

* * * DELIBERATIVE AGENDA * * *

RECESSED ORGANIZATION DAY MEETING, CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013

CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL

5:35 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilors Bushor, Worden, Knodell, Tracy, Brennan, Siegel, Aubin, Hartnett, Mason, Shannon, Blais, Paul, Ayres and Decelles

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: Eileen Blackwood

CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE: Paul Sisson, Scott Schrader and Lori Olberg

INTERIM CAO SISSON PRESIDING:

1. AGENDA

On a motion by Councilors Decelles and Hartnett the agenda was adopted as is.

2. ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilor Hartnett nominated Councilor Shannon.

Councilor Bushor nominated Councilor Paul.

Councilor Bushor stated she chose the words "involved" and "invested" in the community to refer to Councilor Paul. Her involvement in a number of non-profits and with the Council spoke to the qualities and skills she would bring if she were elected President. She hoped that the Council would support Councilor Paul.

Councilor Shannon received 7 votes from Councilors Blais, Hartnett, Shannon, Aubin, Worden, Ayres and Mason.

Councilor Paul received 7 votes from Councilors Decelles, Paul, Knodell, Bushor, Brennan, Siegel and Tracy.

Interim CAO Sisson conducted a second vote.

Councilor Shannon received 7 votes from Councilors Blais, Hartnett, Shannon, Aubin, Worden, Ayres and Mason.

Councilor Paul received 7 votes from Councilors Decelles, Paul, Knodell, Bushor, Brennan, Siegel and Tracy.

Councilors Decelles and Worden made a motion to recess the meeting for five minutes at 5:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Councilor Blais stated working with Councilor Paul has been pleasurable and educational. Through her work, she has put the interests of the City before her personal desires.

Councilor Paul stated that the Council has been deadlocked in their decision for Council President, which is not in the best interests of the City. They must place the City's interests above all else. Sometimes, one person must step aside to protect that interest. She withdrew her name from consideration for Council President. She stated that she was blessed and fortunate to have grown up in Burlington and thanked her family for their support. She thanked the Councilors who supported her. She looked forward to working for her constituents to advance the issues of financial stability, pension reform, transportation and neighborhood quality of life.

Councilor Hartnett requested that they explain the deal the Council had come to so that it was transparent. Councilor Shannon stated these challenges were painful because everyone was dedicated to the City. She appreciated the withdrawal to allow the City to move forward and to prevent the Council from remaining at a stalemate. There had been discussion over the past week about the challenges of a 7-7 vote for City Council President. They have agreed that if there is a stalemate next year, the Democrats will step down to work with the other side to select a non-democrat City Council President. When appointing Committees, they will work towards parity, which should be reflected in Committee assignments. She appreciated the spirit of compromise on the City Council. She thanked the City Council for the privilege of continuing to serve as City Council President for the next year.

Councilor Knodell stated that there were two outstanding candidates for City Council President which had added to the difficulty of choosing one. The City Council put each candidate through the paces. Each candidate met with Council members multiple times. The compromise was very fair. She was a proud supporter of Councilor Paul but it was time to let the business of the City move forward.

Councilor Shannon was unanimously elected City Council President.

City Council President Shannon thanked everyone for their support.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD OF FINANCE MEMBERS

Councilor Tracy nominated Councilors Decelles, Knodell and Bushor to the Board of Finance.

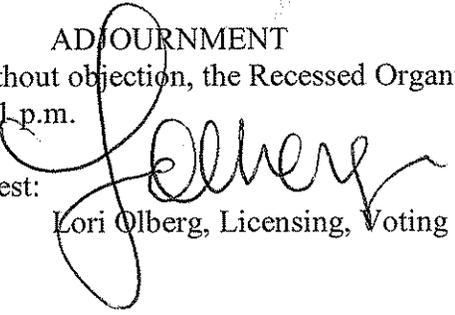
Councilor Hartnett stated that they discussed membership of the Board of Finance. Councilor Decelles' name came up as the lone Republican on the Council. He felt it was very important to have that voice on the Board of Finance and was glad that there were other Democratic Councilors who agreed. He hoped that the message was that they are all willing to put party politics aside and work for what is best for Burlington.

The Board of Finance Members were elected unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Recessed Organization Day Meeting of the City Council unanimously adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Attest:

 
Lori Olberg, Licensing, Voting & Records Coordinator and Amy Bovee, Executive Secretary