

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Town Council acceptance.]

NOVEMBER 14, 2005 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held an Organizational Meeting on Monday, November 14, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors-elect Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Fortunato, Kirsche, Kotkin, Morin, and Walsh.

Absent: Councilor-elect Drake.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, members of the Board of Education, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Sassano read the call of the meeting and called the Organizational Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. under the terms of Section 304 of the Charter of the Town of Wethersfield.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by the Town Clerk.

The Reverend Dr. J. Jey Diefell, Jr. of the First Church of Christ gave the Invocation.

Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk administered the oath of office to the following Town Councilors-elect:

Andrew S. Adil

John F. Cascio

Matthew Julian Forrest

Christine T. Fortunato

Jeffrey R. Kotkin

Stephen A. Kirsche, Jr.

Russell A. Morin

Martin H. Walsh

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Town Clerk called for nominations. Councilor Adil nominated Councilor Morin as Chairperson. This was seconded by Councilor Walsh. There were no other nominations. The Town Clerk declared the nominations closed.

Councilor Morin was elected Chairperson and Mayor by the following roll call vote:

Councilors Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Fortunato, Kotkin, Kirsche, Walsh, and Morin voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Morin said that it is with great pride that he accepts the nomination as Chairperson and he thanked both Councilor Adil and Councilor Walsh for their kind words. He said that it is both an honor and a privilege to be chosen to lead such a fine group of dedicated people. He congratulated each Councilor for their election to the Wethersfield Town Council and said that he looks forward to working together with them on the Town's behalf. Chairperson Morin thanked the voters of Wethersfield who have put their trust in this Council. He also thanked his family for their constant support. He said that he looks forward to all of the Councilors working together for the betterment of Wethersfield. Chairperson Morin spoke of the forward movement on community initiatives such as the expansion of

the initial Town Hall renovation project, the review of and the reimplementation of the Silas Deane Highway Master Plan working in conjunction with the EDIC, space needs assessments, a physical inventory of all Town buildings, and numerous capital projects and road repairs. He said that today begins a new chapter for Wethersfield, and the Council will remain committed to the programs that define Wethersfield as the wonderful community that it is, as it is their intention to pursue a proactive agenda for the benefit and betterment of Wethersfield. Chairperson Morin said that the Council will continue its communications with the Board of Education to insure that Wethersfield schools are the models of which others strive to be. In closing, Chairperson Morin thanked the voters of Wethersfield and the current Council for allowing him the privilege to continue serving as Mayor and said he enthusiastically accepts the responsibilities and challenges that come with the job.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Morin called for nominations.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO NOMINATE COUNCILOR FORTUNATO AS VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL UNTIL THE FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER, 2006 AND COUNCILOR ADIL FROM NOVEMBER, 2006 UNTIL NOVEMBER, 2007"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

There being no other nominations, the Chairperson declared the nominations closed.

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

Councilor Fortunato thanked Councilors Forrest and Kotkin for their nomination and said that she looks forward to working together with them over the next two years. She said that she is pleased to share the position of Deputy Mayor with Councilor Adil stating that he is a very capable, qualified, and dedicated public servant. Councilor Fortunato said that a shared arrangement of the position has occurred in the Town's past and is a testament of the spirit of teamwork exhibited by the current Council; therefore it is with great pride that she accepts the nomination. Councilor Fortunato thanked the voters of the Town for the opportunity to serve them again. She thanked the many volunteers and supporters who worked on behalf of the re-election team. Councilor Fortunato recognized the Town Staff, particularly the Town Manager, for their professionalism. She also thanked her family for their love, support and encouragement. Councilor Fortunato spoke to the girls and women in the audience encouraging them to get involved and serve in the government process.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Adil thanked the voters of Wethersfield for electing him, and his family for their support. He said that there is a lot of talent on the Council and a lot of caring and love for Wethersfield.

Councilor Kirsche said that it is an honor to be a member of the Council and he thanked the Wethersfield voters for their confidence in him. He said that he is excited to see the Council members put the adversarial nature of campaigning behind them and get down to business with the best interest of Wethersfield at heart.

Councilor Forrest thanked his family and agreed with Councilor Kirsche that the common denominator of all the Councilors is the best interest of Wethersfield.

Councilor Walsh thanked the voters of Wethersfield, his family, and all of the candidates who ran for election. He said that campaigning takes a lot of time and effort, and whether one is successful or not, it shows a great degree of dedication to your community. Councilor Walsh stated that, regardless of disagreements, all of the Councilors are members of the same community and all want to do what's best to move Wethersfield ahead.

Councilor Cascio said that tonight is an emotional night for both the winners and the losers of the election. He said that tonight marks his entering his seventeenth year as an elected official of Wethersfield. He thanked his family, friends, neighbors and voters who have supported him. Councilor Cascio offered a special thanks to his mother who gave him

the courage and drive to do for others. He stated that she was a special mom, a best friend, and a great listener. Councilor Cascio pledged to Wethersfield all the great attributes she gave to him and said that he will continue to move forward with enthusiasm.

Councilor Kotkin thanked his family and said that as a novice he will be looking to the Councilors for their wisdom, guidance, assistance, and cooperation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Kirsche, 11 Golf Road, spoke of the ordinance creating the EDIC that he wrote on a Sunday morning years ago. He stated to the Councilors that they will make a difference and that's what they've been elected to do. Mr. Kirsche said that time does pass, and issues come and go, but it is the process and integrity that is important.

Matthew DeAngelo, 16 Dennison Ridge, said that each Council and Board of Education member, at the end of the day, has to live with the decisions they make and know that they did what they thought was right. He urged all of the Councilors not to make issues personal, and not to take things personally. He urged them to work with the majority when it is thought they're right, to try to persuade them when compromise is desirable and possible, and to speak out respectfully when it is thought that they're wrong.

Joe Coombs, 8 Cedar Street, on behalf of himself and Shirley Steinmetz, Democratic Chairperson, thanked the Councilors for running the race and congratulated them for winning the race. He said that the Councilors must now work together to continue to look after the citizens of Wethersfield.

Stacey Hodges, 612 Highland Street, said that she looks forward to continuing to work together with the Council.

Tristan Stanziale, 15 Harold Street, thanked the Councilors for their campaigning and asked them to be careful with the budget as there is a billion dollar referendum next year which could impact tax increases.

Brendan Flynn, 109 Springdale Road, congratulated the Councilors and thanked them in advance for their service to the Town.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the Public Comment segment closed.

Reverend Thomas J. Vencuss gave the benediction.

Chairperson Morin invited all in attendance to a reception at the Solomon Wells House. He also thanked Senator Ciotto, Senator Fonfara, Representative Doyle, Representative Guerrero, former Deputy Mayor O'Connor, and former Mayors Czernicki, Camilliere and Sassano for their service to the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk