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## **NOVEMBER 24, 2003 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The Wethersfield Town Council held an Organizational Meeting on Monday, November 24, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors-elect Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Karangekis, Montinieri, and Morin.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, Town of Wethersfield Department heads, members of the Board of Education, Senators Ciotto and Fonfara, Representatives Doyle, and Guerrera, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Dolores G. 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 Town Clerk Dolores G. Sassano.

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  
Kitch Breen Czernicki  
Matthew Julian Forrest  
Christine T. Fortunato  
Donna H. Hemmann  
John S. Karangekis  
Julie L. Montinieri  
Russell A. Morin**

### **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

The Town Clerk called for nominations. Councilor Fortunato nominated Councilor Morin as Chairperson. This was seconded by Councilor Forrest. 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, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Karangekis, Montinieri, and Morin voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### **REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Morin thanked both Councilor Fortunato and Councilor Forrest 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. Chairperson Morin said that Wethersfield voters opted for a change and this council is ready, willing, and able to provide it. It is this Council's intention to pursue a proactive agenda for the benefit and betterment of Wethersfield. Issues of top priority include and are not limited to the following:  
Economic development will continue to be pursued and the Council's communication with the appropriate Boards and

Commissions will be ongoing. A course will be set with the representatives of various organizations involved in the issue of the water quality of the Wethersfield Cove. On December 1 the Council will discuss the renovation and lighting of Cottone Field. This project, when completed, will serve many Wethersfield residents and youth groups. 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. Lines of communication will also remain constant with State and Federal elected officials. In closing, Chairperson Morin stated that the Council will work tirelessly so as not to disappoint the citizens of Wethersfield who have put their trust in them.

## **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Morin called for nominations.

Councilor Forrest nominated Councilor Karangekis as Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor. This was seconded by Councilor Montinieri. There were no other nominations. The Chairperson declared the nominations closed.

Councilor Karangekis was elected Vice Chairperson and Deputy Mayor by the following roll call vote:

Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Karangekis, Montinieri, and Morin voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis thanked the people of Wethersfield for their overwhelming support and vote of confidence for all nine of the Councilors. He believes that the Council must put the needs of the community into perspective and extend mutual respect to each other. This will result in many successes during the next two years.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Montinieri expressed her thanks to the many residents of Wethersfield who put her in her seat on the Council. She aspires to participate in the political process with a focus on bridging gaps and moving forward on a number of urgent issues. She thanked the Democratic Town Committee who enthusiastically supported her candidacy. She also acknowledged all the friends, neighbors, and parents across Town who came out in support of her candidacy. She looks forward to bring a new energy to the Council and to working closely with each member of the Council. The issues confronting Wethersfield must transcend party politics.

Councilor Forrest commented that during his campaigning he spoke with both Republicans and Democrats and the biggest of their concerns was that the two parties do not seem to get along well together on the Council. Councilor Forrest would like to see this end immediately. He would like to see open communication regarding the issues of Wethersfield.

Councilor Hemmann thanked her friends, family, and all supporters who reelected her to the Council. She has learned a lot in the last two years and looks forward to working hard for the next two years.

Councilor Cascio congratulated all Councilors for their places on the Council. As he begins his sixteenth year of continuous service to Wethersfield, he extended thanks to all of those around the table. His long tenure allows him to offer a unique characteristic to the Council. He thanked the Republican Town Committee for supporting him and also thanked the voters of Wethersfield for the opportunity to continue to serve his and their community. He thanked his family for supporting the countless hours he has and will continue to dedicate to the citizens of Wethersfield.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis stated that he has had the overwhelming support of his family for his thirty-eight years working for the Town and thanked them for their continued support.

Councilor Fortunato expressed a sincere thank you to the Wethersfield community for returning her to public service as a Councilor, as she had served previously on the Board of Education. She recognized the many years of experience and talent sitting on the Council. She thanked Councilor Czernicki for her service as Mayor for the past two years. Councilor Fortunato also thanked her family.

Councilor Adil thanked his family for their support. He also thanked the Democratic Town Committee and also the Councilors with whom he will serve. The Council has an obligation to the voters to work, on both sides, for the betterment of the Wethersfield community. Councilor Adil intends to work tirelessly to make Wethersfield a better place.

Councilor Czernicki thanked her family who recognizes her desire to and the importance of volunteering. The duty to the Town is before each of the nine Councilors present and each takes this duty very seriously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. in welcoming all of the new Councilors. Each is a representative of all of the citizens of Wethersfield.

Paul Camarco, 413 Church Street, congratulated the new Council on their recent election. They provide the Town with an invaluable service. He presented Chairperson Morin with a new gavel with which to preside over the Town's business. It is his hope that over the next two years, the Council works exclusively for the betterment of Wethersfield.

Rabbi Felicia Shpall 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 Guerrera, former Deputy Mayor O'Connor, and former Mayors Camilliere and Sassano for their service to the Town.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:47p.m., Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk