

MINUTES SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
(For Organizational Purposes)
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 3, 2012 (Tuesday)

President of Council Doug Joseph called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new Council members Scott A. Barrett and Cornelius McGrady III to the Council table.

Members of Council present: Scott A. Barrett, Leslie Kelly, Cornelius McGrady III, Mel Clemens, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Nathan Burd.

Mr. Joseph: Item 3 is Motions; we have three Motions tonight...

Mrs. Kelly: Mr. President?

Mr. Joseph: Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: Before we get started, I would like to ask if we could vote on Finance separately? Because I would like to amend the recommendation. I don't know if we need a second on that.

Mr. Joseph: When we get to 3a, I'll recognize you for discussion on that.

Mrs. Kelly: Fabulous; thank you.

Mr. Joseph asked the Clerk to read Item 3a.

Clerk read Motion: That Nancy C. Frazier is hereby appointed to serve as Clerk of Council for the period beginning January 3, 2012 and ending with the Council organizational meeting to be held in January 2014.- -Mr. Barrett moved adoption of the Motion; Mrs. Kelly seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Barrett "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. McGrady "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea". Motion passed. Mrs. Frazier said thank you.

Mr. Joseph asked the Clerk to read Item 3b.

Clerk read Motion: That Nathan Burd is hereby appointed to serve as President Pro Tempore of Council for the period beginning January 3, 2012 and ending with the Council organizational meeting to be held in January 2013.- -Mr. McGrady moved adoption of the Motion; Mr. Clemens seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Barrett "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. McGrady "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea". Motion passed. Mr. Burd said thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Next is Item 3c.

Mrs. Kelly: Mr. President, I asked if we could, I'd like to make a motion that we vote on Finance separately, as I'd like to recommend, amend the recommendation.

Mr. Joseph: I need to have the Clerk first read the Item.

Mrs. Kelly: Oh, okay.

Mr. Joseph: Would you please read Item 3c, please.

Clerk read Motion: That the following committee membership, as recommended by the President of Council, is hereby approved to serve for the period beginning January 3, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012: Community Development Committee: Temporary Chairwoman Leslie Kelly, Scott Barrett, Nathan Burd, Cornelius McGrady III; Safety Committee: Temporary Chairman Mel Clemens, Cornelius McGrady III, Nathan Burd, Scott Barrett; Service Committee: Temporary Chairman Barth R. Cotner, Scott Barrett, Leslie Kelly, Cornelius McGrady III; Finance Committee: Temporary Chairman Chris Long, Nathan Burd, Barth R. Cotner, Mel Clemens.

Mr. Joseph: I want to make a few comments before we proceed on this item. On November 18th I sent an email to all the returning and new members of Council, with the exception of Mr. Clemens, since he doesn't have email, asking everyone to let me know what committees and/or chairmanships they had an interest in for 2012. And I did receive a response back from most members of Council, with exception of Councilwoman Kelly, indicating what their interests were. And I was in a situation where we basically had five returning Council members, experienced members, and we had four chairmanships that we could have Council decide on to lead for 2012. So it was a little bit of a difficult situation to try to figure out who was going to, who I was going to recommend for what, and I spent a lot of time thinking about it. And then one day I had a conversation with Councilman Burd and he, like most members here, was interested in a chairmanship, but told me that he was willing to step back and not take a chairmanship, for the betterment of Council, and that really struck me as very much the way I think all members of Council should be - put Council first, put the City first, and try not to put personal agenda ahead of anything else.

So as I was looking at the recommendations, I wanted to see where we could include Councilman Burd in a full capacity without a chairmanship, and that's why I made the suggestion that he be the Pro Tempore of Council for 2012, and to put him on the Finance Committee in lieu of the Community Development Chair, in line with the Council Rules, which only mandates that the Chair of Finance, Chair of Safety and the Chair of Service serve on those committees. And, as in past years, we have operated with four committee members each; while every member of Council can speak to any issue, even if they're not on a committee, it has been my view that four-member committees have worked the best and it also allows for an opportunity for the President of Council to vote in the event of a tie. And I believe that before I was sitting in this chair, when there was another individual in this position, I've believed that since I first came to Council.

So it was my view, and everyone has seen the recommendations, that it was the best alignment for 2012, that it gave everyone an opportunity to be fully engaged in Council. In addition to that, I also made suggestions about Vice Chair positions, although those are selected by the Chairmen; again, I thought it was a good idea to at least make a suggestion, so every member of Council would be included in a leadership role this year. So that was the basis for my recommendations, and I know that Councilwoman Kelly has, she contacted me as soon as the

recommendations were distributed that she wished to be on the Finance Committee, and I understand her position, I really do. I've been in her position before where I've been a chairman; I've been on the Finance Committee; and I was removed from those positions, and it's not personal; it was the same situation - we had five Council members interested in four positions and for the betterment of Council, I did not challenge those decisions by Council to align in that way. And I was removed, as I said, from the Finance Committee.

So that is why I did what I did, from personal experience, that everyone would have full engaging role and I know that Councilman Kelly's got some comments about her being included on Finance Committee, but I think that the recommendations as I have outlined, would be best for Council for 2012. So I will recognize Councilwoman Kelly for her comments now.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you very much. I agree, President Joseph, that we need to put Council and the City first. My concern isn't so much that Leslie Kelly is not on Finance Committee; it is the fact that for the past, at least ten years, all of the committees' chair people have made up Finance Committee.

This situation with you and I are a little bit different; when your position on Finance was lost, you were no longer chairman of, I believe it was Safety Committee? You were no longer chairman of the Safety Committee, and thus is why the Finance position was lost. By not having the chair of the Community Development Committee on there, I think it sends, it could send a message that, that committee is not as important as the others. I do realize that in our statutes it does have, that you have to have, Safety and Service is required; you must have those on there. But as in the past, we've had those, we've had all of the chairs on there.

The recommendation that I, I don't know if this is the right time to do this, but the recommendation that I'm going to come forward with, because I also recognize your desire to have Nathan on the committee; I think Nathan will do a great job on the committee; is to add Community Development Chair to the committee and have it be a five-person committee. Yes, that does reduce the number of ties that could be there; it doesn't negate all ties, because you could have somebody absent or somebody abstain, but it would allow for Mr. Burd to participate. It would also then keep all four committees to be represented by their chairs on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Joseph: So you're proposing to amend the recommendations?

Mrs. Kelly: I would first like to propose that Finance be voted on separately; that would then allow us to come back and have further discussion on Finance while approving your other recommendations.

Mr. Joseph: Under..again, to cite Council Rules...to return back to your original point about Community Development...

Mrs. Kelly: Um-hum.

Mr. Joseph: When the Council Rules were adopted and then they were most recently revised in 2004, September 2004, I believe that if Council had believed it was important for the Community Development Chair to be a standing member of the committee, they would have made that choice. And this Council can sit down and make that decision at a future date if we want to review all of

Council Rules and make changes to the Council Rules, but under current Council Rules, you know, that's not required. And, sure, we could do all kinds of things - we had two members of Council who wanted to be the Finance Chair, and we could say, okay, well the Council Rules don't really prohibit it, so let's just make them both co-chairs of Finance. I don't think that's a good idea either, you know. By going with what the Council Rules outline as our model, I think that's our best vehicle; again, no one is prohibited from speaking on any of the committees; we all get to participate fully. But the four-member committee structure, I think, works the best; we can have some deliberation, in fact I've actually thought about appointing a special Rules Revision Committee in a few months, because it has been seven years since they've been revised.

Mrs. Kelly: Um-hum.

Mr. Joseph: But tonight, we are operating under the rules that this Council, in the past, has set forth. And again, citing the rules, we have to go by specifically what the rules say when it comes to modifying any type of legislation pending before this body, and it states in Article VIII, Section 9, regarding amending legislation, which, that's what you seem to be indicating you want to do, that any new language shall be distinguished by capital letters, underlined, or bold face type so that any change can be readily apparent. Any time that I submitted an amendment, that's how I prepared it; specifically, I took what was already being proposed, and I submitted a new document with the changes as stipulated under the rules. Have you done that?

Mrs. Kelly: Nancy, do we have to put it formal in writing, or can we just verbally say...

Ms. Frazier: I don't think on a Motion...we've never done that; it's always been that it's applied to the ordinances and the resolutions.

Mr. Joseph: Would this not also though, be considered legislation, because it says amending legislation, that's what we're talking about doing here.

Ms. Frazier: If that is the way you want to interpret it, that's fine; I'm just saying how we've done it. Because she can amend something on the floor; the Motion's been read, so if she wanted to amend it on the floor, she wouldn't have to present it then, you see; and you can do that with an ordinance as well. You can have an ordinance, and amended language, but if somebody comes up with a great idea at the meeting, they can still do it from the floor, without a written text.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, so your interpretation is that this would not apply to Motions.

Ms. Frazier: I'm saying that if she wants to amend it from the floor, she can.

Mrs. Kelly: Which is what I'd like to do.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. All right, before we get to that point, we have to have a motion on this item...

Mrs. Kelly: To vote on Finance separately?

Mr. Joseph: First we have to have a motion to ... on the item, then we would have a motion on an amendment. That's how that would be done. Correct, Mrs. Frazier?

Ms. Frazier: That's correct. She can amend it after that.

Mr. Joseph: So is there a motion ..

Mr. Long: President Joseph, I'll move that we accept Item 3c.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Motion by Councilman Long. Is there a second on this item? Seconded by Councilman Burd.

Mrs. Kelly: Can I ask a question?

Mr. Joseph: Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: Nancy, so do we have to vote this no before we go...I'm sorry, I'm just confused.

Mr. Joseph: No, now is when you would...now you can ask for amendment..you can ask for amendment now.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, now I would like to ask for amendment to vote on Finance separately.

Mr. Joseph: Well, rather than voting on Finance separately, what you're going to want to do is ask to amend the line that has the Finance Committee members listed and have your name added.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, I would like to move to amend the recommendation for the Finance Committee membership to read: Chris Long, Temporary Chair; Nathan Burd, Barth R. Cotner, Mel Clemens, and Leslie Kelly. Just for the record, this would incorporate all of the committee chairs, as well as Councilman Burd.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, you're making that motion; is there a second on that motion? Second by Councilman McGrady. Any further discussion on this?

Mr. Clemens: First I'd like to say, you know, I think Nathan would make a good member of the Finance Committee; I mean, I have no problem with that at all. And I would support Chris for the chairmanship and I have no problem with that. So I mean, this is not a deal where it's trying to be a takeover or something like that or I've called people, I've done nothing, but this chairmanship has been there of the Community Development for fifteen to twenty years; this has not been ten years, it's been a long time ago. The chairmanship should be on the Finance Committee; now whether there's five people or four people or whether the chairmanship changes, and somebody else is there, it's immaterial, but I do think that all committee chairmans should be on the Finance Committee. Now whether we have four, five, or seven on the committee, I don't think that's that important because everything, as President of Council said, everything comes before Council anyway that is passed, plus it's always open, it's always suggested during the Finance or any committee, that any other member of Council that has something to say, is able to say it. So I look at it, not whether it's Leslie or who it is, but I just feel that the four chairs should be on the Finance Committee like they have been in the past fifteen to twenty years, and saying it, like I said, I

completely support Nathan for the position, and I support Chris for the position that you recommend, and I have nothing wrong with the recommendations that you've made other than I just look at the committee chairmanships as all being equal and therefore I felt that they all should be, you know, on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Other comments? Yes, Councilman McGrady.

Mr. McGrady: Yes, this may not be the appropriate time, but I'll learn as I go - you made reference to these Rules being of 2004?

Mr. Joseph: Um-hum.

Mr. McGrady: That's the first thing that caught my eye. And you made reference to the fact that you're considering a review committee and if that does come to, I'd like to be a part of that committee.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, I'll make note of that. Other comments? Yes, Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, President Joseph. Considering the fact of what myself, as the Temporary Chair, and Nathan Burd who, if I'm still Chair, will be nominated as my Vice Chair, in the amount of work that we're going to have to do for the citizens and City of Reynoldsburg here over the next year, I honestly don't see an issue with us having five individuals on the Finance Committee. We're going to need all hands, as often and as in any time that they're basically needed, to be able to come forward for us. So, I understand your reasoning behind what it was that you submitted, and I honestly have no problem with that; but once again, considering the amount of work in the team element of what we're going to need up here, if there is strong feelings as I hear coming from Councilwoman Kelly in her desire as Chairmanship of the Community Development Committee to be as a part of the Finance Committee, then I really see no problem with that.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Other comments? Yes, Councilman Burd.

Mr. Burd: I just first want to thank everybody for not having a problem with me being on Finance (laughter) ..I really thought that was going to be the sticking point. And obviously I think Leslie's amendment's going to pass and that is fine with me. I remember two years ago we were talking about seven-member committees, just everybody on every committee, and I didn't really like that at the time, particularly because of Finance. I felt that was a committee that you should aspire to after you've been around for a little bit. And you know, this would put five members of Council on, who have been here for a minimum of two years and of course in some cases, much more than that, so if that's the mood of Council, I have no issues at all with it if that's what everybody wants to do.

Mr. Joseph: Other comments? Okay. We have a motion by Councilwoman Kelly and seconded by Councilman McGrady to amend Item 3 to include the Community Development Chair on the Finance Committee. Mrs. Frazier, please call the roll.

With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Barrett "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. McGrady

“Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mr. Cotner “Yea”; Mr. Long “Yea”; Mr. Burd “Yea”. Motion passed.

Mr. Joseph: That item’s been amended. And again we have a motion by Councilman Long and Councilman Burd seconded. Any additional questions or comments on Item 3c? Mrs. Frazier, please call the roll on this item.

With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Barrett “Yea”; Mrs. Kelly “Yea”; Mr. McGrady “Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mr. Cotner “Yea”; Mr. Long “Yea”; Mr. Burd “Yea”. Motion passed.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, that item passes as amended. That was the last item on our special Council meeting agenda for tonight, so I will close this special meeting at 7:20 p.m. Committees will start at 7:30.

Doug Joseph, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council