

Appointment of Committees and Committee Chairs
Election of Common Council President
Election of Common Council Vice President
Election of Common Council Representative To The City Plan Commission

Common Council – Formal Organizational Meeting
Wed, Apr 19, 2023 6:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:04:36

Right. Next is appointment of committees and committee chairs.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:04:49

There's a few. There's I think there's four for the staff. **[Note: Mayor Woodford was talking about documents to be passed out.]**

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:04:54

I need a motion on the appointment of committees and committee chairs. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. The appointments of committees and committee chairs have been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:06:51

All right, next is the election of a co—of Common Council President. At this time, I'll open the floor for nominations for Council president. Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:07:03

I'd like to nominate Katie van Zeeland. I—got a second? Okay. I think she did an excellent job this past term and I look forward to her continuing in that role.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:07:18

And just to be clear, we don't need seconds for the nominations. But appreciate the enthusiasm. So, we—so Alder Van Zeeland has been nominated. Are there any other nominations for Council president. Alder Del Toro.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 1:07:35

I'd like to nominate alder Meltzer.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:07:36

Alder Meltzer has been nominated. Any other nominations? Going once, twice. I will close nominations for Council President. And at this time, we'll offer each an opportunity to offer a brief statement before we get going with the voting. We'll take these in the order they were nominated. So first is Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:08:12

Thank you, chair. It's truly been an honor to lead this Council over the last year. So, thank you for that opportunity. Many of you have heard me say before that it takes about a year, I think, for an alder to get their feet underneath them. And having done this this job in taking this position over the last year, I feel the same way about President. I think that we could benefit from some continuity in this position. I spent the last year laying the groundwork for a respectful relationship with my colleagues, with the mayor, with staff, and with members of our community. And I really learned a lot, and I have some great ideas on how we can use both

leadership positions in a way that benefits not just us as a Council but the city as a whole. And I would appreciate that—appreciate the opportunity to continue. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:09:08

Now statement from Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:09:11

Thank you. I have been on Council a long time. I have served as Council Vice President. And I feel that I have a lot to bring to offer to Council in a leadership position. But I also am not critiquing Katie's job as Council president. I do think that this is an office that gets elected each year, and, you know, changing it up if that is what the body feels they like to do, they have the choice to do that. But I certainly would bring everything to the table as far as supporting all of my colleagues and making sure that business runs smoothly. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:09:56

All right, we'll distribute ballots now. This is a secret ballot. So, we'll, we'll distri—we'll. And Clerk Lynch will just walk us through the procedure.

Clerk Kami Lynch 1:10:07

So, you all should have a set of ballots on your desk. The salmon color is for Common Council president. Please write the individual you wish to vote for and fold it in half and I'll go around and picks them up.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:10:28

And just for members of the public, we're just finishing the organizational meeting of the Council. Once we wrap that up, we'll be taking just a brief break before we get underway with the Council meeting. So, apologize but we'll be starting a little bit late for the Common Council meeting that was scheduled for seven o'clock. So just hang tight. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:25

I don't think the mic pick that up so I'll just note for the record Alder Van Zeeland's been reelected Council president.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:30

Next, I'll open the floor for nominations for Council vice president. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:12:37

I'd like to nominate Alder Alfheim for vice president.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:47

Any other nominations? Alder Del Toro.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 1:12:50

I'd like to nominate Alder Fenton.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:59

Any other nominations for Council vice president.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:13:03

I'd like to nominate Aldersperson Meltzer.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:13:12

Any other nominations? All right. Clerk Lynch. Since we have three nominees, can you just explain the procedure for us?

Clerk Kami Lynch 1:13:23

Yes, so you have the yellow ballot for Council vice president. First, we are going to have a primary. So, write down your desired candidate. You can only choose one. After that, it will be narrowed down to the two candidates that received the most votes, and then we will vote again on those two candidates with a second ballot that I will distribute. So, choose one candidate. This will narrow it down—the pool from three to two. And we'll vote again after the top two candidates have been chosen.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:13:55

First, I'd like to make sure we offer an opportunity for each of the nominees to give a statement. So again, we'll take these up in the order in which they were nominated. First is Alder Alfheim.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:14:07

Thank you, Mayor. And thank you for the opportunity. I think that I do my best to listen and to understand the workings of the body and the emotions and the facts that go with it. I think in today's world, there's more and more contention going on, and I do my best to keep a level hand and keep things moving the way that it should be with rational thought and succinct conversation. If I am elected, I will continue to do that and learn from Katie. She has done a great job in putting together the nuts and bolts that are necessary that sometimes are not seen. And I appreciate them. And so, I would look forward to that opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:14:54

Next is Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:14:57

Thank you Chair. Um, with gratitude for the nomination, I would like to withdraw my nomination and encourage anybody who would have supported me for the role to vote for Alder Meltzer. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:15:15

Next is Alder Meltzer

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:15:18

Thank you. I would be very honored to be chosen again by this body to be the Council vice president. It's certainly something I have received no criticism about how I perform this role. I feel that I work very well with Aldersperson Van Zeeland and I think that since we do have the same Council president, we have an opportunity for some continuity here and I think that it would be beneficial to this body. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:15:51

All right. Given Alder Fenton's withdrawal from consideration, we'll just get right into voting then. No primary necessary. So, with that, please cast your ballots.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:46

Alder Alfheim has been elected Council Vice President. Congratulations.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:57

All right resolutions submitted by alders referred to the organizational meeting. I don't believe there have been any submitted.

Clerk Kami Lynch 1:18:05

[Said something to Mayor Woodford that wasn't fully picked up by the microphone.]

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:05

Excuse me. Anxious to get on with it. Next election of Common Council representative to the city plan commission. I'll open the floor for nominations. Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:18:23

Thank you Chair. I'd like to nominate Denise Fenton.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:30

Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:18:31

I was gonna nominate Denise too

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:33

Okay. Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:18:35

Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to nominate Sheri Hartzheim

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:47

Any other nominations? Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:18:52

Thank you Chair. I'd like to nominate Israel Del Toro.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:55

Any further nominations? All right. Before we go through the voting procedure one more time, just want to invite any statements from nominees. Any—are there any nominees who'd like to make a statement? And we'll start with Alder Hartzheim and if anybody else, any nominees, want to speak, you can. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:19:29

Thank you, chair. I am pleased with the nomination. I appreciate that very much. But I would encourage anyone—I would like to withdraw my nomination and I would encourage everyone to vote for Aldersperson Fenton for this position. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:19:46

Alder Fenton or Del Toro, any statements you'd like to make on your nomination. Okay. Alder Fenton, looks like you do. Go ahead.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:19:57

I want to thank my colleague for the nomination. I have served on the planning commission for two years, and I have really enjoyed it and would be happy to serve again. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:20:17

Alder Del Toro.

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 1:20:18

Just want to briefly say that it'd be an honor to serve in this position. Happy to do my due diligence and homework in preparation for this role. So.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:20:27

Alright, with that we'll start the voting. Please cast your ballots. And again, just a reminder, Alder Hartzheim has withdrawn so Fenton and Del Toro.

Clerk Kami Lynch 1:20:40

The—yep, the Common Council representative to the planning commission is not a secret ballot. You do put your names on it. We don't have that here, but we have it for the record if requested.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:22:53

Alder Fenton has been reelected to the Plan Commission. Congratulations