

MINUTES OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

January 11, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Present: Ron Van Kirk
Meg Ryan Shockey
Andy Celcherts
Kathy Pucci
Kevin Tanski
Barb Paulitzky

Absent: Mary Balbier

President Van Kirk said Councilwoman Balbier called him yesterday that she couldn't make it. He offered to move the meeting, and she said it was fine to continue without her. She had a work commitment.

Pledge of Allegiance.

President Van Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Council President. **MOTION** by Tanski, second by Celcherts for Ron Van Kirk. No other nominations were motioned. **VOTE RESULTED: For Ron Van Kirk for President:** Yes: Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. Abstain: Van Kirk. No: None **(PRESIDENT – Ron Van Kirk)**

President Van Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro-Tem. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Tanski for Andy Celcherts. No other nominations were motioned. **VOTE RESULTED: For Andy Celcherts for President Pro-Tem:** Yes: Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. Abstain: Celcherts. No: None. **(PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE – Andy Celcherts)**

President Van Kirk said there are four positions to fill:

He opened the floor for nominations for Rec Board representative. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Celcherts for Kevin Tanski. **VOTE RESULTED: For Kevin Tanski for rep. to Rec Board:** Yes: Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Pucci, Paulitzky. Abstain: Tanski. No: None. **(RECREATION BOARD REP. – Kevin Tanski)**

He opened the floor for nominations for Domestic Violence Comm. representative. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Paulitzky for Meg Ryan Shockey. **VOTE RESULTED: For Meg Ryan Shockey for rep. to Domestic Violence Comm.:** Yes: Van Kirk, Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. Abstain: Ryan Shockey. No: None. **(DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMM. REP. – Meg Ryan Shockey)**

He opened the floor for nominations for Economic Development Comm. representative. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Tanski for Andy Celcherts. **VOTE RESULTED: For Andy Celcherts for rep. to Economic Development Comm.:** Yes: Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. Abstain: Celcherts. No: None **(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMM. REP. – Andy Celcherts)**

He opened the floor for nominations for Planning Comm. representative. **MOTION** by Celcherts, second by Tanski for Ron Van Kirk. **VOTE RESULTED: For Ron Van Kirk for rep. to Planning Comm.:** Yes: Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. No: None **(PLANNING COMM. REP. – Ron Van Kirk)**

President Van Kirk said assignments have to be made for the three standing committees, and other positions, as follows:

Finance Committee: Councilmembers Paulitzky, Pucci, Van Kirk
Public Works Committee: Councilmembers Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski
Public Safety & Environmental Committee: Councilmembers Balbier, Ryan Shockey, Van Kirk
Legislative Update: Councilwoman Balbier
Sustainability Committee: Councilman Tanski
School Board Liaison: Councilwoman Paulitzky
Volunteer Fire Dependents Board: Councilmembers Pucci, Balbier
Fair Housing Rep.: Councilwoman Ryan Shockey

President Van Kirk said Council Rules need to be discussed and considered. Adjustments were voted on in July 2017. He asked for any suggestions for discussion for 2018 Rules.

-Councilwoman Pucci suggested to Rule 1, Organizational Mtg.: adopt the language as in the Charter change (with the new referenced Article). There was brief discussion.

-Councilwoman Pucci suggested under Miscellaneous to add to the effect of: No communication sent under the heading of Brooklyn City Council unless authorized by a majority of members of Council. (ex., use 'Council -member', '-person', '-at Large'...) When asked, it was referring to Councilman Van Kirk's letter, which he replied it wasn't from City Council, it was labeled. She said we could get guidance and input from Dir. Butler on it. There was brief discussion.

-Councilman Celcherts suggested to Rule 22, To Record Vote: with an abstain vote give a brief explanation on why. Councilman Van Kirk said it also falls under Rule 10, Voting, to add 'abstain (with explanation) from voting'. He already spoke to Dir. Butler about this. There was brief discussion.

-Council President Van Kirk proposed to Rule 4, Opening Procedures: 'The President shall lead in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an opening prayer (led by a designee by current Councilmembers)...' and also falls under Rule 14, Order of Business: change numbers adding #3 for 'Opening prayer'... He explained a current Councilmember would invite someone to give the prayer, suggesting starting with the seven churches in Brooklyn. Councilwoman Pucci feels it can exclude people who we should be representing, and/or excluding different religions. There was further discussion and comments, including rotating members inviting someone in.

-Council President Van Kirk proposed to Rule 7, Presiding Officer: add that Councilmembers who serve as representative on various committees shall inform the President at least 12 hours prior to a mtg. if they have a report for their committee assignment. It will be easier to include in the order of his business.

-Council President Van Kirk said the Order of Business talks about reports given, and it was discussed last year limiting reports; he's kept track of how long reports are, and hears complaints the meeting is too long. There were additional comments about this matter. He said maybe not in the rules, but agree to cut back. Councilwoman Pucci agreed to not put in rules, but try to keep it to five minutes. There was further discussion and suggestions. It was agreed for members to be aware of their time.

For changes referenced above to vote on: Rule 1, Organizational Mtg.; Miscellaneous (possibly renumbered as new Rule 34); Rule 22, To Record Vote; Rule 10; Voting; Rule 4, Opening Procedures; Rule 14, Order of Business.

Councilwoman Pucci stated she objected to the prayer section and asked for a vote on it. Councilwoman Paulitzky suggested adding a time to the prayer, for maybe three minutes. President Van Kirk agreed, not to exceed two minutes. Councilwoman Ryan Shockey said she's not comfortable with the prayer, for reasons of a relative not being comfortable as an atheist, and separation of church and state. Councilwoman Pucci said she already stated her views (mostly of excluding people). President Van Kirk responded to the comments, specifically the Supreme Court upholds this, adding he respects their opinions, but disagrees. After further brief discussion, **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Celcherts to add prayer, not to exceed two minutes, to Order of Business and Opening Procedures. **VOTE RESULTED:** Yes: Van Kirk, Celcherts, Tanski, Paulitzky. No: Ryan Shockey, Pucci. (**APPROVED**)

President Van Kirk said the items will come in an Ordinance.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Ryan Shockey to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Adjourn:* Yes: Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci, Tanski, Paulitzky. No: None. (**ADJOURNED**)

Clerk of Council

President of Council