

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL  
Organizational Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 2020

Greenfield City Hall Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

6:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER**      Councilor Guin called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Councilor Guin stated this meeting is being recorded. If any other persons present are doing the same they must notify the chairperson at this time. GCTV was videotaping; Chris Collins of WHAI and Melina Bourdeau of the Recorder were audio recording.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken. All Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Clerk Kathryn J Scott; Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; WHAI Reporter Chris Collins; Melina Bourdeau of *the Recorder*; GCTV-15 and members of the public.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Stempel, second by Councilor Forgey, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Forgey, it was,

**MOVED:** TO NOMINATE COUNCILOR PENNY RICKETTS AS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Councilor Ricketts accepted the nomination.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Dolan, second by Councilor Mayo, it was,

**MOVED:** TO NOMINATE COUNCILOR ASHLEY STEMPEL AS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Councilor Stempel accepted the nomination.

Councilor Guin asked for further nominations for City Council President. Seeing none, the nomination for City Council President was closed.

Councilor Ricketts made a statement which included her appreciation for the nomination and her hard work and determination in the past year to recover from a debilitating medical issue.

Councilor Stempel read from a prepared statement as attached.

It was by show of hands, 5 yes for Councilor Ricketts, 7 yes for Councilor Stempel, 1 abstention,

**VOTED:** TO ELECT COUNCILOR ASHLEY STEMPEL TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Councilor Guin relinquished the meeting to President Stempel.

President Stempel asked for nominations for the position of City Council Vice-President.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Dolan, second by Councilor Jarvis, it was,  
**MOVED:** TO ELECT COUNCILOR OTIS WHEELER TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT.

Councilor Wheeler accepted the nomination.

President Stempel asked for further nominations for City Council Vice - President. Seeing none, the nomination for City Council Vice - President was closed.

Councilor Wheeler made a brief statement and thanked the Councilors for their support.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO ELECT COUNCILOR OTIS WHEELER TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was,  
**MOVED:** TO ELECT COUNCILOR VIRGINIA DESORGHIER TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL TREASURER.

Councilor Desorghier accepted the nomination.

President Stempel asked for additional nominations for the position of City Council Treasurer. Seeing none, the nomination for City Council Treasurer was closed.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO ELECT COUNCILOR VIRGINIA DESORGHIER TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL TREASURER.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:20 P.M.

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Greenfield City Hall Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Organizational Meeting  
January 2, 2020

Attendance

|                        |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Jarvis, Edward      | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Guin, Daniel        | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. DeSorgher, Virginia | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Bottomley, John     | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Dolan, Timothy      | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Gilmour, Sheila     | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Wheeler, Otis       | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Mayo, Douglas       | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Hirschfeld, Norman  | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Elmer, Philip      | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Forgey, Christine  | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Ricketts, Penny    | Y |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13. Stempel, Ashley    | Y |  |  |  |  |  |

Thank you, I am honored to accept your nomination for Council President. I prepared a statement that I would like to read.

As outlined in the Charter, the role of the Council President is to preside at all meetings of the Council, to regulate its proceedings, and decide all questions of order. They appoint all members of all committees of the Town Council, whether special or standing, and perform other duties as necessary.

To summarize, it's this person's responsibility to facilitate the business of the Council and to do what's in the best interest of our community. My intention for being considered for President lies here. I'm confident that I have the skills, experience, and disposition to lead the council effectively in a way that allows us all to function at a higher level, together.

I'd like to highlight a few of my qualifications and relevant experience:

- In 2017 and 2018 I chaired Ways & Means during times that may be looked back on as challenging budget seasons for the council.
  - During that time, I established a budget hearing process that gave all departments, including charter and tech schools, the opportunity to speak to their budget if desired, and organized the meetings in such a way that grouped the departments with similar missions together - allowing the committee to hear budgets as part of a larger whole, rather than individual pieces. This process stands today.
  - In partnership with Mayor Martin, I encouraged department heads to consider the Master Plan when drafting budgets, ensuring that we are making strategic investments in our future, as well as keeping the lights on.

- In 2019 I chaired the Economic Development Committee, elevating that committee to a working group to address the city's reputation with the business community head on.
    - I facilitated a panel consisting of business, city, and community leaders that resulted in the Greenfield Business Survey and the beginnings of a review process for city boards and commissions - the latter being an effort spearheaded by Councilor Dolan.
  
  - And lastly, as a communications professional, I see an opportunity to continue to apply my expertise to not only effectively facilitate meetings of the council, but facilitate the flow of information and communications to our board, municipal departments, and the community at-large so that we can all perform at our highest standard of leadership.
    - Communication is at the core of just about everything we do. Effective communication builds trust, trust enables collaboration, and collaboration ensures success.
    - This is the first year the Council will move to digital agendas and supporting materials. I look forward to partnering with the Clerk's office to help develop a process for collecting, organizing, and disseminating information via the Council drive. I currently facilitate monthly virtual meetings for a team of 50 - this is an area where I am extremely comfortable.
    - I'd look forward to implementing simple templates and guidelines for councilors to submit proposals or other requests, both promoting access and consistency in this process.
    - I'd implement quarterly 1:1s with each member of the council to understand what's important to them and their constituents, where I can support, and identify areas where the council can integrate meaningful work.
    - And I'd work with committee chairs and the Clerk's office to set suggested times for discussions, and find other improvement for facilitating our monthly meeting, ensuring fairness and allowing us to move to a vote sooner.
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In my opinion, the President's role is to lead from the back, ensuring that each member of the council has an understanding of our common objectives and has the tools and information they need to lead, make decisions, and do what's best for our community.

It would be my honor to serve as your Council President in 2020 and I humbly ask for your support.