

TO: Honorable Mayor James E. Dyer - City of Danbury, Connecticut.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Common Council held on the 21st day of November, 1983.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 O'Clock P.M. by the honorable Mayor James E. Dyer who led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Prayer was offered by Councilman Edward T. Torian.

Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk, Elizabeth Crudginton with the following members being recorded as:

PRESENT: Council Members - Beverly Johnson, Constance McManus, Bernard Gallo, John McGarry, Russell Foti, Carole Torcaso, John Esposito, Robert Godfrey, Stephen Flanagan, Nicholas Zotos, Joseph Chianese, Thora Skoff, Anthony Cassano, Louis Charles, Ernest Boynton, Janet Butera, Joseph DaSilva, Joseph Durkin, Gene Eriquez, Mounir Farah, Edward Torian.

21 Members Present - None absent.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING - to be held on the 21st day of November, 1983 at 7:30 O'Clock P.M. for the purpose of acting upon the following:

- 01 - RESOLUTION - Setting dates and times for regular Common Council meetings for 1983-1985.
- 02 - RESOLUTION - Special Meetings of the Common Council.
- 03 - Election of President of the Common Council.
- 04 - RESOLUTION - Re: Caucus.

RETURN OF SERVICE - Notices delivered and served by Police Officers of the City of Danbury.

A motion was made by Councilman DaSilva and seconded by Councilman McGarry for the CALL and RETURN OF SERVICE to be accepted. Motion carried.

01 RESOLUTION - Setting dates and times for regular meetings.

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury That, regular meetings of the Common Council of the City of Danbury shall be held at 8:00 O'Clock P.M. in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut, on the first Tuesday of each month commencing December 6, 1983 and continuing on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter except that the meeting in September, 1984 shall be held on the Fifth day of September, 1984, and the meeting in November, 1984 shall be held on the 2nd Thursday of such month, November 8, 1984.

In 1985, regular meetings of the Common Council shall be held at 8:00 O'Clock P.M. in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut on the first Tuesday of each month except that the meeting in January shall be held on the Third day of January, 1985. The meeting in September shall be held on the Fourth day of September, 1985 and the meeting in November shall be held on the Seventh day of November, 1985.

A motion was made by Councilman Boynton and seconded by Councilman McGarry for the Resolution to be adopted. Motion carried.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

02 - RESOLUTION - SPECIAL MEETINGS.

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

1. When held - Special meetings of the Common Council may be held whenever in the opinion of the Mayor, or in his absence, the acting Mayor, the interests of the City shall require, and shall be so held whenever seven members of the Common Council shall so require in writing.
2. Warning - All Special Meetings of the Common Council shall be warned by a written or printed Notice signed by the Mayor or Acting Mayor, and left with or at the usual place of abode or place of business of each member of the Common Council to be convened not less than 24 hours before the hour specified for said meeting, except in case of an emergency Special Meeting. Said Notice shall specify the time and place the meeting is to be held and shall be directed to any police officer of the City to serve and return.
3. Return of Service Of Warning - The Return of the Police Officer serving Warning of any Special Meeting of the Common Council shall be evidence that such meeting has been warned as stated in such return.
4. Items to be considered - Only those items of business listed on said Notice shall be considered, discussed and acted upon.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles and seconded by Councilman Boynton for the Resolution to be adopted. Motion carried.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

03 - Election of President of the Common Council.

Councilman Cassano placed the name of Constance McManus for President of the Common Council stating "The position of Common Council President is a very important one. Our President takes on the dual responsibilities of acting as liaison with both the Mayor's Office and the outside world. Indeed, our president serves as acting Mayor when necessary. Quite often our President is the voice of the Council in our dealings with the media.

If we put our collective feet in our mouths, it is our President who must somehow reconcile our views and present a rational, consistent and intelligent appraisal of the work we are doing and the results we are achieving. The President's position is one requiring intelligence, logical thinking, dedication, a sympathetic ear to all sides of a question, and the ability to motivate and mediate.

I would not blame you if you concluded that finding someone to fill this bill was next to impossible. However, I am pleased to say that the Council has a candidate that not only meets these requirements, but surpasses them.

It has been my personal observation, over the past four years, that she brings to the Council a rare combination of intelligence and common sense. Time after time, in committee and caucus, on the Council floor and during budget time, I have seen her resolve what appeared to most of us as overwhelming intra-council differences of thought and opinion. While I did not always agree, there was never any doubt in my mind that her actions were directed by a sincere desire to achieve the best for the City of Danbury and in so doing to generate credit and acknowledgment for the work of the Common Council.

A sense of humanity rates high in my eyes - the ability to relate to others in an honest, equal way- the ability to listen to and share ideas and opinions, and do it with all sincerity. My nominee meets that criterion, in spades. I have never hesitated, as I'm sure most of you have never hesitated, to discuss with her, thoughts and ideas. Both in and out of the context of Council business. I have always felt assured of an attentive, thoughtful and helpful response.

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Finally, I think it overwhelmingly important that our President possess a large appetite for hard work and an equally large sense of humor to go along with it. One without the other usually means disaster. My nominee has shown, over the past 4 years, and more appropriately, the past two years, an ability to successfully, and correctly, mix the business of our Council with the business of being human. She has shown the ability to do whatever must be done, whenever it must be done, for the good of our City. But, just as importantly, she has shown the ability to laugh at our foibles and, in the right context, to get us back on the track.

I am privileged to nominate, and I have no reservations in recommending to you, as our next Common Council President, Mrs. Constance McManus".

Councilman Farah in seconding the nomination for Mrs. McManus for Council President, submitted the following statements:

"Today we begin a new term in our office. Please allow me to take a few moments to reflect on our past term before we commence the present one.

By any measure or value the past two years have been marked by an impressive list of accomplishments. Road Bonds, fiscal responsibility, service to our senior citizens, funding of progressive programs and much more. The leadership of our Mayor has been exemplary, and the leadership of our Council has been responsible, cooperative and commendable to say the least.

As we meet the challenge of the present term we should keep in mind the value of experienced leadership. Connie as a president, Joe as Majority Leader and Ed as our legislative leader have cooperated together, worked with us, represented us before the public and were our liaison with the executive branch of our government. Their work has been outstanding.

Now if an incumbent has demonstrated the ability to serve well and has expressed the desire to continue, I think it will be incumbent upon us to provide that opportunity. I have the honor and the pleasure to second Connie's nomination for president, and I implore everyone to support her once the election is accomplished.

Councilman Gallo submitted the name of Joseph DaSilva for President of the Common Council stating " It is indeed an honor for me to place the name of Councilman Joe DaSilva in nomination for the office of Common Council President. I can say with the greatest confidence that he is the best person by far for the job. I truly believe that Joe is the most qualified member of the council to perform the duties of Common Council President. I know he can best exemplify the qualities we need in our president. He will be a strong leader in representing the Common Council. He has developed an excellent rapport with our Mayor, a condition that is so necessary for the smooth, efficient running of City government.

In addition, Joe is the person I would like to see as spokesman for the Common Council. He is a person who is respected for his knowledge, intelligence and integrity throughout the City of Danbury. He is well liked by everyone which shows his ability to get along with people in all walks of life. Joe has shown his outstanding leadership ability over the past four years on the Council. He has served as legislative leader for two years, majority leader for two years, chairman of the Public Works Committee for three years, chairman of the General Government Budget committee for four years. (Chairman of the inter-local commission for septage with Brookfield and the Housatonic Valley regional plan, as well as serving as chairman of numerous ad hoc committees throughout the past four years). Through his diligent guidance the Common Council has taken great strides in the improvement in the quality of life in Danbury, in areas such as the Road Improvement Bond issue which was overseen by the Public Works Committee and the Capital Improvement Bond Issue which has just been approved in referendum.

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For all the reasons I have stated here, I would urge my colleagues to support Joe DaSilva for Common Council President so that with his leadership we can continue the outstanding service this administration has given the City of Danbury for the last four years".

Councilman Eriquez in seconding the nomination for Councilman DaSilva for President of the Common Council stated "It is my pleasure to second the nomination of Joe DaSilva for Council President. Joe is a native Danburian and established a broad base from which he may reach out to in the City. He is aware of the old; he has worked for the development of programs for the youth and the elderly. He has worked to cooperate with the revenue of the City.

Joe DaSilva and his family stand for what is good in this City and I think Joe DaSilva as Council President would do what is best for the City.

It has been my pleasure to know Joe and his family for many years. I have known him and worked with him very closely for the last two years as an elected official and I feel him to be a qualified and dedicated individual and a very competent individual to take over the reins of the Council President.

I consider it an honor to second the nomination for Joe DaSilva for Council President and I urge my colleagues to please vote for him".

A roll call vote was taken for the election of President of the Common Council with the following results:

C. McManus

Beverly Johnson
Constance McManus
Carole Torcaso
John Esposito
Stephen T. Flanagan
Nicholas Zotos
Thora Skoff
Anthony Cassano
Janet Butera
Mounir Farah
Edward Torian
(11 votes)

J. DaSilva

Bernard Gallo
John McGarry
Russell M. Foti
Robert Godfrey
Joseph Chianese
Louis Charles
Ernest Boynton
Joseph DaSilva
Joseph Durkin
Gene Eriquez
(10 votes)

Councilwoman C. McManus was declared to be President of the Common Council.

Mayor Dyer stated that the two councilpersons were outstanding candidates and that any one of the two could do a fine job. The Mayor also stated that now it is important to unite and move ahead to City business.

Note: Prior to roll call of members, Corporation Counsel Theodore H. Goldstein administered the oath of office to Councilwomen Janet Butera and Carole Torcaso as they were not able to attend the official ceremonies previously held.

04 - RESOLUTION - Re: Caucuses of the Common Council.

Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:
Whereas, the Freedom of Information Act of the State of Connecticut authorizes the exclusion of the public from a caucus of members of a single political party; and

Whereas, the Common Council of the City of Danbury recognizes that although authorized, in the absence of minority party representation on the Common Council such closed-door caucuses tend to reduce full and open discussion of issues vital to the future of the City of Danbury and also tend to reduce the public confidence in government;

11/21/1983

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT in the absence of minority party representation on the Common Council of the City of Danbury all Council caucuses shall be held in open session to which the public will be freely invited.

Councilman McGarry requested referral to committee. Mayor Dyer so ordered and appointed the following Council members to this committee: Torian, DaSilva, Eriquez, Flanagan, McManus.

Note: Mayor Dyer expressed deep sympathy to E. Boynton for the loss of his brother. Also heartfelt sympathy to B. Johnson for the loss of her motherinlaw.

There being no public speakers and no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion was made and duly seconded for the meeting to be adjourned at 8:30 O'Clock P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Peckham
Assistant City Clerk

Attest: *Elyseet Mudgett*
City Clerk