

MINUTES FROM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
CITY OF NORTH CANTON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

1. Call to Order

MAYOR HELD: Alright, I'll call to order the meeting. Here the Organizational Meeting for the date of December 2, 2017, it's at 6:00 p.m. It's just a little bit passed 6:00 p.m. right now. And so we'll call the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. today. Alright, the first item that we on the agenda, we do have the opening prayer, we have Pastor Emil. And Pastor Emil is from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and he just started serving there in the church this year.

2. Opening Prayer – Pastor Emil Gretarsson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

(Everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.)

MAYOR HELD: Okay, all right, I'd like to thank everyone for coming here today. Every year at the beginning of each term, according to the City's Charter. We open up the beginning of the first term, which is either December 1, 2, or 3, that we hold an Organizational Meeting. And the Organizational Meeting is chaired initially by the Mayor, and this gives the Council the opportunity to vote for a Council President, and also a Council Vice President. And so that's why we're gathered here today. This really, I think is, this is a really, really important Organizational Meeting. And I think by the people that we're swearing in, really represents the quality and the experience of the individuals that we have here leading our community. Everybody that's up serving, I can tell you for certain they're not doing it for the money. There is a small amount that you get serving as an elected official. But the responsibility, the work, the time, the effort that's put into serving the community is certainly done, because they feel that they can make a difference in the lives of the people that live and work in the City of North Canton. And anybody that steps up to run for elective office, they're putting their name out there to community. In a lot of cases, there's, some of us have won, some of us have lost. But everybody's that serving up here today has won this time. And what we've won is the opportunity to serve the people of our community. And so, I'd like to start off with just introducing each one of our new Councilmembers. We have Jeff Peters. And Jeff starting serving back in 2002, so Jeff is actually, this will be his eighth term. So to be elected by your, the people in your community, eight times, really demonstrates the level of support and commitment, the level of support that he has, but also the commitment that he gives to the community. And then we have Doug Foltz. Doug has been the longest serving Councilmember, as far as consecutive years. And Doug is right here to my left. And Doug, you are now on your, this will be your 12th term, and 24 years. This will be his 22nd, and at the end of the term will be his 24 years. So, that's a lot of experience. So whenever we have a question about, you know, past decisions, Doug is always available to make sure that we are following the practices that have been set forth in previous years. Then we have next to Doug, we have Mark Cerreta. And Mark was appointed back in 2011, by the City Council at that time. And then he ran in 2013, ran in 2015, and then again in 2017. So, this will be your fourth term. And Mark is also a lifelong resident in North Canton. And then we have Marcia Kiesling. And Marcia, this is your eighth term. So Marcia has been serving the community for a long time. Also served as the appointed official, I had actually appointed her my first term as Mayor, to serve on the Stark County Health Department, as a representative. That's because she's a nurse practitioner now. And then we have Stephanie Werren. Stephanie, this is your third term. In your third consecutive term, and Stephanie is also married to Judge Werren. So, Judge Werren serves at the Canton City Court, and so they're like the dynamic duo when it comes to public service. I mean both, both, her and her husband serve the public, which is very nice. But he's not here with this today because he is at the... .

COUNCILWOMAN WERREN: Ohio State game.

MAYOR HELD: Ohio State game, that's right. So that's a good excuse to miss. Ohio State/Michigan. And then Dominic, Dominic Fonte was appointed initially by this Council. And we're really glad that you decided to put your name in the hat and run. Because Dominic's always been about communication. And I think, well, I know that he definitely has the most YouTube clips available, as far as what's happening in the City. So, I actually use that as a resource. As far as, if I miss any information or gaps, Dominic has it recorded on the YouTube Channel, which is nice. And then Daryl Revoldt. Daryl has been serving here a total, he started back in 1981 as a City Councilmember. And he served 11 terms, and also 3 terms as Mayor, and there was a few gaps in there, because he went down to serve with the governor. And served in the Economic Development Committee with the State. And just served in a number of different positions over the years. But Daryl's been a wealth of information, and he's been a mentor to me for a number of years. Actually when I first started, and has been very helpful. But what I would say is, that we just have great people here that are serving, and very thankful that we have people, men and women like this that are willing to serve the community. And then also, I would have to say we have Tim Fox, who's to the right of me, he is our Law Director. Tim served as a North Canton City Councilmen prior to Stephanie Werren. And then we appointed him as the Law Director, and he's been doing an excellent job as the Law Director here for the City of North Canton. And then we also have Mike Grimes. And Mike is right there down there at the end. And Mike has I think, well it's going to be 40 years' service, just short of 40 years. So, he'll be retiring as the City Administrator, but prior to that he served as a Police Officer for the City, and then 11 years as the Police Chief. And then after he retired, I asked him to come back and serve as the City Administrator. And he's done, I asked him to do it, and he said he would do it for one term, which was two years. And it turned into seven years. So, I'll ask again, Mike, if you want to come back? No, he already put it in writing, so, I think 40 years is really an incredible amount of time. And then the next item that we have here, is I'd like to introduce a very special guest here today. And that is right down at the end of the dais here, Judge Earle Wise. Judge Wise actually started serving, well, served at the Board of Elections, and then served as a County Prosecutor. And after I was elected as Mayor in 2005, I had asked Earle if he would serve as the City Administrator. He served the City for a number of years, and then recently ran for the Court of Appeals. And he won. So, now he serves on the Court of Appeals, here in Stark County, and then also how many other counties do you serve, Judge?

JUDGE WISE, JR: Fourteen other counties.

MAYOR HELD: Fourteen other counties, and that's really most impressive. Especially when you're running for that seat, and have to put up all those yard signs out there in 14 different counties. That is a big, big area. And the Judge, actually when he was sworn in as the City Administrator, it was his father, who has since passed away. But his father also served as a Judge. And that was the Court of Appeals, the same seat. And how many years did he serve on that position?

JUDGE WISE, JR: He was there, he was elected once, and then didn't run again. He served six years.

MAYOR HELD: Okay, so you see that there's the tradition of excellence that we always talk about here in the City of North Canton. You know, you see that we have a lot of people here that are committed to not only serving an elected office, but also appointed office. And then in the back I would also like to recognize Patrick DeOrio. And Patrick began serving as a City Councilman back in 2005, and that's when I first began serving as Mayor. And served there until 2011, he left and went down and worked as the Chief Financial Officer for the Clerk of Courts, down in Canton. And then I asked him if he would come back and serve as the Director of Administrative Services. Because we had a pretty good hunch that Mike Grimes is going to be retiring, and Patrick agreed to take on that position. And now that Mike's retiring, Patrick will take on the position as the City Administrator here, in the coming weeks. So, with that, what I'd like to do is turn this over now to Judge Wise. And if you would say, if you would like to address the audience and the elected officials, and then we'll move ahead with the swearing in. And when we do that, we will, we'll just have all the elected officials together to stand as they're sworn in.

4. Oath of Office: Honorable Earle E. Wise, Jr., Judge of the Fifth District Court of Appeals

JUDGE WISE, JR: Thank you, Mayor. I did not have tickets to the Ohio State game. Well, congratulations Councilmembers and Mayor Held. All of you've served in these positions before. And I've had the pleasure to serve with most of you. And those that I have not served with, I know all the rest of you. And in my opinion, the City is very fortunate to have such experienced and dedicated Councilmembers to take office here in just a few short moments. While none of you are new to public service, your election and the renewal of the oath, I think is always a good time to pause for a moment and reflect upon that public service. Your duty as elected officials, you're duly elected officials of the City of North Canton. And that provides you with three things. The opportunity to serve, the privilege to serve, and the responsibility to serve. The opportunity to serve, you know, it boils down to the election. You put your name on the ballot, you run, you work hard, and if you're fortunate, you get elected. That gives you the opportunity to take part in our great American experiment, which is the government. Next, well that's important, I don't think as important as maybe the other two. The privilege to serve. Privilege, it's an unusual word, and I don't think it's always used correctly. It's a grant of authority. It's a right conferred as a peculiar benefit, advantage or favor. Now many times, I think we focus on favor, and we don't focus on it in the correct term. Many times you'll hear in every day speech, someone will thank you for something. "Oh it was my privilege to do it." You're almost using it as a "you're welcome." Or here's my gratitude towards you for saying "Thank you." That's not what we're talking about here. It's not an acknowledgment of gratitude, it's the authority flowing to the elected officials, from the people. To act for the people. Your privilege is not doing a favor for the people of the City of North Canton. It's the City of North Canton conferring a limited contract. Limited in time certainly, to act on their behalf. Responsibility to serve. Look up responsibility. It has a lot of terms. A lot of definitions. Moral, legal or mental accountability, reliability, trustworthiness, burden, liability. Important, serious words. It also says, at least in the dictionary I looked at, politically answerable. This is how the elected officials fulfill that grant of privilege. This is what flows from the elected officials to the people. They take their duties, and they fulfill them in the best interest of the community. You'll hear many different competing issues, opinions. And their job is to use their experience and work together and fill that responsibility for the best interest of the people. Now, those three things, opportunity, privilege and responsibility. I've written down another word, in fact, there's a second word I put in parenthesis. And I think this context it means pretty much the same word, or the same thing. That first word is humility. And the word I have in parenthesis is courage. You are smart people. You're dedicated, you're experienced. You all have the best interest in the City, at heart. Well, it should be easy then, right? There's no questions, there's no problems, and everybody knows what's best. Well, with all due respect, you're not always right. Or you don't always have the answers, or the best answers. And how do we deal with that? You listen to your constituents. And I suggest you listen to the ones that you don't agree with even more carefully, than the ones that you agree with. You take that extra step, and you try to expand your view, on what things might be. Listen to your colleagues. I think it's good on occasion to always question yourself. I have a belief on this, is that right? Have the humility, insert courage as well, to do that. Examine your beliefs. Examine your assumptions. And have the humility, courage, to question them. Or listen to those that you don't agree with. Admit when you're wrong. And maybe even harder, admit when you're unsure. We live in a culture, in my opinion, where everybody has to know everything. Everybody has to have an opinion on each question. They have to be right, and they have to be sure of it. Well, no one is sure of everything, no one has all the answers. Have the humility and the courage to admit that. Now, it's a group effort. We're stronger when we air our differences, and then work together. I don't intent my remarks to be a lecture to the Councilmembers, or critical of the Councilmembers. Like I said, I know them all. And I'm preaching to the choir. Any one of them could stand up here and give the speech I've given. But I think it's important to occasionally say it out loud, to remind ourselves of those things, and also to assure the community "Hey, we get it, we're trying, and we're doing the best we can." "We have your best interest at heart." Again, I'm preaching to the choir. I know them, I've worked with them. In my opinion, the City of North Canton has been, and will be very well served by these members who are about to be sworn in. I salute your willingness to serve, to accept this privilege, and to handle those responsibilities. And I truly appreciate you granting me the privilege to swear you in. Thank you very much. We will, I believe everyone at one. Is how we're going to do this? Very good. So, if everyone would stand and raise your right hand, you probably have this in front of you, but I'll break it up. I remember when I was sworn in, my dad sworn me and he read about half of the thing, and I'm standing there... .

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

JUDGE WISE, JR: Congratulations.

MAYOR HELD: Okay, thank you, Judge. It really was truly an honor to have Judge Earle Wise back to the City here, to swear us in. You know, because again, today is an important day. We really try to find an individual that, a judge that really represents the City of North Canton. And after serving as the City Administrator, and really knowing most everybody up here, and working with them for a number of years. We really appreciate you coming out, and that was an excellent, excellent presentation.

JUDGE WISE, JR: Thank you, Mayor.

5. Election of President of Council

MAYOR HELD: Now, the next items that we have on the agenda, is to have the election of the President of Council. Now the way that we work here in the City. Is that all the legislation or all of the laws that are passed here in the City, they could be initiated by the Mayor's office, the Administration, or they could be initiated by the City Council. And once that legislation, it goes through the Law Director, and the Clerk of Council, Mary Beth, they present that to the City Council. And then the City Council will read it, and they'll decide what changes they want to make to it. And in some cases, they will have it run through their committee and they'll put it for a full vote to the City Council. And in some cases, that legislation does not pass, or in some cases it just doesn't move forward, or in other cases, it is approved. And so in order to keep order with the City Council, the Council, now that they're elected by the people in the City of North Canton, the Council will elect a Council President. And the Council President serves as the leader for the Council. Because obviously when we're running meetings you have to have somebody run the meeting, and also manages the communication between the Law Director, the Clerk of Council, the Mayor, the Administrator, the various department heads, the various committee members. And so at this next point, this very important point, we will elect the President of Council. So, I would ask for nominations for the President of Council. And that would require a motion and a second.

COUNCILMAN FOLTZ: I motion to nominate Jeff Peters for President of Council.

COUNCILWOMAN WERREN: I second.

MAYOR HELD: Okay, we have a motion by Doug Foltz, and we have a second by Stephanie, Stephanie Werren.

COUNCILMAN REVOLDT: I move we close the nominations.

COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING: Second.

MAYOR HELD: Okay, and we have a motion to close the nominations, and a second. And so we will not accept any more nominations for Council President. So we have a motion on the floor to elect Jeff Peters as the Council President. And clerk if I could have a roll call vote please?

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

MAYOR HELD: Okay, very good. Congratulations Jeff.

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

MAYOR HELD: And now Jeff will take on, and he manage the rest of the Council meeting. And he'll be electing the Vice President of Council.

6. Election of Vice President of Council

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS: Thank you, Mayor. All right, thank you very much. I, thank you for your confidence in leadership. I'll continue to earn it, I hope. All right, at this time I'll entertain a motion and a second to accept to nominations for Vice President of Council.

COUNCILMAN CERRETA: I motion to elect Doug Foltz.

COUNCILMAN FONTE: I second that.

COUNCILMAN REVOLDT: I move we close the nominations.

COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING: Second.

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

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

7. Adjourn

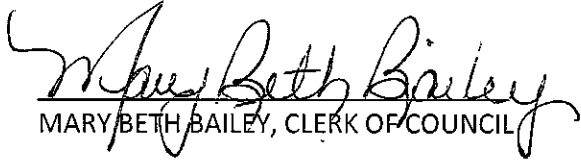
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS: All right, as this concludes our agenda, I'll entertain a motion and a second to adjourn.

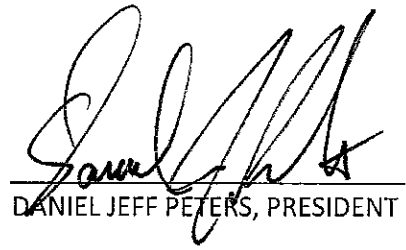
COUNCILWOMAN WERREN: So moved.

COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING: 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