

Unapproved  
**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

The Wethersfield Town Council held its organizational meeting on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, McAlister, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann.

Absent: Councilor Manousos

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The Reverend James Moran, Church of the Incarnation, gave the invocation.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilors Console, Drake, Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, McAlister, Montinieri, and Roberts. She asked for nominations for Chairperson of the Town Council.

Councilor Console moved **“TO APPOINT DONNA HEMMANN AS CHAIRPERSON-MAYOR”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Councilor Console said that it is a great honor to be here tonight. He said that he is pleased to nominate Donna Hemmann as Mayor. She was born and raised in Wethersfield and served on the Town Council from 2001 to 2005 and 2007 to 2009 and the Board of Education from 1990 to 1993 and 1997 to 2001. She has a degree in nursing and is pursuing her MBA. She is a member of the Republican Town Committee and served on the Youth Advisory Board, Central Connecticut Health District, and the Metropolitan District Commission.

Councilor Hurley said that he is proud to second the nomination of Donna Hemmann as Mayor. She will be a leader who will bring the Town Council and community together and move the Town in the right direction. She has the leadership qualities that will drive positive change.

A roll call vote was taken. All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Outgoing Mayor Adil presented the gavel to Chairperson Hemmann.

Chairperson Hemmann welcomed friends and neighbors to the Council Chambers. She said that she is honored to be serving as the Mayor of the Town of Wethersfield. She expressed her appreciation to the people of the Town for their vote of confidence in her. She thanked the previous Councilors for their hard work and dedication. She also thanked her family for its support. She said that her great grandfather, at 33 years old, was the Mayor of Boston. She looks

back with love and gratitude for the sacrifices that her ancestors made to bring people to where they are today. She said that the biggest challenge that faced the ten adventurers who settled in Wethersfield in 1634 was to create and preserve a fair and just system of self-government. She said that now it is this Council's turn. It is time to give back. She accepts the responsibility and challenge of helping to guide and strengthen this wonderful Town. Last week the voters made a decision for change. It doesn't necessarily point to things done wrong but a desire to look, listen, learn and try new solutions. She will work for a better Town and is committed to doing the best she can. She said that the voice of the Town Council will be the citizens' voice. The Town Council will work with the Board of Education to provide a quality education to the students of Wethersfield. As the Town Council begins its two year term she leaves members to think about a quote "Don't dwell on what went wrong, instead focus on what to do next. Spend your energies on moving forward and finding the answer." She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

Chairperson Hemmann entertained nominations for Vice Chairperson - Deputy Mayor.

Councilor Drake moved **"TO APPOINT JOHN CONSOLE AS VICE CHAIRPERSON - DEPUTY MAYOR"** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Councilor Drake said that it is his honor to nominate Councilor Console to serve as Deputy Mayor. He has served on two Town Councils and many organizations in Town. He is a tireless worker and is informed on the issues. His financial background will be needed in the current economic times. He said that Deputy Mayor Console and Chairperson Hemmann will compliment each other and will make a great leadership team.

Councilor McAlister said that he was honored to second the nomination of Councilor Console as Deputy Mayor. Councilor Console has served the Town well. He has a willingness to listen to the residents and take the necessary action to affect positive change. He doesn't shy away from responsibility and he takes accountability for serving the Town.

A roll call vote was taken. All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Console thanked everyone on the Town Council and Town. He said that he learned a lot from each of the previous Councilors. He is available for everyone in Town and can be reached at anytime. He has deep roots in Town and really cares about the Town.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Kotkin thanked the voters and his family for their support. He said that being on the Town Council is a lot of work with campaigns in the fall and budget sessions in the spring. All of the Town Councilors worked together on the Council and while campaigning. It was not

about the people, but the issues. He said that he looks forward to serving the people of Wethersfield.

Councilor Montinieri congratulated the leadership that was elected last week. He said a bipartisan attitude and willingness to work together for the betterment of the community is something that he feels strongly about. The community has spoken and he is respectful of his work for the Town whether he is in the minority or majority. He wished Chairperson Hemmann good luck and said that he will help in anyway.

Councilor Console thanked the Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville, Dick Lasher, for his warm letters. He is an inspiration to all.

Councilor Roberts congratulated Mayor Hemmann and Deputy Mayor Console. She said that the Town Councilors put in an incredible amount of time serving the Town. She said that this Town Council will be a good team and will work well together. She thanked her husband for his support and wished him a happy birthday.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Martin Walsh, 15 Laurel Way, wished the Town Councilors good luck. He said he hoped the Council would have a vision to bring the Town down the path that is sustainable for the future of the community. He said he hopes all Councilors remember that the Town Council represents all citizens of the Town and that they will listen to the minority and do the utmost to govern wisely and well.

Russ Morin, 495 Brimfield Road, congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and thanked all of the Councilors for running for office. He said that it is a special person that can give his time and effort to the Town. He will continue to work for the Town at the State level.

Matthew Forrest, 25 Spring Street, said that he wished the Council well and said that the Town is in good shape and will move forward. Serving on the Council takes a lot of time but the rewards are great. He said that he has faith in the Town Councilors and in the democratic process.

Matt DeAngelo, 16 Dennison Ridge, congratulated the Town Councilors. He said that with regard to the minority, he served in Town government in the minority and can understand the frustration that can go with it. He said that the majority should respect their rights and when they have a good idea, acknowledge it. He hoped that the Town Council would reinstate the public comment at the end of the meeting so to gain insight from the citizens as to what occurred at the meeting. It would be a great first step in opening up the process a little more to the people.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that he concurs with Mr. DeAngelo and encouraged the Town Council to reinstate the public comment at the end of the meeting. He hopes the Town

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Council will work together at all times with the citizens' needs always coming first. He also hoped the Council would recognize special self-serving interests when they are before the Town Council. He wished the Town Council good luck as it tackles many difficult problems and issues.

Julie Montinieri, 43 Amato Circle, said that she is a member of the Board of Education and wife of Councilor Montinieri. She congratulated the Town Councilors and looks forward to working together with the Town Council and Board of Education.

Tristan Stanziale, 15 Harold Street, said that he looks forward to working with all of the Town Councilors as he serves on the Board of Education.

The Reverend Scott Solberg, Sr., Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, gave the Benediction.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:45 p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Kotkin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk