

The Organizational Meeting of the 25th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford will be held Monday, December 1, 1997 at 8:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives in the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Dannel P. Malloy, per Charter § C3-10-11.

Mayor Malloy stated the first order of business is The Reverend Winton Hill's invocation.

2. **INVOCATION:** The Reverend Winton Hill.

“Let us pray. This evening we are so thankful to live in a free, democratic society where people can practice their own faith, dream their own dreams and stretch as far as their ability and the wonderful opportunities that this land permits. We thank you for this city and to pray that this City will be a house of dignity and safety for every resident. Bless this twenty-fifth board. Allow this historic board, elected for four years, to give us wonderful, focused leadership that this city can be the city that cannot be hidden and a light in a world of darkness. Help this light so that it shall spread through Connecticut, our country and the world – that other people can enjoy the benefits that we take for granted. Now that we close this prayer, empower us to do your will. Amen.”

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Led by Mayor Dannel P. Malloy

4. **ROLL CALL:** By Administrative Assistant Valerie Pankosky.

All forty members were present.

5. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Dannel P. Malloy will swear in the members of the 25th Board of Representatives.

Mayor Malloy asked all representatives who were not sworn in at this morning's ceremony to rise and raise his or her right hand. Mayor Malloy read the Oath of Office:

"I [each representative stated his/her name], having been elected a member of the City of Stamford's Board of Representatives, do solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge the obligations of said office, according to law, so help you God."

The Mayor then congratulated all members of the 25th Board of Representatives, and stated as follows:

"I have enjoyed working with all of you who are returning members of the Board of Representatives. We certainly have had a very interesting two years, and some of us go all the way back to 1983 in service to the City. I also welcome all of the new members, some of whom I have known in other capacities or got to know in the context of the election. For all members, new and old, I have attempted to run an administration that has been open to suggestion and open to questioning. I think we have done a rather good job, in most cases, perhaps, not in all, in responding to requests for information, in sharing ideas and in listening to people. That is not a policy that is intended to change in any way in the next four years. In fact, I think it has been a great strength in this administration, and in fact, I include all of the members of the Board of Representatives, Republican and Democrat, that we have been able to communicate and work together. I think that some people assume that because of a new election or a different majority or minority that things necessarily have to change. That is not what I believe. What I believe is that we can accomplish as much in the next four years as we have accomplished in the last two, and we can do that by working together, by putting our differences aside – not ignoring our differences – but putting them aside in the greater interest of the City of Stamford.

"We have many issues before us, not the least of which is the conclusion of the URC Project, which your predecessor Board moved along in its final hours. There are many issues – open space acquisition, the rebuilding of schools, the rebuilding of much of our infrastructure, including roads and sidewalks – but also a very hard and long look at our sewer system and other environmental projects. The issue of housing and affordability are going to be key in the next four years. Economic development will still play a very vital and interesting role as does community development. In the waning days of the prior Board, you approved money to proceed with the Waterside study, which really is the South End – that section of the Waterside adjacent to the Water and that section of Shippan adjacent to the commercial harbor. We may in fact come back to you for additional studies so that we, together, can

design a vision for the City – ten, twenty, thirty, forty years out. As we celebrate the nearing of the URC Project, we need to take stock of where we are today and where we intend to be twenty or twenty-five years from now and agree on a plan that will get us there so that we avoid many of the pitfalls that many other communities have fallen into.

“Additionally, I want to say that it has been a very rewarding experience working with you, and I clearly look forward to working with all of you.

“On a special note, Peter Nanos came to my office today, and his ninety-three year old mother brought me pastries. If the day wasn’t special enough before I got the pastries, having Peter’s mother make them for me certainly made it a great day. Seeing your faces as we embark on this four-year voyage together, also makes it a very special day. So, God bless all of you. I look forward to working with all of you, and I think it is going to be exciting.”

- a. The Mayor appoints two Temporary Tellers.

The Mayor appointed Cisco Gaztambide and Paul Ventura as temporary tellers.

- b. The Mayor entertains motions for a Temporary Chairperson.

Representative John Boccuzzi nominated Maria Nakian as temporary chairperson. The Mayor asked if there were any other nominations; there being none, the Mayor moved to close the nominations. Said motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

- c. Vote is held on the election of the Temporary Chairperson.

The Mayor entertained a motion that a single ballot be cast by the temporary chair in favor of the temporary chairperson at this time, Maria Nakian. Said motion was made, seconded, the Mayor cast a single vote, and said motion was approved by voice vote. The Mayor invited Maria Nakian to take his place.

6. TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON takes chair.

- a. Temporary Chairperson entertains motions for a Temporary Clerk.

Temporary Chairperson Nakian entertained motions for a Temporary Clerk. Representative George Johnson nominated Elaine Mitchell. Said motion was seconded, and the Temporary Chairperson asked for any other nominations. There being no other nominations, the Temporary Chairperson stated she would entertain a motion that nominations be closed. Said motion was made and seconded and approved by voice vote.

- b. Vote is held on election of Temporary Clerk.

The Temporary Chairperson asked Representative Boccuzzi to cast a single vote for Elaine Mitchell as temporary clerk. Said vote was cast.

c. Adoption of Rules of Order for the 25th Board of Representatives.

Temporary Chairperson Nakian stated the next item was adoption of the Rules of Order. Rep. Martin moved that the Board adopt the Rules of the 24th Board of Representatives as a starting point. Said motion was seconded.

Representative Skigen moved to amend the Rules of the 24th Board, proposed for adoption by the 25th Board, by deleting Section IC10. which deals with the election of Honorary Deputy Acting Mayor and Section IIC1 and 2, which also deals with this matter. Said motion to amend was seconded and approved by voice vote. A copy of said rules, as adopted, is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Representative Domonkos proposed the committee structure for the 25th Board for inclusion in the Rules as follows:

Appointments Committee	11 Members
Fiscal Committee	11 Members
Legislative & Rules Committee	11 Members
Personnel Committee	9 Members
Land Use (previously Planning & Zoning) Committee	9 Members
Operations (previously Public Works) Committee	9 Members
Public Safety & Health Committee	11 Members
Parks & Recreation Committee	11 Members
Education Committee	9 Members
Housing/Community Development/ Social Services	9 Members
Urban Redevelopment Committee	9 Members
Transportation Committee	5 Members
Administration & Technology Committee	7 Members
House Committee	4 Members
Steering Committee	18 Members

Representative Domonkos moved the above-listed. There being no discussion, said motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Temporary Chairperson called for a motion to move the main item, the adoption of the Rules of the 24th Board, as amended, as the Rules for the 25th Board.

Temporary Chairperson Nakian stated that if any representative wants to make any changes in the rules or wants any rule discussed, the Rules will be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee, where ideas and suggested changes should be forwarded to.

The motion to adopt the rules was approved by voice vote.

7. NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT of the 25th Board of Representatives.

- a. Vote on election of President of the Board.

Temporary Chairperson Nakian called for nominations for President of the Board. Representative Alice Fortunato stated, “Carmen Domonkos has demonstrated her leadership abilities during the past two years by establishing a standard of excellence in guiding the Board through one of the most productive administrations in the City’s history. Her patient and courteous manner provide an atmosphere for cooperation between both the democrat and republican members. Carmen is always approachable and has assisted many of us to define our roles on this Board. Her intelligence and dignified demeanor make her the logical choice to lead our Board. It is a great privilege for me to nominate Carmen Domonkos as president of the 25th Board of Representatives. Thank you.”

Representative Skigen seconded the motion for Mrs. Domonkos, stating, “over the last two years, she has shown a firm and steady hand in leading the Board. She has kept us on track many evenings when we have had difficult doing so by ourselves, and I think she has shown a degree of fairness from the chair that is admirable, and I second her nomination.”

There being no further nominations, Temporary Chairperson Nakian declared the nominations closed, and asked the Clerk to cast one vote for Carmen Domonkos as president of the 25th Board. The clerk cast one vote.

8. PRESIDENT takes chair.

- a. President appoints two Tellers and two Alternate Tellers.

President Domonkos appointed Mary Fedeli and Alice Fortunato as Tellers; she appointed Bobby Owens and Don Sherer as Alternate Tellers.

- b. President entertains motions for a permanent Clerk of the Board.

President Domonkos entertained motions for the permanent Clerk of the Board. Representative Owens stated, “I would like to nominate Annie Summerville McAllister as the Clerk of the Board and to re-elect her as Clerk of the Board. Ms. Summerville has supported us in many different ways on this Board, in keeping our direction as far as the Board is concerned, and especially in helping our office and office administration to take care of things for us. She also helps us with all of the little incidentals that happens with the Board of

Representatives. I would also like to say that with her credentials, she has supported us in so many ways for so long, I really, really want to thank her. I hope that everyone will support Annie Summerville McAllister for Clerk of the Board. Said motion was seconded.

- c. Vote on election of a permanent Clerk.

President Domonkos, hearing no other nominations from the floor, declared the nominations closed, and requested the Temporary Clerk to cast one ballot for Annie M. Summerville as Clerk of the Board. Said vote was cast.

- d. Clerk takes over duties.
- e. President announces the names of the Majority and Minority Leaders, who have been elected by their respective parties.

President Domonkos stated that John Boccuzzi will be the Majority Leader for the democrats; Ralph Loglisci will be the Minority Leader for the republicans; the Assistant Minority Leader will be Lucy Corelli and the Deputy Majority Leaders are David Martin and Maria Nakian.

- f. President appoints Parliamentarians.

President Domonkos stated that parliamentarians for the 25th Board will continue to be David Martin and Donald Sherer due to their excellent work over the last two years.

President Domonkos stated the following:

“First of all, I would like to thank all of you. I am extremely gratified that you have elected me to serve as President of the first Board that will serve for four years. We have a lot of challenges ahead, and I am really pleased to see the members who have returned, the members who were appointed during the term and who have been elected and our new members. We really look forward to working with you and hope that if you have any questions that you feel that the leadership is accessible and that we are here to help you in any way possible, for you to feel comfortable and that you enjoy and feel productive during your four years on the Board. As always, we have Valerie Pankosky, the administrative assistant, who knows more than Annie and I about what is going on. If we don’t know the answer, Valerie does.

“It is really an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Board. It is an honor and privilege to serve as a Board member. You have been elected by the constituents of the district. It is a true honor. We are all dedicated, and we know that we serve as volunteer members, and we take it as seriously as if we were paid. I know you have spent and will spend many hours serving the citizens of Stamford.

“I feel that today is a celebration. It is a celebration because fifty years ago, on May 21, 1947, the Connecticut State Legislature passed a special act approving a new charter for the City of Stamford consolidating the town and the city into one entity. Before that there were two separate governments. On November 3, 1947, fifty years ago, the voters of Stamford adopted the charter in a special election. On that date, fifty years ago, the people of Stamford approved the form of government that established a forty-member board of representatives. A lot of people have criticized that throughout the years, but as I have said many times, it is a body that offers the unique opportunity for residents to have contact and individual attention directed to the issues in their neighborhoods through their representatives.

“With a population of 110,000, which we just found out we have gained 3,000, so we are now at 110,000, each district of 5,500 residents has two representatives to attend to their needs and concerns. It should be the goal of each of us that we are responsive to the citizens of Stamford, and from that they feel well represented, and I think it is our duty to do that.

“Also, it is a celebration for the first time in Stamford’s history that this Board will be serving a four-year term. We won’t be preoccupied in two years with an election campaign. We will need to stay involved and not become complacent. I will be arranging for planning and goal-setting sessions with clusters of related committees, who will then sit with the Mayor and his directors to coordinate our goals and the Mayor’s goals for the next four years. I think through this method we can better serve and become directed toward the goals that we feel this Board should approach. We have a great opportunity with a four-year term to accomplish this working together.

“One of my personal goals for this Board is to afford a more effective flow of information to you as representatives, to city employees and to the public. This has already begun. If you dial up the city of Stamford’s home page on the Internet, you will find that it already has the City’s charter, the ordinances that have been passed in the last two years and the listing of Board members. We have a wiz of a computer person here in Valerie who has worked very closely with the Ferguson Library, who has been very helpful to us, in establishing this. My goal is to have all of the Code of Ordinances, all Board and Committee agenda and minutes of our meeting available through this Web Site. This effort will reduce paper and postage and will allow access to legislative information to all who are interested. This will be part of my effort to work with Annie and to help assure that each of you is involved and informed on all of the workings of the Board.

“As one of our goals, and Marie has spoken of this, we will review the Rules of the Board which you just voted on this evening. They will be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee. I also think we should review our Code of Ordinances. We keep passing new ordinances, and we have not gone back

and reviewed the Code to see if all ordinances are still relevant, and now with four-year government, whether some of them need to be modified.

“Returning to the celebration of fifty years as a legislative body, while the election took place in 1947, the new Board of Representatives was seated for its first session on April 15, 1949. In the past fifty years, representatives have gone on to serve as judges, state senators, state representatives, and, my heavens, even mayors. I want to take a minute and read to you the names of the forty members of the first Board of Representatives, elected fifty years ago. It must have been an exciting time, being seated and becoming part of that historic body. I’m sure you will recognize some of them.

Louise T. Seeley	Michael Wofsey
John Gachek	Edward J. Wojciechowski
Michael E. Laureno	Patrick Scarella
James N. Mulreed	Clifford Waterbury
Leonard J. DeVita	Samuel F. Pierson
Walter F. Seeley	Edgar Charleson
Leon C. Staples	Stearns E. Woodman
Catherine B. Cleary	David Waterbury
James W. Harrington	Robert G. Shepherd
George V. Connors	Patrick J. Hogan
John M. Canavan	Samuel Cook
Edward Ballo	Stephen E. Kelly
Eugene T. Kaminski	Joseph Zdanowicz
George W. Lockwood	Vito Longo
John W. Cook	Babette S. Ransohoff
Daniel Miller	Helen J. Peatt
Jeanette L. Bell	Hunt Sutherland
William A. Adriance	Sewell H. Corkran
Sherman R. Hoyt	Helen J. Bromley
John L. Cameron	Ralph Nau

“Hopefully, in fifty years, the fiftieth Board of Representatives will remember this Board as one who helped lead with distinction, the City of Stamford into the 21st Century. I wish all of you good luck during the next four years, I look forward to working with Ms. Summerville, Mr. Boccuzzi, Mr. Loglisci and the excellent staff, Valerie, Marge Cocolis and Eva Weller, and I look forward to working with all of you. Good luck. Thank you.”

- 9. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.** The President appoints members to the Standing Committees, naming the chair of each Committee first. The Committees listed below are those of the 24th Board of Representatives.

President Domonkos named the Chairs, Vice Chairs, Co-Chairs and members of each committee. Said listing is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

- 10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** The President names and appoints members to Special Committees, if necessary.

President Domonkos stated no special committees would be named at this time.

- 11. DECEMBER REGULAR BOARD MEETING.** The Regular Meeting of the 25th Board of Representatives will be held on Monday, December 8, 1997.

- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by voice vote , the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*The proceedings are available on audio tape at the
Offices of the Board of Representatives.*