilors. On November 7th, he contacted Shirley Steinmetz, Democratic Town Chairperson, for consideration for one of the leadership positions on the Town Council. She said absolutely not. He said he can respect her position but felt it was his chance for consideration. On November 8th, he contacted all Councilors in which he asked for their consideration. He said he was the highest vote getter. He read the letter he sent to the Town Councilors. It would be a bi-partisan community, what a novel idea. He said he owed it to the voters who elected him to ask for a leadership role. He asked Town Councilors to consider this when they caucused over the weekend. He said that this would make Wethersfield a stronger community. He said that he looked forward to a response. No one contacted him via e-mail or telephone. He said so much for good communication. He said that he wished the new Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and all Councilors all the best.

Councilor Roberts said that she too would like to thank the voters. She said that she has been on the Board of Education and Town Council for many years. She said that she wanted to thank her husband who has supported her for all these years.

Shirley Steinmetz, 395 Brimfield Road, congratulated all of the Town Councilors. She wished them the best in moving forward with the goal to make Wethersfield a better place to live.

Russ Morin, 495 Brimfield Road, said that as one of the State Representatives he looks forward to continuing a relationship with the Town Council. He is pleased with the great communication and looks forward to tackling some big projects. He thanked the Town Council for their commitment to the Town.

Christine Fortunato, 28 Fairmont Street, said that this is a night of celebration. There is much work to be done, as you all know. She said that she has had the privilege to know each Town Councilor. Each one of the Councilors brings skills and expertise that when together there is incredible synergy. She said the best is yet to come for Wethersfield. She reminded Councilors that they are as strong as the staff. The staff, here to support the Town Council, is very capably. One reason for the success of the Town Council has been the fine working relationship with the Town Manager and her employees. The Town Council has a very ambitious schedule. She said that she looks forward to seeing the many accomplishment of the Town Council over the next two years.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, said that she is not going to give advice or congratulate the Town Council. She quoted from a book about John Adams. He said that Wethersfield was a lovely village. She said that the Town Council needs to remember its history. She said that the book is about revolution and change about people who laid their lives on the line so that we may be free. She said that she is the public, the citizen, the voter and she wants to be heard and respected and she shall do the same for the Town Council.

Stacy Hodges, 612 Highland Street, said that she wanted to congratulate the Town Councilors. She is happy and proud. On behalf of the Board of Education, she looks forward to working with the Town Council.

Matt DeAngelo, 16 Dennison Ridge, congratulated the Town Councilors and wished them well. He said Thomas Jefferson said that New England town government is the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self government and for its preservation. The Town Council is basically continuing a tradition that was started four centuries ago.

Associate Minister Pershing Parker of the First Church of Christ said that it was a privilege to represent the people of First Church of Christ at this meeting. He said that the Congregation has been in Wethersfield for 372 years, representing a long term commitment to the Town. He gave the Benediction.

Chairperson Adil invited friends and family to join the Town Council for a reception in the Fireside Room. He said that November 15th is America Recycling Day and there will be a roll out of new recycling containers at Mikey's Place that morning.

At 8:50 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved "**TO ADJOURN THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**" seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by vote of Council December 3, 2007