

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD December 10, 2013

This *SPECIAL* Council Meeting was called to order by Director of Law Richard A. Pignatiello at 7:17 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell' Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, Councilman-at-Large Barth, Councilwoman-at-Large Lecznar, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 1 Councilman Bryda, Ward 2 Councilman Fraundorf, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky and Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to reappoint **Carol L. Sekerak** to continue as Clerk of Council of the City of Seven Hills.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Law Director Pignatiello congratulated Mrs. Sekerak on her reappointment to Clerk of Council.

Mrs. Sekerak thanked Council for the reappointment.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar to nominate **Michael C. Barth** to the position of President of Council.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Law Director Pignatiello congratulated Mr. Barth on his election to President of Council.

Mr. Barth thanked Council for being elected as President of Council.

Director of Law Pignatiello turned the Special Council Meeting over to President of Council Barth to Chair.

Council President Barth made the following comments:

“First I would like to thank my colleagues for the opportunity to serve as President. I look forward to working with each and every one of you over the next year. Next on the agenda is the election of a President of Council Pro Tem, so at this time I will open the floor for nominations.”

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ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL PRO TEM

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky to nominate **Caryl Lecznar** to the position of President of Council Pro Tem.

Mr. Trafis made the following comments:

“First, congratulations on you becoming our Council President again. Our City is closing one chapter and ready to begin a new chapter, and I believe it’s important that we work together in cooperation. We have an opportunity here to really move this City forward and get a lot of things done together. As many of you know the last election I did not vote for Councilman Barth, but I think it’s important that we join hands and work together like I said. With that I hope that the Council President will reciprocate and consider granting my request of my Committee assignment. Again, congratulations Councilman Barth. In regard to the President of Council Pro Tem position, the past two years I was very vocal about how I didn’t believe it was right to elevate a member of Council to a leadership position when the spouse is also an employee of the City. I’m staying consistent with my thoughts and beliefs, and that’s why I will be casting a ‘no’ vote on this particular position.”

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf; yea;
Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis, nay.
6 yea, 1 nay

MOTION CARRIED

Council President Barth congratulated Mrs. Lecznar on her election to President of Council Pro Tem, saying that her election was very well deserved.

Mrs. Lecznar thanked everyone for being elected as President of Council Pro Tem.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Barth stated:

“At this time I’m going to open the floor for comments from our three new members of Council. We’ll start with Jeff Bryda from Ward 1.”

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Ward 1 Councilman Jeff Bryda made the following comments:

“At this time I would just like to thank a few people, starting off with the residents of Ward 1 for supporting me and my candidacy and electing me to this office, and Mike Barth for answering many questions for a first-time candidate. I’d also like to thank my family for helping me with my candidacy, and most of all, my wife, Becky, for supporting and helping me through this process of becoming Councilman. I’d also like to say that I’m looking forward to using my background in public works, in capital improvement projects, the Biltmore Nursing Home project, and street repairs. Also, I’m looking forward to getting to work with this new Council and the Mayor improving the wonderful City of Seven Hills.”

Council President Barth thanked Councilman Bryda for his remarks.

Ward 2 Councilman Tim Fraundorf made the following comments:

“I would just like to say that I’m extremely honored to have been chosen by the residents of Ward 2 to be their representative here on Council. I am committed to seeing this City move forward and progress. I truly believe that this Council has the wherewithal to do that. I do not take the duties of this office lightly, and I will perform those duties diligently to the utmost of my ability. Thank you.”

Council President Barth thanked Councilman Fraundorf for his remarks.

Ward 4 Councilwoman Michele Ernst made the following comments:

“I’m honored that the residents of Seven Hills Ward 4 chose me to represent them on City Council. I take that responsibility and trust very seriously, and I promise to do my very best to show them that they did not misplace their faith when they chose me to represent them. We’re facing many difficult issues in the City, and I’m looking forward to working with the other members of Council and the Administration to resolve these issues. I will work hard for the residents of Ward 4 and for the entire City.”

Council President Barth thanked Councilwoman Ernst for her remarks.

President of Council Barth stated:

“Before I move on to comments from our Mayor, I’d like to introduce former Mayor George Chandick who is in the audience. Mayor, can you please stand.”

Former Mayor George Chandick received a warm round of applause from everyone in attendance.

Mr. Barth added, “Thank you for your service, Mayor.”

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President of Council Barth continued:

“Mayor Trafis! I’m sorry – we have former Mayor Gerry Trafis here as well. And, Gerry, I’d ask you to stand, but Gerry has been through some very difficult surgery over the last month, and we’re very fortunate to have him here sitting in the audience with us. So, welcome Gerry, and thank you for your service as well.”

Council President Barth added:

“We also have with us Service Director Stewart Lovece, Building Commissioner Mark Moro, Director of Finance Jack Johnson, and Lieutenant Jeff Gezymalla from our Police Department. Gentlemen, thank you for coming here tonight. Thank you in supporting us.”

Mayor Dell’Aquila made the following comments:

“Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me a few moments and the opportunity to express my thoughts on this important evening for Seven Hills. As I think a couple of our new Council Representatives expressed, our City is truly at a turning point as we embark on the next two years in this upcoming term. Those of us who have been here for a while have struggled mightily to pull our finances back from the brink with a rigorous program of reduced expenses, streamlining operations, and creatively enhancing revenue streams. That program and the successes we have been able to achieve would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the outgoing Council, our reduced work force of appointed officials, and our employees. Many of them are doing multiple functions, not part of their job descriptions, without additional pay, and without complaint. We owe them a debt of gratitude for all of their efforts.”

Mayor Dell’Aquila continued:

“Mr. President, I am pleased, also, that you took the initiative of holding a seminar with the Law Director and others to instruct the new Council Representatives on the basic functions of Council, because we all need to immediately hit the ground running once we get started. The new start will be full of new challenges, and old ones, but we can also now move forward in a fresh, new atmosphere here on City Council. To be successful it is critical to understand public offices are not our private property -- and to remember why we were elected in the first place. We will all have critics. Many of those critics will be completely unfair to us as though their favorite indoor sport was to attack elected officials. The solution is to continue doing what we all believe in our hearts to be what is best for our City – not for political reasons – not for self promotion – but because we are now sworn servants of the public interest. Our disagreements should never be made personal, and our credibility is the best that we have to offer to our residents. Once our credibility is lost, we have nothing further to offer. The voters have performed their end of the bargain when they elected us, and now we must work hard and always respond to their needs. Our obligation is to understand that we not only represent them, but we also represent the City as a whole.”

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Mayor Dell'Aquila concluded his remarks:

“So as we proceed from this evening, my intention is to pivot our focus by leveraging those improved finances for needed improvements throughout the City much of which the Administration has presented to Council in the form of a five-year capital improvement plan, which I think was eluded to earlier as well. I look forward to that process and having it examined in the budgetary process, and I thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts. I congratulate everyone on your election, or your re-election, and let’s do our very best for our City. Thank you everybody, and thank you, Mr. President”

Council President Barth added:

“Thank you, Mayor. Before we adjourn, I would like to thank our Seven Hills Fire Department Color Guard – Joe Lecznar and Brian Dougan – for being here tonight. Thank you, gentlemen. I’d also like to thank Kathy Holland and Todd Stimetz for helping us set up. I’d like to thank Carol, as well – congratulations to you on being reappointed as Clerk, and thanks for your work on all of this.”

Council President Barth concluded:

“Before we adjourn, I just want to say that Council will form a little receiving line here for anybody that wants to come up and congratulate the newly elected Council. And we also have coffee and cake and some other refreshments in the back. So with that I’ll ask for a motion to adjourn.”

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The December 10, 2013 Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Michael C. Barth, President of Council

Attest: _____

Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____