Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2016

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Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Aldermanic President Philip Tripp. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

Randolph Carroll, R1	Present	Ward 4	Vacancy
Charles Stowe, R1	Present	Anthony Cassetti, R5	Present
Philip Tripp, R2	Present	Joan Radin, R5	Present
Lorie Vaccaro, R2	Present	Ward 6	Vacancy
Denice Hunt, D3	Absent	Patrick Henri, R6	Present
Joseph Jeanette, D3	Present	David Blackwell, Jr., R7	Present
Richard Kaslaitis, III, R4	Present	Frank DeLibero, R7	Present

President Tripp declared a quorum of 11 present, 1 absent, 2 vacancies, and stated that this meeting is dictated by Section 143 of the City Charter and is governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

To fill vacancy, the Board of Aldermen will vote to elect two registered voters as Aldermen, in the Fourth and Sixth Wards respectively, of the City of Ansonia, in accordance with Section 143 of the City Charter

President Tripp asked for nominations to fill the 4th Ward vacancy.

Alderman Radin NOMINATED Keith Maynard to fill the 4th Ward Aldermanic vacancy; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis.

President Tripp asked if there are any other nominations.

Alderman Vaccaro called for a point of order, citing that according to the Charter, the Mayor has the duty to appoint.

President Tripp cited Section 143 of the City Charter, which states:

> *Section 143 – Filling vacancies and elective offices*
>
> *When any vacancy shall occur in any elective office of said City, the Board of Aldermen, having been duly called together for that purpose by the City Clerk, shall proceed by ballot to fill said vacancy.*
>
> *If, in the office of the Mayor, one of said Aldermen shall be elected, if from any other elective office, then from the free men of said City.*

A plurality of ballots shall be sufficient to elect and the person or persons so elected shall fill the unexpired term or terms, and perform all the duties pertaining to said office.

Alderman Vaccaro cited Section 8 of the City Charter, which states:

Section 8 – Item 15 – Mayor's duties

Making nominations for appointment to the city's various boards and commissions; to fill any vacancies created therein not otherwise provided for by this Charter.

President Tripp asked for any other nominations.

Alderman Henri asked for Corporation Counsel Marini's opinion.

Corporation Counsel Marini noted that Section 8 is in conflict with Section 143. This Board needs to proceed to resolve.

President Tripp asked for any other nominations. In response to a question from Alderman Henri, President Tripp read aloud the call of the meeting, which states,

To fill vacancy, the Board of Aldermen will vote to elect two registered voters as Aldermen, in the Fourth and Sixth Wards respectively, of the City of Ansonia, in accordance with Section 143 of the City Charter

Alderman Delibero asked President Tripp to silence the audience during this deliberation.

President Tripp asked the audience to refrain from comment.

Alderman Vaccaro stated, nominations are to be made 72 hours in advance of the meeting, per the Charter.

President Tripp again cited Section 143 of the City Charter.

Alderman Vaccaro NOMINATED Marco Ayora to fill the 4th Ward Aldermanic vacancy; SECONDED by Alderman Cassetti.

Alderman Vaccaro noted that Mr. Ayora was nominated in writing by the Mayor 72 hours in advance.

Alderman Stowe noted that Mr. Ayora owes almost $8,000 in back WPCA fees.

Alderman Vaccaro stated that Mr. Ayora has taken steps with the Sheriffs to alleviate those tax burdens.

Alderman Stowe stated, when you owe that kind of money and the interest you're paying, it's going to take over a year for this to get this paid. We have a sheriff that has been collecting for us over the past couple of years and we've been very successful with it. What

kind of message is it for us to let somebody who owes that kind of money to serve on the Board of Aldermen right now. When Mr. Ayora gets his business cleared up he should run for election in the 4th Ward.

Alderman DeLibero requested a roll call vote for the nominations.

President Tripp read the section regarding Elections aloud:

> *Elections – Robert's Rules of Order*
>
> *Elections are commonly conducted by the ballot under the procedure described in a previous chapter. If only one candidate has been nominated for an office, the Chair simply declares the nominee elected, which is referred to as an election by acclamation, unless the election by-laws require a ballot vote, in which said vote must be conducted. On any ballot, write-in votes may be cast for any eligible person, even though he or she has not been nominated. If no candidate receives the majority, balloting continues retaining its candidates who do not voluntarily withdraw. An election becomes final when the Chair announces the result to the candidate is present and does not decline, or is absent but is previously consented to serve. Otherwise, it becomes final when an absent candidate is notified and does not immediately decline. If the one elected declines, balloting continues until someone is willing to accept and receives the majority. If there is no different provision in the by-laws, a candidate takes office as soon as his or her election becomes final. Organizations often prefer to provide for new officers and assume office in the close of the meeting in which they are elected at some later time.*

President Tripp stated, Robert's Rules of Order, which we all agreed to on the 8th of December.

Alderman Vaccaro asked President Tripp for a roll call vote.

Alderman Cassetti asked President Tripp for a roll call vote.

Alderman Radin asked that Alderman Blackwell and Ms. O'Malley put their cell phones away.

President Tripp asked the Aldermen and Officials to put their cell phones away.

Alderman Blackwell noted that he is reading Robert's Rules of Order in regard to roll call votes on his cellphone.

Alderman Henri suggested putting this vote off until an outside arbitrator can make a decision.

President Tripp stated, the people elected us to take responsibility and vote. This has already been delayed for a month or two. The people of the City of Ansonia demand resolution to this and demand representation.

A roll call voice ballot was taken as follows:

NAME	Aroyo	Maynard
Carroll		X
Stowe		X
Vaccaro	X	
Hunt		
Jeanette		X
Kaslaitis		X
Vacancy		
Cassetti	X	
Radin		X
Vacancy		
Henri	X	
Blackwell	X	
DeLibero	X	
Tripp		X
TOTALS:	5	6

President Tripp declared the vote in favor of Mr. Maynard.

President Tripp asked for nominations to fill the 6th Ward Aldermanic vacancy.

Alderman Carroll NOMINATED Joshua Shuart, PhD; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis.

Alderman Vaccaro NOMINATED Ralph Villers; SECONDED by Alderman Blackwell.

Alderman Vaccaro noted that Mr. Viller is Chairman of the Cultural Commission.

Alderman Henri asked that the Mayor speak about his nominee, Mr. Villers.

Mayor Cassetti stated, Ralph Villers is very involved in the community. He is a member of the Cultural Commission. He is very much involved with all of the events that we are currently doing in the City of Ansonia from Rock the Valley to the Summer Concerts that we're having. I think he would be an asset on the Board of Aldermen, and I'm hoping that you vote in favor of him tonight.

Alderman Carroll requested a roll call vote.

President Tripp called for a roll call ballot:

NAME	Shuart	Villers
Carroll	X	
Stowe	X	
Vaccaro		X
Hunt		

Jeanette	**X**	
Kaslaitis	**X**	
Vacancy		
Cassetti		**X**
Radin	**X**	
Vacancy		
Henri		**X**
Blackwell		**X**
DeLibero		**X**
Tripp	**X**	
TOTALS:	**6**	**5**

President Tripp declared the vote in favor of Mr. Shuart.

Mayor Cassetti stated, pursuant to the Ansonia City Charter, Section 8, Paragraph 14, I hereby disapprove and veto the votes taken by the Board of Aldermen special meeting of August 9, 2016. This veto is issued on the grounds that the City of Ansonia Charter Section 8, Paragraph 15, was not followed in making nominations for the election of the Board of Aldermen. I hereby veto these nominations for the Board of Aldermen.

President Tripp noted his objection to the Mayor's veto.

Alderman Vaccaro MOVED to install the other nominees.

Alderman DeLibero asked President Tripp to control the audience from making their comments or ask them to leave.

President Tripp asked the audience to refrain from their comments. He stated, a majority of the Aldermen have voted, thus a majority of the Board of Aldermen is in disagreement with the Mayor.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the veto can be overturned by a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Alderman Blackwell asked Corporation Counsel Marini if the Mayor has the right to veto.

Corporation Counsel Marini explained, it's part of the checks and balances. You need a 2/3 majority vote to overturn the Mayor's veto. The Mayor's veto stands unless the Board of Aldermen can muster a 2/3 vote to overturn it.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to have a Charter Specialist paid by the City to come here and explain to us what is right and what is wrong about what we did tonight.

He noted that he has the utmost respect for Corporation Counsel Marini and considers him a close friend, but feels he is siding toward the Mayor's Office, which is fine.

Corporation Counsel Marini disagreed, and stated that he will not let someone say that he is biased.

President Tripp called for order and gave Alderman Stowe the floor.

Alderman Stowe continued, we need to have an individual come here that has no bias to tell us what's going on so that if I made a mistake and my vote isn't right, I would like to know. I would like the right individual to be placed on this Board, whether it's the Mayor's appointment or what the Board of Aldermen voted.

President Tripp explained to Alderman Stowe that he cannot make a motion during this special meeting as it is not on the agenda, but can do so under New Business at the regular full Board meeting following this special meeting.

Adjournment

At approximately 7:08 p.m. Alderman Carroll MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen