

MINUTES OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

January 3, 2011

6:00 p.m.

The Council and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pucci: "Mary-Jo, will you please call the roll?"

Clerk Banish: "Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Tom Murphy."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Here."
Councilman Tanski: "Here."
Councilman Murphy: "Here."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Here."
Councilman DeMarco: "Here."
Councilman Patta: "Here."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Here."

President Pucci: "Okay. If anyone has anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn, please step up to the podium, state your name and address for the record, and please recognize our three minute time limit. Nobody? Okay. This is our annual Organizational meeting for Brooklyn City Council for 2011. The first order of business, and I'm going to go through the procedure first. First order of business is to elect a President, then we elect a President Pro-Tempore. And just to review the procedure, I will open nominations and ask three times for nominations for each office. A nomination requires a second. After calling for nominations three times, I will close nominations, and then we will have a roll call vote. So nominations are now in order for the office of President of Council."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I nominate Kathleen Pucci as Council President."

Councilman Magrey: "Second."

President Pucci: "Okay, I have been nominated for President. Are there any further nominations for the office of President of Council? Are there any further nominations for the office of President of Council? Are there any further nominations for the President of Council? Then if not, nominations are closed. So Mary-Jo, will you please call the roll?"

Clerk Banish: "For Kathy Pucci for President of Council, Joe Magrey." Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
"Kevin Tanski." Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
"Tom Murphy." Councilman Murphy: "No."
"Kathy Pucci." Councilwoman Pucci: "Abstain."
"Tony DeMarco." Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
"John Patta." Councilman Patta: "Yes."
"Colleen Gallagher." Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "It carries with five yeses, one no, one abstention. Thank you very much for your confidence in me. Next we'll move on for the position of President Pro-Tempore. Nominations are now in order for the office of President Pro-Tempore."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I nominate Joe Magrey for Council Pro-Tem."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

President Pucci: "Okay, there's a nomination and a second for Mr. Magrey. Are there any further nominations for the office of President Pro-Tempore? Are there any further nominations for the office of President Pro-Tempore? Are there any further nominations for the office of President Pro-Tempore? Then if not, nominations are closed, and Mary-Jo, will you please call the roll?"

Clerk Banish: "For Joe Magrey, Joe Magrey." Councilman Magrey: "Abstain."
"Kevin Tanski." Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
"Tom Murphy." Councilman Murphy: "No."
"Kathy Pucci." Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
"Tony DeMarco." Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, five yeses, one no, on abstention. So Mr. Magrey is President Pro-Tempore. Congratulations."

Councilman Magrey: "Thank you very much, I appreciate the trust."

President Pucci: "Okay, next we'll move onto the committee assignments for 2011. And I did speak with everyone individually, and there's only going to be one very minor change. So I'm just going to go through right in order. The first one is, Planning Commission will be Mr. Patta. So if someone will... There's actually conflicting parts of the Charter. Originally Planning Commission and Rec Board required a vote of the members of Council; then when there was a Charter change in 1999, I believe it was, there was some conflicting language where the President just appoints everything. But to cover ourselves, I'd like to take a vote. So if we could have a motion and a second for Mr. Patta on the Planning Commission."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Motion for John Patta."

Councilman Magrey: "I nominate John Patta."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "For John Patta, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Tom Murphy."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilman Murphy: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Abstain."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, next is Recreation Board, and that will be Mr. Tanski. And I'd like a motion and a second for that also."

Councilman Magrey: "I nominate Kevin Tanski."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "For Kevin Tanski, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Tom Murphy."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "No."
Councilman Murphy: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, the next several ones do not require a vote. Fair Housing will remain Mr. Patta. Domestic Violence will stay the same, Mrs. Gallagher. Legislative Update stays the same, Mrs. Gallagher. Juvenile Diversion stays the same, Mrs. Gallagher. School Board liaison stays the same, Mr. Murphy. We're finished with the Big Creek Watershed Committee, so that has been eliminated. Economic Development, for the last year and a half Mr. Magrey has served on that Committee, and I will now be on Economic Development Committee. Then we come to our three standing committees, which are required by the Charter. And again, these fall under the same. Initially we had to vote on it, then there was a change. So again, to cover ourselves, I'd like to take a vote on it. The first is the Finance Committee, and that will be Mr. Magrey, Mr. DeMarco and myself. And I'd like a vote on that please."

Councilman Murphy: "I make a motion we accept that."

President Pucci: "We need a second."

Councilman Tanski: "Second."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To confirm the appointment of the three members of Finance Committee, Joe Magrey, Tony DeMarco, Kathy Pucci. Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Tom Murphy."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Abstain."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilman Murphy: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, next is Public Works. And that also will remain the same this year. And that is Mr. Magrey, Mr. Patta and myself. And I would like a motion and a second on that committee as well."

Councilman Magrey: "Before we proceed, can I..."

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman Magrey: "Can we nominate ourselves? That's why I abstained for Finance. Technically..."

President Pucci: "Yes, you can vote for yourself, because there's no financial gain."

Councilman Magrey: "Okay."

President Pucci: "Yes, that's not a conflict."

Councilman Magrey: "Okay, thank you."

President Pucci: "Yes. So we want a motion and a second for the Public Works Committee."

Councilman Murphy: "I make that motion."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To confirm for the members of Public Works, Joe Magrey, John Patta, Kathy Pucci. Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Tom Murphy."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilman Murphy: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Abstain."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Next is Public Safety and Environmental, and that will remain Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. DeMarco and Mr. Murphy. And I'd like a motion and a second on that as well."

Councilman Magrey: "I make a motion."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To confirm for the members of the Public Safety and Environmental, Colleen Gallagher, Tony DeMarco and Tom Murphy, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Tom Murphy."

"Kathy Pucci."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilman Murphy: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay. That concludes all the committee assignments. The next order of business will be just to verify the meeting date and time for City Council, and which it's the second and fourth Monday of the month, excluding July and August, at 7 p.m. And when there is a legal holiday on one of those days, we meet the following day, which is Tuesday at 7 p.m. I trust that everyone is good with remaining the same? Okay. Next we'll move onto Rules of Council. Oh, go ahead, Mr. DeMarco."

Councilman DeMarco: "May I be recognized real quickly. I don't know if we want to all consider this, but the meeting we had between Christmas and New Year's, I'm not sure if that's something we just want to skip. You know, it's the end of the year, it's between Christmas and New Year's. I'm just throwing it out there for us to consider, if we don't want to do that that's fine."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Fine with me."

President Pucci: "My only concern would be the finance. Because typically we do our last adjustment to the budget..."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yeah, true."

President Pucci: "...and any transfers and advances prior to closing out the year. So I think we'd have to check with Mr. Kennedy on that. He is, you know, usually pretty well ahead of the game, but sometimes things do occur that require either an adjustment to the appropriations or a transfer or advance. That would be my only concern. So I would suggest that we discuss it with him and maybe we could, prior to any proposed changes coming back to us, we could have further discussion on that. But I think we need to check with him."

Councilman Tanski: "Kathy, does Council have the power to cancel a meeting? On a yearly basis?"

President Pucci: "What do you mean on yearly? You mean from year to year? Well it states in the Charter that the Council sets its meeting days and times. I think that, you know, if we were to ahead of time state that we weren't going to meet that particular day, I don't see a problem. But certainly we could have Scott look at that, along with consulting Dennis Kennedy on that."

Councilman Tanski: "Because rather than cancel, if it looks like there's a problem, you know, we could have a meeting; and if there's no problem, then we could cancel the meeting."

President Pucci: "Okay, well let's see what Dennis and Scott have to say about that. I don't know if anyone else has any... I've got a couple items I'd like to bring up on the Rules of Council. I don't know if there's anyone else that would like to go first. Mrs. Gallagher?"

Councilwoman Gallagher: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "During the public session we have a three minute time limit, and I was wondering if Council would have a problem extending it to four or five minutes; because a lot of times, when people come to the podium, Kathy has to cut them off. Three minutes doesn't seem long enough. And I don't know what other Council, or other cities do; but I think some of them do five minutes, and I was wondering if anybody would have a problem changing that from three to five."

Councilman Murphy: "You know Kathy, if you want to make a motion on that, I'd second it. That to me makes sense, because we don't have too many people to come up, maybe four or five."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Right. I mean, it's... I don't know what other Councilmembers think..."

President Pucci: "I personally don't have a problem with that. Does anyone else want to...?"

Councilman Magrey: "If I could be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes, Mr. Magrey."

Councilman Magrey: "I have no problem with it. Most of the time, you know, what people have to say is relevant to city business. And if it's not, it can also be, you know, always be gaveled off by the Council President."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Correct."

Councilman Magrey: "So I have no problem with it."

President Pucci: "Anyone else have any comments?"

Councilwoman Gallagher: "And Joe, you're right. If it's only to do with city business, five minutes. I mean, if you're getting into other things, I mean, then..."

Councilman Magrey: "That's good."

Councilman DeMarco: "I agree."

President Pucci: "Okay, so that'll be our first change to the rules, that we will change it from a three minute time limit to five. And actually, while we're talking about the public session, for those of you who have been here awhile, previous we did have... I had actually suggested it, and this was prior to handling our legislation. So it was after the department head reports, we had an item on our agenda that was public participation concerning legislative items on the agenda. And it gave the public an opportunity, if they had a question or comment on something on the agenda that we were handling that evening, that they could come up to the podium. Because quite often, people grab an agenda, they're seeing it for the first time when they're coming to a meeting, you know, they take a few minutes to read it, and by that time sometimes the public session can be over. We did it I believe for two years, and we only had a couple residents that took advantage of it. So the feeling at the time, of the Councilpeople at the time was, well, because nobody's taking advantage of it, let's eliminate it. I personally would like to see us put it back in. And I really don't care if anyone doesn't take advantage of it; but I do want to see us providing that additional opportunity for the public, if they either have a comment or a question on the legislative items, that they have that opportunity. Now that doesn't mean there's like a back and forth between members, it just gives them the additional opportunity. So I just want to know what everyone thinks about that, if we go back to that. Does anyone have any problems?"

Councilman Magrey: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman Magrey: "I was going to say, the public has a chance to speak at the Finance Committee meetings right now, but it's not always the case. Sometimes we're out of time. So I re-thought what I was going to say. Because actually they don't have a chance at every meeting."

President Pucci: "Most of the time we're cutting it too close."

Councilman Magrey: "Right, right. So what would this structure be? Would you..."

President Pucci: "Basically it just states, it's actually on our agenda, and it just states, 'Comments from the public pertaining to legislative items on the agenda that evening.' So say for example they just either have a question, or they want to say I'm in favor of this, I'm not in favor of it, they've got an opportunity. And that I would limit to the three minutes, because I don't think we want to, you know, be going on and on. I think we do... Three minutes should be enough time if someone has either a comment or a question for a legislative item. And like I said, we did it for two years, we didn't have very many people who took advantage of it. I

think we just had a couple. But I just, I would like to encourage more public participation in what we're doing. And I just would like to provide that opportunity again for residents. Anyone else have any comments or questions? Is everyone good with that? Go ahead."

Councilman Patta: "I do have a question. I think you mentioned about comments or questions, are you going to allow follow-up questions? You say you don't want a back and forth. But if, a lot of times questions aren't answered, or the follow-up. Are you going to permit that?"

President Pucci: "That's a good question. We didn't before. Typically most of the questions... I mean, the questions are directed to the Chair, and typically if, I mean, if I couldn't answer it I could defer it to a department head, director, whatever. I don't know. We never had that. That's a good question. What is everyone's thoughts on that?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Well you hate to put a director or a resident in a back and forth situation."

President Pucci: "Oh no, it wouldn't be the director and a resident. It would not be that. Definitely not that. Just, you know, and I think most of the time, like I said, we only had a few people that took advantage of it. A lot of it was just to clarify something, you know, like maybe there was just one part of it that they didn't understand, especially if we were passing something by emergency measure that evening, or, you know, just a pretty simple question."

Councilman DeMarco: "So who would field the question? Would it be Council President or...?"

President Pucci: "Right. The question or comments would be directed to me, so..."

Councilman Magrey: "I just have a question. Technically you could then have someone come up and ask a question about the agenda, then also follow up during the public session with a comment."

President Pucci: "They could. You mean... Well it would be legislative..."

Councilman Magrey: "For five minutes."

President Pucci: "It would be legislative items on the agenda."

Councilman DeMarco: "The public session would stay where it's at."

President Pucci: "The public session stays where it's at in the beginning..."

Councilman DeMarco: "The comments come before we go through the..."

President Pucci: "If it's a comment or question specifically relating to a legislative item on our agenda that evening only, and that's where it's limited, just anything that's on our, legislation that we have on the agenda."

Clerk Banish: "I see you have an agenda out. It would fall right before the first legislation would be read."

President Pucci: "Right."

Councilman Magrey: "Right."

President Pucci: "It would be after 10. I don't know if you have one in front of you. I'm looking at the rules."

Councilman Magrey: "I don't have the rules, I'm just looking at a standard, December 27th agenda."

Clerk Banish: "It would go after the directors' reports."

President Pucci: "After the directors' reports. And really, most of the time, a lot of times legislative items are explained in either Council reports or the directors' reports. Though sometimes there aren't any questions."

Like I said, we didn't really have very many residents that took advantage of it. So you know, it's just an idea I'm putting out there."

Councilman Magrey: "I was thinking there were 10 people here, five minutes each, and then you have another three minutes of several people asking questions. We could be here till 10:00."

Councilman DeMarco: "I mean, it definitely has the potential to lengthen the meetings, but, you know, I think this is important here for the city, and I think more opportunity to give residents that are interested in what's happening, it's an opportunity to ask questions. I think it's better for everybody."

President Pucci: "Well, especially if it's an item that we're passing by emergency measure, because, you know if there is a reason that we're passing it by emergency, you know, they don't have three meetings to get questions answered, or make any comments."

Councilman Magrey: "Kathy, could I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes, Mr. Magrey."

Councilman Magrey: "I'm definitely all for having the public involved, without a doubt. I like the idea of them asking a question, but I just didn't want the meetings to be dragged on..."

President Pucci: "Right."

Councilman Magrey: "...you know, to the point where we're here for hours."

President Pucci: "I understand."

Councilman Magrey: "...you know, just for our regular Council meetings."

President Pucci: "I understand. Anybody else? Are there any objections to trying that out again?"

Councilman Murphy: "I don't object to it at all, actually I think that..."

Councilman DeMarco: "And we're going to limit that to three minutes."

President Pucci: "Yes, that will be limited to three minutes."

Councilman Murphy: "John kind of keeps a close eye on the emergency measure thing, and as it should be; and if, you know, somebody from the public wants to ask a question on something that's being passed on emergency measure, you know, they should ask that question."

President Pucci: "So we're good with that? John, did you have...?"

Councilman Patta: "I do have an additional question."

President Pucci: "Sure."

Councilman Patta: "Is the legislation actually made available for people to review prior to the meetings?"

President Pucci: "The actual legislation is not, the agenda is. The agenda is posted..."

Clerk Banish: "I've had a few people come up and say, can I see it, and I'll show it to them, because I figured it's out there on the agenda..."

President Pucci: "Right."

Clerk Banish: "...and Council's been given it. So I have very rarely..."

President Pucci: "It is a public record..."

Clerk Banish: "Yes."

President Pucci: "...and if someone asks for it."

Clerk Banish: "I take it out to the counter and I let them look at it."

Councilman Patta: "Is there a way we can post it outside the night of the meeting, or the night before, or the day before?"

President Pucci: "All of the legislation?"

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

President Pucci: "We probably could on the bulletin board."

Councilman Patta: "Right, that's what I'm asking."

Clerk Banish: "Or I could leave a packet at the front reception desk."

Councilman Patta: "If we're opening it up to questions, but, when you look at the agenda, nobody has an idea what these things are."

President Pucci: "Right, right. And you know, the other thing we could do is put it on the internet. That's what I would suggest, putting it on the website. I was just going to say, Mary-Jo had a good suggestion that we could leave a packet out at the front counter for those who do not have access to the internet, and then also post it on our website."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yeah, we'll just have to clarify, make sure someone doesn't take the packet and then..."

Clerk Banish: "It'll be at the reception desk..."

President Pucci: "Yeah, they would..."

Clerk Banish: "They'll just hold onto it there."

President Pucci: "...have to look at it at the reception desk I would think. Now if someone wants to say, oh I want a copy, then they would pay the nickel a page, or whatever it is for the public... It is a nickel a page, or is it 10 cents?"

Clerk Banish: "Eight cents."

President Pucci: "Eight cents, okay."

Clerk Banish: "You have to work it out to the costs."

President Pucci: "Yeah, you can't charge more than what it costs. Okay, so the first thing is, no one has any objection to the additional opportunity for the public to participate. We're good with that, right? And then the second thing is, we will make our legislation that's on our agenda available on the city website, and we will have an additional packet available for viewing at the reception desk. Then that would be on the Friday before, because, you know, Mary-Jo gets everything together at 4:30 on Thursday, or 4:00 on Thursday. Okay? So everyone's good with that? Okay. Let's see. Another suggestion I have, just to throw it out there and see what people think is, under Meetings we start with Rule 1 that talks about our regular meeting, when we have it. I'd like to propose that we create a new Rule 1 for our organizational meeting. The organizational meeting is required by the Charter, and I would just like to see it incorporated into our rules that it be conducted on the first Monday in January at a time to be determined. So this way we know, you know, it's

actually memorialized somewhere that this is when we have the organizational meeting, and then it would be up to our discretion what is convenient for us. You know, whether we would have it at 6, 7, whatever. Is that good with everyone? Okay. And then, the last thing I have... Prior to the meeting I passed out a copy of an agenda request form that Mr. Kennedy and I have been working on. Mr. Kennedy basically collected from several public entities different forms. Some of them were simple, some of them were very complicated. We want to keep this very simple. And we felt that we took the best of what was from each form as it applied to the City of Brooklyn. I think everybody had a chance to review it. Certainly this isn't, the changes aren't going to come back to Council until we have our next meeting, or it could even be the end of January by the time Scott gets a chance to draft the ordinance. But basically, you know, this ensures that there's a proper review. It ensures that we have all the required information for the legislation. It's going to help with Auditor, because quite frequently the Auditor has to come back and, okay, you know, when was this passed, you know, what were the exact dates. So this basically contains all the basic information. The other thing is, there's a place for everyone to initial, starting with the department director, then going to the Finance Director, Law Director, Mayor. I think your copy still says Mayor's office, but that was changed to Mayor. I didn't have a chance to print out all new copies. And then Council President. And then the other piece of information that's going to be included is, if it actually did go to one of our committees, whether it be Finance, Public Works, or Safety and Environmental, did the committee meet on that, and what was the committee's recommendation. So basically we're going to have this one sheet of paper that contains all the information required. Another slot is, will this item require emergency legislation/suspension of the rules, and then if yes, what is the reason why. You know, right now, sometimes Mr. Kennedy doesn't know what's the on the agenda until it's published. You know, sometimes he hasn't seen things, and you know, doesn't know, you know, which really he should be looking at, you know, the money part of it, has it been budgeted, or is it going to require a change in either our appropriations or the budget. So I just think that this is a basic way of kind of, I don't know if organizing is the right word, but ensuring that we're taking all the proper steps prior to it getting to Council. We also... Well first of all, does anybody have any comments on it, or any problems? Certainly you're going to have a couple weeks to review it, so if there's anything you see. Yes, Mr. Magrey."

Councilman Magrey: "Yeah, I just have one question, Kathy, and it's can an agenda item be listed without this form being signed off by everyone?"

President Pucci: "Well, theoretically no. But, I mean, is your concern that someone might have something to put on the agenda that somebody's going to block it?"

Councilman Magrey: "I think it's a great idea to have this form. That way there is structure in place."

President Pucci: "Right."

Councilman Magrey: "I just want to make sure we're not going to trip ourselves by not following a form."

President Pucci: "Right. Well, technically, of course, by the Charter, either the Mayor can introduce legislation or we can. You know, I think... The purpose of having the Law Director review it is to make sure it's in proper legal form. So, for example, the Law Director, he could tell you, okay this is against the Ohio Revised Code, you know, I suggest you not do this, or this is not the right form, let's put it in the right form. Now technically the Law Director can't prevent a Councilmember from putting something on. This is to ensure, basically the department director's, you know, supporting this, the Finance Director saying yes the money's there and it's budgeted, the Law Director saying yes it's in the proper form, and then the Mayor signs off on it. Now can Council, say the Mayor would disagree? No, he could not block a Councilperson from putting something on the agenda, and actually visa versa. We could not block him. So that's really not the purpose of the form. You know, quite often we have something where we're missing attachments, or there's a mistake in something, and this is just a way to make sure we got all the information and that everything has gone through the proper review. But as far as blocking it, no, that cannot happen. Any other questions or concerns? Okay. Well I'm going to suggest that this... Let's see. I think I looked under Ordinances and Resolutions. Let me see where that is. I think it's on page five, that basically we would just have that come at the beginning. And certainly as you look through this over the next couple of weeks, if there's anything you think, you know, you should add, take out, anything you have a problem with, definitely, you know, contact me and let me know. But my suggestion is that it go right under the heading Ordinances and Resolutions. And the last thing would be that, let me go to it, we used to have the

requirement that all the information had to be into Mary-Jo by 12 noon on Thursday. This year we moved it up to 12 noon on Wednesday, and nobody paid one bit of attention to it. So we thought of trying to move it up further, and with this form hopefully it would help, that it would be the Friday a full week before. Not the Friday before our meeting, but the Friday before that. But that would be coming from the department head. And the reason for that is because then the Finance Director has a couple days, you know, to sign off on it, and the Law Director, the Mayor and myself. So come Wednesday... Usually I come in on Wednesdays. And come Wednesday at 12 noon, when Mary-Jo really has to get everything finalized, to get the agenda prepared in time for the public posting and to make all our copies, everything should be set. So I know that it might be ambitious to try and get people to be even a little more proactive. I know Mr. DeMarco you're laughing. But this doesn't mean necessarily that everyone will have signed off on it by that Friday. That's not going to happen. We know that. But in order to give everybody time, a chance to see it... And the other thing too is, you know, Mr. Kennedy could have a copy, and the Law Director could have a copy, and the Mayor could have a copy at the same time. It's not that it actually has to travel physically; but it's going to give everybody at least a couple days. They'd have Monday, Tuesday and then Wednesday for them to review it. So this requirement would be whoever is proposing the legislation, if it's coming from a department, okay. Say it's coming from the Rec Department, the Service Department, that you've got to have it in by that Friday, and then we're going to go through the review process. Now there could be times where, you know, maybe they've had a lot of discussions about it and they've already gone through that review process with the Mayor, the Finance Director and the Law Director, well then things are just going to sail smoothly. But Mary-Jo, it's very, very stressful. I can't tell you... I mean, I can tell you, because I'm here, trying, you know, everybody's handing her things literally at the last minute. She's got to check to make sure that the Law Director has signed off on it, and many times he hasn't, because you know how he's here Monday, Wednesday, Friday? Well sometimes that changes, depending on his court dates and things. So it's very, what is the word you would use? Stressed, or...?"

Clerk Banish: "It's chaotic."

President Pucci: "Chaotic. It's very chaotic. And that's what we're trying to avoid. And it's not to say that if there's an emergency and something that has to be handled that it's not going to happen. That's not to say. But we just need to get people to be a little bit more forward thinking, instead of saving every single thing for the last minute."

Councilman DeMarco: "If I could be recognized."

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "I guess it comes down to the Mayor needs to communicate to these directors, if we go forward with this, that if it's not in it's not going to make it on the agenda."

President Pucci: "Yes. And the Mayor knows that we've been working on this. I'm going to sit down with him and review this and make sure he's okay with the actual final version of the form. And I'm willing to sit down with all the department heads and explain to them why. Because, really, they're just kind of throwing things at Mary-Jo, they don't see what happens after that. You know what I'm saying? And it's not fair. And honestly, there's no reason for it. You know, if there's a legitimate emergency, yes, then that's understandable. But we just need to be a little bit more proactive. Yes Mr. Magrey."

Councilman Magrey: "So it's going to be worded, it has to be submitted two Fridays before a Council meeting?"

Clerk Banish: "Friday before packet day."

President Pucci: "Right, the Friday before the packets are issued. And, you know, we can even go through on the calendar, and I can..."

Councilman DeMarco: "So basically like 10 days before next Council meeting."

President Pucci: "Yes, yes. And that's submitted to Mary-Jo, and then that's when she can, you know, give it the number and then start it on the process, and just make sure that the proper reviews have been

conducted. Okay? Now again, there are going to be things that come up last minute, you know, emergency repair this, or something has to be purchased. We know that. But as far as just the regular, ordinary, everyday things... And I understand that there's probably going to be a little growing pains as we go along with this. And I understand that everybody's not going to comply right out of the gate. I understand that. But I do think it's important that we just work with them, and you know, explain to them why we're doing this. That there's no reason for this chaos, literally. And, you know, if anybody doubts it, come in, you know, on packet day. You know, either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday. It's very chaotic. And, you know, Mary-Jo's got to try and pull everything together, and, keep in mind, make all the copies, and make sure that everybody has complete sets of everything. So... Is everybody good with that? And I will work with everybody. I will work with the department heads, I will, you know, explain it, and kind of hopefully bring them along in this process. Is that okay with everyone? Alright. Does anyone else have any other suggestions or concerns about anything that are in the Rules of Council? Okay. The final thing I wanted to bring up was a reminder about the Charter Review Commission. And I'm going to read right from the Charter. 'In January, 1981, and every sixth year thereafter, a Charter Review Commission consisting of nine electors of the City of Brooklyn, holding no other office or appointment in the city, shall be appointed. The membership of the Charter Review Commission shall be comprised of two members appointed by the Mayor, and one member appointed by each member of Council. Such Commission shall review and recommend to Council, not less than 90 days prior to the next November election, any alterations, revisions and amendments to this Charter, as in its judgment seem advisable. The Council shall submit to the electors any such proposed alterations, revisions or amendments to the Charter at the next regular November election. Each said Charter Review Commission shall cease to function on the day of the next November election. The members shall serve without compensation unless otherwise provided by Ordinance.' Mary-Jo took, made copies of the existing Charter for everybody, so the person that you choose to appoint, which typically I think we've done it at the last meeting in January. So at our last meeting in January, just be ready with a name of someone that you'd like to appoint. The Mayor appoints two. And they usually start meeting in February I believe. Okay, so I just want to let..."

Clerk Banish: "They'll get a letter. But I will need addresses and phone numbers also please."

President Pucci: "Right. Mary-Jo will need name, address and telephone number of the person you're appointing. And for those of you members who are new, basically we just go through and each Councilperson states publicly who they're appointing. So make sure you check with the resident, that they're willing to serve. It's a big commitment. It's a very serious job. And the Commission itself elects a chairperson, and everyone on the Commission receives copies of the charters that they review from other cities. And they basically go through the Charter and see, you know, in their opinion, changes that they think are necessary. So they do set their meeting schedule. I mean, I can remember in the past, I think they met, at least for a block of time, like every week. Sometimes it's been every other week. You know, they set that, based on the time that they think is necessary. And it's a very serious undertaking. Okay? Does anyone else have anything they'd like to bring up? Yes?"

Dave Stancek: "I'm an outsider. Since this is only an Organizational meeting, I think you have an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate democracy in action. If the residents are under time limits, twice, in Council meetings, why shouldn't other speakers?"

President Pucci: "What do you mean other speakers?"

Mr. Stancek: "Anybody else who speaks."

President Pucci: "You mean from the public podium? Or you mean us, the Councilpeople?"

Mr. Stancek: "There has been other speakers."

Councilman DeMarco: "He's saying directors or..."

President Pucci: "You mean directors? Or...?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Anybody."

President Pucci: "I don't understand what... You mean when our directors speak?"

Mr. Stancheck: "I'm throwing an idea out there on furthering democracy. You can do with it what you wish."

President Pucci: "Okay, I understand."

Councilman Tanski: "Is Council included, I'm pretty sure he's talking about. Correct?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Anybody. It's anybody that speaks."

Councilman Magrey: "Are you specifically talking about any guest speakers that might be here?"

Mr. Stancheck: "No..."

President Pucci: "I think, you're just making a general comment?"

Mr. Stancheck: "Yes. It just seems unfair that twice you're telling residents, by all means we want to hear what you say, up to a time limit. Again, we hope you will speak, but up to a time limit, and anybody else that wants to speak can go on and on and on and on and on."

Councilman Tanski: "I think he has a point."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I think he's talking about department heads, myself. Yeah, sometimes they go on and on, and we had one episode lately where one went on and on and on, when one of the Councilmembers asked him a question. I think that's where he's going."

President Pucci: "Okay. I don't know. I don't really think it's our job to... I mean, if someone asks a question, or if you know, a director has a lengthy report... I mean, sometimes they have more lengthy reports than others, because sometimes I think there's more to communicate, you know, other times. I mean, this is just my personal opinion, I don't think we should be putting a time limit on other people's reports."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "And my opinion is this too. For years we had directors with no report, and now, you know, we're asking them, because residents are telling us, well why doesn't your directors have any reports. For years they said that. Now they're trying to be conscientious and give the report, and maybe some go on, you know, but... You know, some people like to speak a longer time, and you know, put a lot of effort into what they're talking about. And then you have others who really don't care. So, I mean, I don't know."

President Pucci: "Miss Bowen."

Mary Lee Bowen: "I have a comment to add to that. If you want more participation at these meetings, and I think you need it, and I do think you want it, you have to be fair. And to be fair, if you're going to impose time limits on certain groups of people, then you need to, whoever it is, whether you want to talk about Councilpeople or directors or whatever, tell them that if you've got something to say, get it said, don't ramble on and on and on. Because that discourages people from coming. I mean, there's a lot of comments like that too. And you have to consider the weight of that, and the fact that you don't get city participation. You know you don't."

President Pucci: "And you're referring specifically to reports of directors and department heads?"

Ms. Bowen: " Not specifically only to them. You know who you are. So let's dig deeply..."

Councilman Tanski: "Reports of everybody, just get it out."

Ms. Bowen: "...think about what you're going to say, get it down to the point. Make your point and move on."

President Pucci: "Okay. And I certainly think that that, as a resident, I think that's a suggestion that, I mean, obviously you've made it here. I mean, I don't think it's our rule to actually put something like that in our rules, because there could be topics where, you know, whether it's a Councilperson or a director, that, you know, they do need more time to make the point. But I will also pass that along to the Mayor, that you made that suggestion, and maybe he will pass along, you know, to his directors, department heads and chiefs, to try and be succinct."

President Pucci: "And Kathy, I need to caution you that if you're going to allow certain people to carry on and on and on, the public is going to start pushing back and saying, you know, who are you or anyone to say who's going to speak and who's not. I mean, it's a delicate balance that has to be struck. And it's a simple matter of intelligence and professionalism. I mean, this is a business meeting, keep it business. Not opinion, not I got 16 calls, and this one said that. Get to the point. You know, if you have to have someone edit that material, do it for awhile till people get trained."

President Pucci: "Okay. Any other Councilpeople have anything they'd like to say, or...?"

Councilman Tanski: "I think she has a point, and I think everybody, if we're going to limit the public, then I think Council and directors should be under some kind of limits too, not to go on. To me it runs into a campaigning up here sometimes because the TV is rolling. And I see it. I see it all the time. I've been told. And I think she has a point, 100%. It's not a campaign podium, like I seem to see it sometimes. If that TV wasn't here these reports would probably be cut down in half, a lot of times. So it is what it is, and she's got a great point. I've been to many meetings, and that's very valid to me."

President Pucci: "Anybody else?"

Councilman DeMarco: "I agree with what's been said. And I think maybe as a Council we can commit to... I can commit to three minutes or five minutes. Maybe that's a start. And you know, Kathy, if you could talk to the Mayor to talk to the directors. Unless it's something, you know, really that's going to take a lot of time, if they could limit themselves to, whatever, three or five minutes. Because I agree with you, the meetings are getting too long, and not a lot's really getting accomplished."

Councilman Tanski: "If there's multiple people in the public that say something to one person, then that's different, then they should be able to answer to every one of those..."

President Pucci: "Oh, to respond, right."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes, quickly. Because if you've got six people that ask you questions from the public, naturally yours is going to be longer."

President Pucci: "Right, right."

Councilman Tanski: "Let's just stick to the point. And if there is something on the agenda that needs a lot of talking about, whether it's negotiations, or whenever it gets into anything, stick to that point, and not go off and dilly dally with it, because it does happen."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "One other thing also is, a resident brought up to me about Council reports. And I don't know if we should maybe limit this, but, you know, a lot of us know a lot of people here in Brooklyn, and say Mr. Eschuk just passed away, and we all give our condolences, you know, certain Councilpeople; maybe we should stick to telling the Council President from all of Councilmembers we'd like, and not give a whole thing on... I know I do it. You know, their whole..."

President Pucci: "Background or..."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "...background, you know they worked... I don't know. I know residents have been upset with me and say, you know, well somebody just said that, and why don't you let the Council President just, you know, on everybody's behalf... And I just said, well, I don't know. I mean, they say, why can't you just send the resident a card to the family. So..."

Councilman Tanski: "Repetition. Repetition."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "But sometimes people are in the audience, the families, and it means a lot to them when we recognize their family member. I know many times I have said it, and they said thank you so much, it just meant a lot to us."

President Pucci: "Right, and I've had the same response from residents' families."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I mean, maybe Council, I don't know if they want to talk about that, or what, you know, their argument on that would be. But that's another thought."

Councilman DeMarco: "May I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "One thing that I think may make it a little more efficient, and I'm not sure how easy it is to accomplish, but if they..."

President Pucci: "There's static. Is that microphone on over there? Yeah, I think it's too close. I'm sorry, there was static."

Councilman DeMarco: "It's okay. I heard it. My thought maybe was, instead of going through every committee and every director, maybe there's a possibility of finding out in advance if somebody has a report or they don't have a report. Just do the people that have a report, so instead of going through Public Safety and Fire Chief and the Police Chief and the Rec Board and the School Board liaison... I mean, if half of us don't have reports, just to go and say no report, I'd rather just hear from the people that have something to say."

President Pucci: "And you're speaking specifically about the directors, department heads and chiefs, or...?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Yeah, I think I do."

President Pucci: "Because all the Councilpeople, I mean those are our committees, so we have to either say yes there's a report or no there isn't."

Councilman Tanski: "Well you know what the problem is..."

Councilman DeMarco: "Like at Public Safety for example, I was a chair last year, and I don't have a report, and if I let you know that in advance, can we just skip over that and go to Public Works who has a report? I don't know."

Councilman Tanski: "It would cut time down."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yeah, it's just..."

Councilman Tanski: "Halfway through the meeting half the people walk out the door. I watch it. If you cut the meeting in half they're going to be here for the meeting."

President Pucci: "Yeah, they've always done that though. Usually they like to stay through the reports of Council. That's always happened. Because they know what's on the agenda, they know what's coming, and you know, they pretty much know that, you know, pretty much everything we have passes. That's why. That's always been like that."

Councilman Tanski: "But if we cut that in half, now you cut everything else in half, maybe you can keep them drawn in here instead of just dragging it out."

Councilman DeMarco: "So if you've got 10 or 12 people, if only half have something to say, then that cuts down on the meeting. And again, to your point here, I hope all of Council... I mean, I'll commit to three minutes or five minutes or whatever. Everyone else agrees to it, I think we should, on our comments, kind of keep it, you know, within a reasonable timeframe. And I can't speak for the directors."

President Pucci: "What does everyone think about if there's no report, you know, letting me know that before the meeting and then I don't call on you? Is that... Does anyone object?"

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I think that's a good idea. I like that idea."

President Pucci: "Is that okay with everybody, or...?"

Councilman Murphy: "I wouldn't have a problem with that, as long as you'll announce the next date for the..."

President Pucci: "Well you would just announce it..."

Councilman Murphy: "...Board of Education meeting. That's fine if you do it."

Councilman Tanski: "The only thing is, if a resident has said something to one of the Councilmembers to answer, they might tell you before the meeting, I don't have a report, and then a resident says something and you're ready to answer to it, in your report. And that would be a different story. But, you know, that would be the only change."

President Pucci: "What about if we... Go ahead Mr. Patta, I'm sorry."

Councilman Patta: "I think, Kevin, you still have an opportunity during your Council report, and I don't think any Councilperson's going to not give something for a report. But I think if, for example, use Public Works, if you just went to whoever's chairing Public Works and there was no report, would you just say Public Works has no report then move onto Planning Commission...?"

President Pucci: "Yes, yes. I would still announce Public Works..."

Councilman Patta: "So the public is aware. Okay."

President Pucci: "I mean, you don't want to cut that many corners. I mean, we are the governing body of the city, we don't... You know what I mean? You know, the other thing we could do is, we could maybe start this year with the directors, chiefs and department heads, and they could let me know ahead of time, you know, just prior to the meeting if they have a report. We could just start there and then see how that goes. Do you want to try that? And still announce, you know, for the Council committees. I'm a little uncomfortable, you know, eliminating the actual Council committee. Because, I mean, these are serious assignments, and I don't think it takes very much time to say no report. But maybe we could start with the directors, department heads and chiefs, and if they don't have one, you know, I'll just say there's no report this evening and then I'll, you know, name the next one. What does everyone think about that?"

Councilman Tanski: "As long as it gets down to the natural business of the city in cutting down the time that we're in here. I think you're going to get a lot more people here. I think you're going to get a lot more people watching the television too."

President Pucci: "Right. And you've got to keep in mind, though, like Mrs. Gallagher said, it took a long time to enact Rules of Council, even though they were required by the Charter. There was a lot of opposition, there was a lot of fear. And there was fear among the directors and the department heads that they had to have something to say. And I think that now they are more comfortable saying no report, because it doesn't mean you're not doing your job, it just means there isn't anything new or anything going on that is necessary to report at a Council meeting. You know, I think they felt that, oh, they were going to be on the spot every single meeting, and they were going to have to come up with all these things to say. So I would suggest that we start with them. And I'll communicate that to them, that just prior to the meeting we'll, you know, I'll check with each of them, and they can let me know if they have a report or not. And as I go through I could just say, you know, there's no report from the Police Department tonight, we'll move onto the Fire Department. Go ahead Mrs. Gallagher."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "You know, I also think the new Councilmembers are really afraid to say no report. And I know, like Kevin, a couple times you just read an e-mail or you repeated what John Patta said. And like Mr. Brown's kind of looking at you like, I just answered it. Because you feel like, you know, you have to give a report. And that's always the way, you know, it seems like that's the way we do it now. But just so you know, in the past, Mr. Frey used to say no report. He would even joke. And he didn't have a problem with it. And nobody said anything to him. So, I mean, don't be afraid if you don't have anything to say. You don't have to read an e-mail or whatever."

Councilman Tanski: "It's not that. If a resident gets on me and I hear an earful, I think it's important for that resident, even though that maybe one of the directors have already said something, and maybe he doesn't think it's important. If he hears it from more than one Councilperson he might start saying, you know what, we've got a problem. We've got a bigger problem than what it is, because I'm hearing it from more than one. I've always said if the body speaks, and the residents speak, and more than one resident speaks, it's like anything, you're going to listen to them."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Well I just think Mary Lee and David have, you know, a point, that we probably... I know I do it, so we should edit everything we're going to say pretty much, and make it short if we can. I mean, they have good advice. That's all."

President Pucci: "Okay, anybody else? Okay, thank you all very much. And then Mary-Jo, you'll get the assignments out to everybody in the e-mail tomorrow?"

Clerk Banish: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay. We need a motion and a second to adjourn."

Councilman DeMarco: "Move to adjourn."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To adjourn, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Tom Murphy."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilman Murphy: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Meeting adjourned.