

MINUTES FROM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
CITY OF NORTH CANTON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

1. Call to Order

**MAYOR HELD:** I'd like to call to order the meeting it is now 5:40 and we'll make sure that everybody turns off their cellphones here. This is the organizational meeting and it's at every... at the beginning of every term in the City of North Canton by charter we're required to have an organizational meeting. And at the organizational meeting what we do is we will elect the president of council so I'm just sitting in temporarily here and then I will assume my position over there and then the council president that is elected will take this position and then we will have the election of the vice president. We also and during this time we like to take advantage of this because we open up with a prayer and today we have Pastor Marshall from Mission View Church here in North Canton. And he's going to be doing the opening prayer. And then we've also asked as a special guest we have Judge Werren who's going to be swearing all the elected officials into office this year. And he's also going to give us a message on public service. And it's just been a long standing tradition here in North Canton that we ask a judge to come in and swear all of us in and to give us a message on public service. And... so what we'll do is we'll proceed and Pastor if you wouldn't mind coming up to the front.

2. Opening Prayer – Pastor Steve Marshall, Mission View Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

(Everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.)

**MAYOR HELD:** Okay, and Pastor thank you for that nice prayer. I had an opportunity to meet Pastor Steve a number of years when you first came to North Canton and started the church and you're still at the at the Hoover High School. And so what's nice about that is they like to keep their expenses under control and they work really hard to serve the people in the community. And I know that first hand because there's been on two occasions where he has called me and wanted to meet simply to pray for the community and for everybody in the city. And nothing else. And that was very nice. We certainly appreciate the work that you do here. And we'd also like to do now this is really this is the first time we've ever had a judge that is swearing in the elected officials where his wife is the one being sworn in. And Stephanie Werren ran for city council in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward and at that same time while having triplets well not that you just had the triplets this year but...

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** 17 years.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, they're 17 years they have a set of triplets' 17 year old triplets. And her husband Judge Werren was also running for the Canton Municipal Court. So I just know what it's like to have one election going on in my household with kids; so I can only imagine what it would be like with two elections and kids. But the great news is they both came out, they both won their races, very successful races. And so this is going to be real special time here. So we thought it would be perfect to introduce Judge Werren. Judge has a long standing history of public service and now he is going to be our municipal court judge and what we'd like you to do Judge Werren if you wouldn't mind coming up and just sharing your thoughts about public service. And then after that if you'd be able to give all of us the oath of office.

4. Oath of Office: Honorable Curt Werren, Judge of Canton Municipal Court

**JUDGE WERREN:** Thank you, you're going to put the pressure on me, Mayor. I should have turned you down the moment someone said "would you do this?" Because you don't understand the pressure that married to someone who's on a public official or public servant. That's hard enough. You know what it's like to run for office when a family member is running and the helpful hints you may provide to them. But just try and stand up in front of your significant other and try to present something where you know for the next month you're going to hear about your failings. Political opponents have nothing on your spouse. When it comes to creative and adventitiously change necessary in your life. Forgive me for not wearing a robe as a judge but I wanted to look presentable to you and on the municipal court as the chief will tell you we're extremely busy handling your business and the business of the community. And I know mayor you wanted me to say a few things and I don't know what I can say what I typically talk to people about you know you make mistakes, you fall down, we get back up, we move forward lets correct those mistakes. And some others need a little more tough talking to than that and sometimes we back it up with a little bit of punishment or a lot of punishment. Depending on the case. But none of you have fallen down that I know of and that need corrective action. So now I thought well what can I talk to you about public service. So that allowed me to think about the campaign and during the campaign for some reason I paid attention to your campaigns this year. And I got to learn a little bit about you. And here I am trying to talk to you about positive things. But here's what I learned about you, you're all failures. You have been criticized every step you've taken. Every time you've reached out in this community you've suffered criticism. You have suffered enemies and you have suffered failures. So what am I going to say to you because of anything those three things tell us you are the greatest of public servants. You have been willing to stand on that edge and stand in front of the crowd and take on enemies, critics and failure. And now you stand tall being prepared to take the oath of office. Because that's truly what it means. You're not the cold and timid that Teddy Roosevelt talked about. Those cold and timid that didn't know defeat or victory. Because those cold and timid stood on the sidelines and encouraged others and stood on the sidelines criticized from behind and stood on the sidelines and said "isn't this a terrible place and aren't you terrible people?" And Teddy talked about them as cold and timid and he lamented their lives without victory or defeat. And you, you have chosen a different path. Yet you're not without criticism in choosing that path. It's nothing new I supposed to public service that famous philosopher from 1,000's of years ago I think his name was Aristotle he had said something about criticism. He had keen insight he can instruct everyone; you want to avoid criticism he had the perfect

answer avoid criticism “say nothing, do nothing, be nothing”. That is not you. And we all applaud you we’re here, your family, your friends, your community. We applaud you because you have chosen not to be nothing. Yet when you want to be something you do attract enemies. I saw that again during this campaign. That’s the nature of politics I guess. But again I come here to tell you about your failings so you can celebrate them. As Winston Churchill said “let’s celebrate those with enemies”. He talked about enemies be glad to have enemies because that means you have done something, something. And isn’t that the aim of public service? Something. You’ll be criticized but you stand up and you say “I’m driving this community forward”. You’ll have enemies that will stand in cold and timid relationship with you and say “we don’t want you, we want you gone, we want something else”. And you will move forward because you have that different calling. You seek accomplishment. And it’s that seeking of accomplishment where you will fall down and you will fail. Because you can’t have accomplishment without failure. It means trying, it means pushing forward. It means standing on that ledge and saying “I am here let’s try, let’s go, let’s move forward”. You’ve chosen that path we salute you for that path and it’s just all I can talk to you about is how difficult it can be. And how you must stop and celebrate what it is. Public service every politician has answer for public service and usually it comes off in self-serving. “Oh what a great person I am, how wonderful I am”. It’s been rare for me to talk to any of you and hear about your own accomplishments and your own person. You truly do talk about the city you talk about what’s happening in the greater community and in our world. But you talk about what differences you chose to make. Where you want to go, where you want to lead the people. Not about your own reward and not about woe is me who suffers these criticisms and these failures and the enemies. And that is the mark of true leadership and true public service. Those who take this task of saying “what will I leave behind”? “Will I stand up and try and accomplish for the good of my community or will I accomplish for myself”? “Will I come forward and put my family out there”? To what end? And I think you all answered that question by saying the end is what I will leave behind. That this is not a path for me, myself but its path where I can stand and shake my neighbors hand and say “how can we make our community better”? How do we make our lives better? And how do we make the lives of our children better? So while you suffer and your children suffer these political ins and outs and trust me we’ve spent many a night dealing with how do we talk to our kids about criticisms that their parents endure. And the writings that people will put out and the things they’ll say. You always want to be hero to your children. And to have someone else say you’re not it’s extremely different to endure. So I ask you when you endure those difficulties to make it worth the while. Make it work North Canton’s while and make it worth yours. So your children show the community that there is positive aspects of this service. That you will make a difference. For when your life is over what will they look back upon? When your children and your children’s children reflect on who you were it will be this time; it will be the quiet moments that they remember. It won’t be the glories you get while serving. It will be the accomplishments that are left behind. That to me is truly public service. And I wish I hope that becomes the aim for all of you. I hope that when we see more from you that we can be glad that you have enemies, criticisms and failings. Only those with true courage can say that they have those three things. I applaud you your courage, I applaud your community service. It’s my pleasure to be with you. I brought my oath of office I hope I do this right for Stephanie. I hope I read her speech right. It was hard getting it all dictated while I’m driving down the road. But I do speak for all of us who support you, we’re your family members, we love what you do, we’re glad to have you. Now we’re all going to say the oath, mayor I believe you’re going to do that on your own. Because mayor’s different than councilperson even though it’s the same oath it seems more fun to have the mayor do it differently. So what we’re going to do is you’re going to say I and then your name we’ll start that part individually.

(At this time each member of council recited the oath of office followed by the mayor)

**MAYOR HELD:** Judge, I very much appreciate the speech it was an excellent speech. Very, very good. And you speak with experience on that. Because going through campaigns, public service, you’ve been through a lot, your wife has been through a lot. But the good thing is is that you came out on top. And when people have a desire to serve others and do it as right you know we like to believe that truth come out on top. And that’s what happened here. And I also very much appreciate the fact that when you did the oath of office that you broke it down into short segments. Because when I first became mayor I had it was Judge O’Donnell who is a Supreme Court Justice and he was an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher back when I was in elementary. So I thought it would be really you know a nice idea to have him swear me in and the rest of council. The only problem was that he has it you know down pat so quickly that he just went right through the words and I know I didn’t cover every one of them. So I didn’t know if I was legal the first term and so I’ve been very self-conscious of that. And thank you for breaking that down. It turned out very well.

**JUDGE WERREN:** We do weddings too so...

## 5. Election of President of Council

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, we got to make sure that we get the weddings right. Alright, well what we’ll do we’ll move onto the next item on the agenda and it’s going to be the election of the President of Council. And at this time I will accept nominations for President of Council.

**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** I nominate Jeff Peters to be President of Council.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** I second.

**MAYOR HELD:** Could we have a motion and a second... now this is where I have to read the instructions because I’m not used to doing this council presidency the roll here. So we have a motion and a second and now I can take a roll call or do we have anymore do we have any other nominations? No other nominations? Alright, do I have a motion to close nominations?

**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** Motion to close nominations.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Second.

**MAYOR HELD:** Motion and second, alright all nominations are closed and next we'll take a roll call vote for Jeff Peters as Council President.

Roll call vote of 7 yes to elect Councilman Peters as President of Council.

**MAYOR HELD:** Okay, perfect.

(At this time everyone in attendance applauded Council President Peters).

6. Election of Vice President of Council

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thanks, guys. I appreciate the support and the confidence. Alright, at this time I will accept nominations for Vice President of Council.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** I nominate Doug Foltz.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETTA:** Second.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay, we have a motion and a second are there any other nominations? Alright, seeing none I'll accept a motion and a second to close nominations.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Motion.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** Second.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay, can I have a roll call vote for Mr. Doug Foltz for Vice President of Council?

Roll call vote of 7 yes to elect Councilman Foltz as Vice President of Council.

(At this time everyone in attendance applauded Council Vice President Foltz).

7. Adjourn

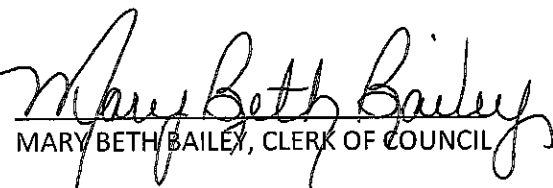
**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay and as this concludes our agenda for tonight I will entertain a motion and a second to adjourn.

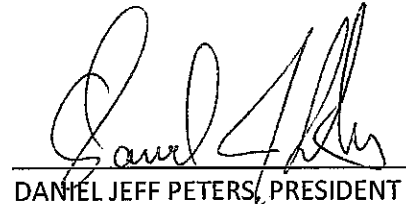
**COUNCILMAN CERRETTA:** So moved.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** Second.

Roll call vote of 7 yes to adjourn.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** We are adjourned.

  
MARY BETH BAILEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
DANIEL JEFF PETERS, PRESIDENT