

Minutes of December 2, 1963
ORGANIZATION MEETING
8TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
Stamford, Connecticut

3827

SSBC

In compliance with Section 304.5 of the Charter of the City of Stamford, an Organization Meeting of the Eighth Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, was held on Monday, December 2, 1963 in the Cafeteria of Dolan Jr. High School, Toms Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by Mayor Thomas C. Mayers.

INVOCATION was given by Rabbi David W. Pearlman, Temple Beth El

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The Mayor led the members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL was taken by Mrs. Farrell, the Recording Secretary. All members were present.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS:

MAYOR MAYERS said he wished to make it very clear to the Board that he had great respect for the function which this Board performs in the City Government and for the responsibilities and powers it possesses. He said: "We are moving together into a new era of our City's government. We each have responsibility - I as the Executive - you the Legislative Body. I hope that we together can accomplish a great many things for this, our City. I hope that we together can communicate very well with each other - I to you - you to me. Together, we are working - members of this City. This has a great responsibility and I hope that you, too, will work at this responsibility.

"I pledge to you that I, on my part, will work at this job and that together, we can and will accomplish great things for our City. This morning we had our inauguration of this new group taking over the government of this City of Stamford, and some of the members of the Board of Representatives were not able to be present, so before we proceed, may I swear in those who were not able to be present this morning."

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT INAUGURATION:

At this time the Mayor administered the oath of office to the following members of the Board: Paul Rand, Chester Walajtys, Robert Durso, Vincent Caporizzo, Dominick Vivona, John Maffucci, Vito Biscaglio, Joseph Bitetto, Daniel Remling, George Connors, William Murphy, John Kane, Gerald Rybnick, Stanley Kulowiec, Edward Dombroski, Carmine Longo, William Hearing, Thomas Morris, Peter Martin, Booth Hemingway and Randolph Rogers.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY TELLERS:

The Mayor appointed two Temporary Tellers: DANIEL REMLING, JR. (R) and CARMINE V. LONGO (D).

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:

MAYOR MAYERS called for nominations for Temporary Chairman.

MR. RUSSELL presented the Name of RANDOLPH ROGERS (R) in nomination for Temporary Chairman.

Seconded by Mr. Hearing. There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared the nominations closed and asked for a motion to make the nomination unanimous.

MR. KELLY MOVED that the nomination be unanimous and requested that the Clerk cast a ballot, making this unanimous. Seconded and CARRIED by unanimous vote.

MR. ROGERS was thereupon declared the Temporary Chairman and assumed the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK:

MR. ROGERS called for nominations for Temporary Clerk.

MR. KETCHAM moved that MRS. FRANCES D. LILLIENDAHL (R) be named as Temporary Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Kane. There being no further nominations, a vote was taken and CARRIED unanimously.

MRS. LILLIENDAHL, Temporary Clerk, assumed her duties.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER:

MR. ROGERS said he would now entertain motions for the adoption of the Rules of Order.

MR. KETCHAM MOVED that the Rules of Order that governed the 7th Board of Representatives be adopted as the Rules of Order of this, the 8th Board of Representatives. Seconded by Mr. Nathanson and CARRIED unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:

MR. ROGERS said he would now entertain nominations for the election of a President of this Board.

MR. KETCHAM nominated RONALD M. SCHWARTZ (R), Representative from the 16th voting District, for President. Seconded by Mr. Mogul.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations closed. A vote was taken on the nomination of Mr. SCHWARTZ as President of the 8th Board of Representatives. CARRIED unanimously.

MR. SCHWARTZ assumed the Chair as President of the Board. (applause)

MR. SCHWARTZ addressed the members briefly and asked for their help and cooperation in the tasks that lie ahead. He thanked the members for their support.

COUNCILMAN'S PRAYER:

MR. CONNORS asked and was granted permission to read the Councilman's prayer at this time, entitled "A Councilman Takes Office", and asked that it be incorporated as a part of the Minutes. The prayer follows:

"Dear Lord, as this, the outset of a new experience in new service, cleanse my heart and mind of all knowledge, all hatred, all jealousy that might linger there as a result of my bitter campaign and my own intolerance. Let me approach my duties with an open mind and a

friendliness toward all fellow workers. Let me recognize that the service that I am now entering upon is a sacred trust, dedicated to the advancement of the greatest democracy of the world - the abiding hope of all mankind. Let me humbly recognize my own shortcomings and my own inexperience in the technical and complicated ramifications of government and let not my ego and self conceit retard me from utilizing to the fullest, knowledge and experience of those long in the public service. Let me not forget that the organization to which my fellow citizens have placed me is one that has grown and developed through the sacrifices and labors of many faithful who have gone before.

Let me recognize that my greatest contribution to the public service will not be my extravagant promises to all mankind or to the orderly process of existing things, but rather, by patience, intelligent application of the principles of thy Golden Rules.

Let me stand as a Rock of Gibraltar against the approach of evil influences and give me strength, dear Lord, to resist all temptation to corrupt practices of every kind.

Grant that I may so conduct myself that I may have confidence in my fellow workers and the respect of all those under my supervision. In my contacts with my fellow citizens, who are my employers, endow me with a little of the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the kindness of Jesus, and when my service has been called to a close, grant me that supreme satisfaction of knowing in my own heart, whatever may be the cause of my removal from the service, that I have served honestly, faithfully and well."

(Credit is hereby given for the above to the City Attorney of Culver City, California, appearing originally in the newspaper of Culver City on August 1948, being an article entitled "A Man Becomes a Councilman".)

SILENT PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY,
ASSASSINATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963:

THE PRESIDENT asked that the members observe a moment of silent prayer at this time in tribute to the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS:

MR. SCHWARTZ appointed two Tellers and two Alternate Tellers, as follows:

TELLERS

(R) Daniel Remling, Jr.
(D) Carmine V. Longo

ALTERNATE TELLERS

(R) Vito J. Biscaglio, Jr.
(D) Chester Walajtys

ELECTION OF PERMANENT CLERK:

THE President called for nominations for permanent Clerk of the Board.

MR. KETCHAM placed the name of MRS. FRANCES LILLIENDAHL (R), Representative from the 19th District, in nomination as Clerk. Seconded by several persons. (no seconder necessary)

There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed.

VOTE taken on the nomination of MRS. LILLIENDAHL for Clerk. CARRIED unanimously.

Mrs. Lilliendahl assumed her duties as Clerk. (applause)

ELECTION OF DEPUTY ACTING MAYOR:

The President asked for nominations for Deputy Acting Mayor.

MR. MAJUL nominated GEORGE E. RUSSELL(R), Representative from the 17th District, for Deputy Acting Mayor. Seconded by Mr. Kane. (No seconder needed)

MR. CONNORS MOVED the nominations be closed. CARRIED unanimously. (applause)

MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS:

The President announced the names of the MAJORITY and MINORITY Leaders, as chosen by their respective parties:

MAJORITY LEADER: Alan H. Ketcham (R) (20th District)
MINORITY LEADER: Anthony D. Truglia (D) (2nd District)

RECESS:

MR. KETCHAM said he did not like to break into the orderly business of the Board, but something has just been brought to his attention, which requires the immediate attention of this Board. He said: "As we know, the 7th Board appointed a Charter Revision Commission, which even now is in operation and considering various matters which have been referred to it. I am led to understand that there could be a legal question as to whether this Charter Revision Commission is a continuing body or whether it expired with the 7th Board. In view of the importance of this matter, regarding Urban Renewal, which is now before the Charter Revision Commission, and due to the time element involved, they will have a meeting of that Commission before our regular Board meeting next week, I believe it is necessary and incumbent upon us that, at this time, we in effect, give the blessings of this Board and reactivate the Charter Revision Commission in order that there may be no question as to its legality and no problems may crop up. Therefore, I would MOVE for SUSPENSION OF THE RULES of this Board in order to take up this important matter."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rand.

THE PRESIDENT explained that this will require a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules, this being an organization meeting and not a business meeting. (vote of 27 required)

MR. CONNORS questioned the legality of this procedure. He asked why this could not be postponed until the meeting is adjourned, and then start right in again as a special meeting.

THE PRESIDENT ruled that a motion to suspend the rules is a proper motion.

MR. SHANEN said Mr. Ketcham mentioned that there might be a legal technicality involved. He said: "Do we have anything to that effect?" He asked if this is merely an opinion.

MR. KETCHAM said this is an opinion that he has received from several legal minds - that they have not received an opinion from the Corporation Counsel. He said in this particular situation, this Board should not leave anything to chance.

MR. SHANEN said he saw no dire necessity for this action tonight and said he is not in favor of suspending the rules. He said it his belief that before the Board acts on this they should have an opinion as to whether or not there would be a legal conflict and might be the first order of business for the new Corporation Counsel.

THE PRESIDENT said he was acting on the advice of his predecessor, Mr. Shapero, President of the 7th Board, who felt that this would be advisable in order to validate the Charter Revision Commission which was appointed during his tenure. He explained that because of the time problem, the Commission is holding their public hearing and meeting tomorrow and rather than perhaps getting involved in future legal entanglements, there is no harm in this Board, in turn, re-invalidating the Commission tonight.

MR. SHERMAN said he thought this would be a rather dangerous precedent, because any future Commission might then be interpreted as expiring with the life of the Board that created it. He said he has in mind the possible creation of a Human Relations Commission by way of Ordinance of this Board, which could by action taken now, later be implied that that Commission, too, would die at the end of the present two year term of this Board. He said he thinks that this Charter Revision Commission must, of necessity, be distinguished from a Standing Committee or any other Committee of this Board, because it is a Commission of the City of Stamford, created by Ordinance and would survive any Board which may have created it.

There being no further discussion, the President asked for a vote by a show of hands.

MR. SHANEN MOVED for a ROLL CALL VOTE on suspension of the rules. LOST BY A VOTE OF 21 in favor and 18 opposed, with the President not voting as is customary. The vote was recorded as follows:

THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR

Vito Biscaglio (R)
Joseph Bitetto (R)
William Hearing (R)
Booth Hemingway (R)
Alan Ketcham (R)
Frances Lilliendahl (R)
Edwin Lindstrom (R)
John Maffucci (R)
Peter Martin (R)
Lee Mogul (R)
Thomas Morris (R)

THOSE VOTING IN OPPOSITION

Patsy Arruzza (D)
Vincent Caporizzo (D)
George Connors (D)
Edward Dombroski (D)
Robert Durso (D)
Jennie Esposito (D)
John Kane (D)
Stephen Kelly (D)
Paul Kuczo (D)
Stanley Kulowiec (D)
Carmina Longo (D)

THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR

Benjamin Nathanson (R)
 Romaine Philpot (R)
 Paul Rand (R)
 Daniel Remling (R)
 John Rich (R)
 Randolph Rogers (R)
 George Russell (R)
 William Selsberg (R)
 Michael Sherman (R)
 Michael Zezima (R)

THOSE VOTING IN OPPOSITION

John Morris (D)
 William Murphy (D)
 Gerald Rybnick (D)
 Allen Shanen (D)
 Anthony Truglia (D)
 Dominick Vivona (D)
 Chester Walajtys (D)

MR. KETCHAM MOVED for a 20 minutes recess at 8:40 P.M. Permission was given and the members recessed.

The recess was declared over and the members resumed their seats at 9:20 P.M.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

THE PRESIDENT announced the following Committee assignments:

PERSONNEL BOARD OF APPEALS AND ALTERNATES:

(Above in accordance with Sec. 204.3 of Charter, as amended by Special Act No. 281, 1957 Special Session of Legislature)

Personnel Board of Appeals:

(The President serves as member and Chairman)

(R) Ronald M. Schwartz, Chairman
 (R) Alan H. Ketcham
 (R) Benjamin R. Nathanson
 (D) Vincent G. Caporizzo
 (D) Paul J. Kuczo, Jr.

Alternates:

(R) Vito J. Biscaglio, Jr.
 (R) Michael D. Zezima, Jr.
 (D) Patey Arrussa
 (D) Dominick Vivona

THE PRESIDENT said he would like to reverse the order on one matter, which follows:

HELCO "TASK FORCE": (A Special Committee)

THE PRESIDENT said: "As you know, the 'Helco' Building, recently purchased by the City, which was passed by the 7th Board of Representatives. I understand there are provisions being made for the Board of Representatives in this building for their meetings and offices. The exact location has not yet been determined. I will appoint the following bi-partisan Committee, which I will call the 'Helco Task Force' which I think will be a fast Committee. I would like to have a report made at the next meeting, which is a week from today - this coming Monday."

The following were named as members of the above committee:

(R) Alan H. Ketcham, Chairman
 (D) Anthony D. Truglia
 (R) Edwin O. Lindstrom, Jr.
 (D) Stephen E. Kelly

THE PRESIDENT informed the members of the above committee that he would like for them to meet with Mr. Arthur Mitchell, Commissioner of Public Works, and consider various locations and a place for this Board to have a regular meeting room, with appropriate seating, etc.

STEERING COMMITTEE (15 Members)

(R) Ronald M. Schwartz, Chairman
(R) Alan H. Ketcham
(D) Anthony D. Truglia
(R) George E. Russell
(R) William G. Hearingway
(R) Lee Mogul
(R) Thomas A. Morris
(R) Benjamin R. Nathanson

(R) Randolph Rogers
(R) William Selsberg
(R) Mrs. Frances D. Lilliendahl
(R) Michael D. Zezima, Jr.
(R) Booth Hemingway
(D) Paul J. Kuczo, Jr.
(D) Stephen E. Kelly

FISCAL COMMITTEE (8 members)

(R) Randolph Rogers, Chairman
(R) George E. Russell
(R) (Mrs.) Frances D. Lilliendahl
(R) Booth Hemingway
(D) George V. Connors
(D) Robert M. Durso
(D) Gerald J. Rybnick
(R) Lee Mogul

LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE (6 members)

(R) William Selsberg, Chairman
(R) John T. D. Rich
(R) Michael S. Sherman
(R) John Maffucci
(D) John V. Kane, Jr.
(D) Stephen E. Kelly

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (5 members)

(R) Benjamin R. Nathanson, Chairman
(R) Joseph S. Bitetto
(R) Edwin O. Lindstrom, Jr.
(D) Paul J. Kuczo, Jr.
(R) Peter A. Martin

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (5 members)

(R) Romaine A. Philpot, Chairman
(R) Joseph S. Bitetto
(R) Paul D. Rand
(R) Peter A. Martin
(D) Gerald J. Rybnick

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE (5 members)

(R) George E. Russell, Chairman
(R) Randolph Rogers
(R) William Selsberg
(R) Michael D. Zezima, Jr.
(D) Carmine V. Longo

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (7 members)

(R) Thomas A. Morris, Chairman
(R) Daniel Remling, Jr.
(R) Edwin O. Lindstrom, Jr.
(R) Joseph S. Bitetto
(D) Carmine V. Longo
(D) Edward Dombroski
(D) Vincent G. Caporizzo

MR. SHANEN rose on a POINT OF ORDER.

THE PRESIDENT asked him to state his point of order.

MR. SHANEN said he objects to the appointments being made to the various committees. He said he considers it to be a subterfuge and a break and lack of good faith on the part of the Administration. He said he listened to the Mayor this morning when he delivered his inaugural address and also again this evening when he presided over the first meeting of this Board. He said he was very much impressed and considered him to be a dedicated servant in government and that he believed every word that he stated - that he will attempt, with the cooperation of both the Republicans

and Democrats on this Board to run an orderly government for the next two years. He said he would like to go on record that he feels that there has been a lack and a break of good faith by the President of this Board in that certain names have been read as being appointed to various committees which were not submitted by the Minority Leader. He said: "I would like an explanation."

THE PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Shanen for his remarks and continued with the reading of the appointments.

HEALTH & PROTECTION COMMITTEE (5 members)

(R) William G. Hearing, Chairman
(R) Daniel Remling, Jr.
(R) Thomas A. Morris
(R) Benjamin R. Nathanson
(D) (Mrs.) Jennie M. Esposito

MR. SHANEN continued with his remarks at this point. He said: "I would like an answer to the question that I just asked."

THE PRESIDENT asked him to state his point of order. He said if he has nothing further to say that he may sit down.

MR. SHANEN: "Yes, I did. I asked for an explanation. It is courtesy and procedural that Minority Leaders submit a list of names to the President of the Board and I've never heard where a President and a majority can alter and change - can eradicate names that are submitted by a Minority Leader. Now, I want to know what rules you are quoting to do this. The rules specifically state that the names submitted by the Minority Leader will be honored and unless there is something contrary, you are interpreting the rules to suit your own self interest and I'd like an explanation."

THE PRESIDENT read from the Rules of Order:

"Committees shall be composed of members of major political parties in substantially the ratio in which such parties are represented on the Board."

MR. SHANEN: "Where do the rules state that the President of the Board has the right to alter....."

THE PRESIDENT declared Mr. Shanen out of order.

MR. SHANEN: "Then I rise on a point of personal privilege."

THE PRESIDENT said: "Mr. Shanen, I am answering your question. You're out of order. You must be recognized by the Chair. In response to the question raised the Chairman and President of this Board appoints; as a matter of courtesy he will consult with the Minority and Majority Leaders and as of one hour ago, there was no Minority Leader. We were informed approximately one hour ago, when several names were thrust upon us. In good conscience and in good faith, we have attempted to make a representation of members of the Democratic Party. I have allowed the speaker to continue, but he was out of order as far as the Chair was concerned, and I think we will continue with the business which is before us."

MR. SHANEN asked to be recognized on a point of personal privilege.

The President informed Mr. Shanen that Mr. Truglia has the floor. Mr. Truglia said he would yield the floor to Mr. Shanen.

MR. SHANEN said he would like to inform those present that the Minority Leader, Mr. Truglia, has submitted a list of names to the President of the Board and obviously the Republicans are in the majority. He said the President has seen fit, either by advice and counsel or by himself, to change and to alter the names that the Minority Leader has submitted for consideration as committee assignments.

MR. KETCHAM said he has no desire to carry on this argument, but would just like to ask Mr. Shanen if he will please refresh his memory and his conscience and reconsider some of the statements he has made here tonight.

MR. TRUGLIA said he heard the President state that up until an hour ago he did not know whether or not a Minority Leader had been appointed. He said he would like him to know that up until an hour ago there was no need for him to know just who the Minority Leader was to be. He said he objected because they had not been asked whether or not they had names selected for appointment to certain committees. He said it was within their domain to approach the President and ask him if he would include their suggested names for appointment to various committees, but apparently the President did not wait for this.

THE PRESIDENT continued with the naming of the various committees at this point.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE (7 members)

- (D) Stephen E. Kelly, Chairman
- (R) Michael D. Zezima, Jr.
- (R) Joseph S. Bitetto
- (R) Paul D. Rand
- (D) (Mrs.) Jennie M. Esposito
- (D) Edward Dombroski
- (D) Stanley F. Kulowiec

EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
(5 members)

- (D) Paul J. Kuczo, Jr., Chairman
- (R) Romaine A. Philpot
- (R) Vito J. Biscaglio, Jr.
- (R) Booth Hemingway
- (D) Allen J. Shanen

URBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE (A Special Committee)

- (R) John T. D. Rich, Chairman
- (R) Michael S. Sherman
- (R) William G. Hearing
- (R) Lee Mogul
- (R) Romaine A. Philpot
- (R) Booth Hemingway
- (D) Carmine V. Longo
- (D) (Mrs.) Jennie M. Esposito
- (D) John J. Morris, Jr.
- (D) William D. Murphy

MR. SHANEN rose on a point of order. The President asked him to state his point of order.

MR. SHANEN said: "May I ask the President what was the rule of thumb, as the expression goes, that he used in determining the ratio of these committees? On

soma of the committees I noticed that it was 4 to one and 5 to 2 and it seems to me that there is a little inconsistency here with the ratio or formula that you used to determine this ratio."

THE PRESIDENT replied that no formula was used.

MR. TRUGLIA said it would appear that "we are nearly being annihilated and I would think that you would try to have the minority have some bracing of participation, at least through the committees, and I do not feel that this is a good thing and consider it to be a great injustice.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

THE PRESIDENT reminded the members that there will be a Steering Committee meeting immediately following adjournment tonight and that there is a regular Board meeting next Monday night, December 9th in the Cafeteria of Dolan Jr. High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion, duly seconded and CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

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Velma Farrell

Velma Farrell
Administrative Assistant
(Recording Secretary)

APPROVED:

Ronald M. Schwartz
Ronald M. Schwartz, President
Board of Representatives

Note: The above meeting was broadcast
over Radio Station WSTC.

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