

JOURNAL OF THE COMMISSION
CHARTER COUNTY OF WAYNE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
NO. 1

ORGANIZATION MEETING - 2009

FIRST DAY

Commission Chamber, 4th Floor, Wayne County Building, Detroit, Michigan

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

10:00 a.m.

In conformance with the Wayne County Home Rule Charter, the Constitution and applicable Statutes of the State of Michigan, and pursuant to the previous Commission's Rules, the Commissioners-elect to the Wayne County Commission assembled in the Commission Chamber in the Wayne County Building at Detroit on the third business day after January 1, the 6th day of January, 2009 at 10:09 a.m., and were called to order by the Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett.

PROPOSED

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Following the processional, the Wayne County Honor Guards led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett introduced Reverend Dennis R. Skiles, Co-Pastor, Unity of Livonia, who delivered the following invocation:

“For all of you who celebrated today is the feast of the epiphany. Let us accept the wise men and the wisdom that is necessary to govern a free people. God let us take this moment to reflect on our world as we honor the Wayne County leadership team. May they know peace; may they live in love and respect; may they have Your stability and let them bestow upon our government Your living grace. Lord we as a community pray for this Executive and these Commissioners who are about to become our leaders this month. Our Commissioners today, give them the power to be good, strong servants of the people. Help them to respect one another and do their best for all of us who have elected them to serve. Kind and loving Lord help us be grateful for their willpower, their determination and their open-minded desire to serve. Lord it is said that great vision can create a world of harmony, a world of peace and justice. As each of us take a moment to pray silently in our own way let us do so grateful for each of these, our friends and neighbors who have been elected to represent us. Thank You living God. We are grateful with the compassion and assurance that these Commissioners bring to the County and to the business table of the County. We acknowledge each ones’ willingness to be our representative and to do their best for this great County. We do affirm this in the name of Father, the Son and the living spirit. Amen.”

CERTIFICATION OF COMMISSIONERS-ELECT AND ROLL CALL

Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett advised that the Board of Canvassers duly certified the following list of Commissioners-elect:

First District	TIM KILLEEN
Second District	BERNARD PARKER
Third District	MOE BLACKWELL
Fourth District	JEWEL C. WARE (EXCUSED)
Fifth District	ILONA VARGA
Sixth District	KEITH D. WILLIAMS
Seventh District	BURTON LELAND

PROPOSED

Eighth District	ALISHA R. BELL
Ninth District	DIANE L. WEBB
Tenth District	LAURA COX
Eleventh District	KEVIN MCNAMARA
Twelfth District	JOAN GEBHARDT
Thirteenth District	GARY WORONCHAK
Fourteenth District	JOSEPH PALAMARA
Fifteenth District	EDWARD A. BOIKE, JR.

CONSTITUTIONAL OATH OF OFFICE

The following named Commissioners took and subscribed the Constitutional Oath of Office, which was administered to the Commissioners-elect by the following:

The Honorable Harry Kalogerakos, Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Tim Killeen of the First District.

The Honorable Virgil Smith, Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Bernard Parker of the Second District.

Mr. Arthur B. Blackwell, II, father of Commissioner Blackwell, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Moe Blackwell of the Third District.

The Honorable Cathy Garrett, Wayne County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Ilona Varga of the Fifth District.

The Honorable Cathy Garrett, Wayne County Clerk, wife of Commissioner Williams, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Keith D. Williams of the Sixth District.

Mr. Kevin Kelley, former colleague, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Burton Leland of the Seventh District.

The Honorable Joseph Baltimore, 36th District Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Alisha R. Bell of the Eighth District.

Prior to administering the Oath of Office, Honorable Joseph Baltimore, made the following remarks:

PROPOSED

JUDGE JOSEPH BALTIMORE: “It is indeed an honor for me to be here today to perform this for my cousin. It was said that if you work in government there is always something to do and if you choose to stay out of trouble you will ask a question, if not me, then who.”

Mr. Tom Webb, father of Commissioner Webb, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Diane L. Webb of the Ninth District.

The Honorable Michael Cox, Attorney General, husband of Commissioner Cox, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Laura Cox of the Tenth District.

Mr. Cullan McNamara, son of Commissioner McNamara, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Kevin McNamara of the Eleventh District.

The Honorable Marilyn Kelly, Michigan Supreme Court Justice, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Joan Gebhardt of the Twelfth District.

Prior to administering the Oath of Office, Honorable Marilyn Kelly made the following remarks:

JUDGE MARILYN KELLY: “Let me just say that the people of the County have been very wise in electing Joan Gebhardt and I know that the others of you who have been sworn in today have my best wishes. With that I will swear you in.”

The Honorable Milton Mack, Chief Judge of Probate Court, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Gary Woronchak of the Thirteenth District.

Prior to administering the Oath of Office, Honorable Milton Mack made the following remarks:

JUDGE MILTON MACK: “I served in these chambers for eight years before I became a Probate Judge and I’ll have to say that those eight years were great. I enjoyed them all. Even during the time I was chairman of the “outhouse” caucus. Those were fond memories. I will encourage all of you who are serving now to enjoy the time you have here.”

The Honorable Milton Mack, Chief Judge of Probate Court, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Joseph Palamara of the Fourteenth District.

PROPOSED

The Honorable Milton Mack, Chief Judge of Probate Court, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr. of the Fifteenth District.

Prior to administering the Oath of Office, Honorable Milton Mack made the following remarks:

JUDGE MILTON MACK: “When I left the Commission, Commissioner Boike was the last one who was there when I left. Commissioner Boike was walking in the door and into my former office at the time, which was okay. Judge Burton who used to swear in Commissioner Boike expressed his jealousy, outrage, and disappointment, but he is happy for you anyway.”

Following the Constitutional Oath of Office and Acknowledgement by each Commissioner, Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett made the following remarks:

WAYNE COUNTY CLERK GARRETT: “Please join me in applauding all of our re-elected Commissioners and our newly elected Commissioners. Now at this point we will receive motions for electing Officers of the Wayne County Commission.”

ELECTION OF WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION OFFICERS

A. Chairperson of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court.

B. Vice-Chair of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court.

C. Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court.

PROPOSED

Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett announced that the order of business was the election of the Chairperson of the Commission. Following which, she requested nominations for the Chairperson of the Commission.

Commissioner Palamara, supported by Commissioner Woronchak, nominated Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr. as Chairman of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett proceeded to announce that Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr., having received the unanimous vote of the members serving, was duly elected Chairman of the Wayne County Commission, and the resolution was thereby adopted by voice vote.

[Resolution No. 2009-001]

The Wayne County Clerk introduced **The Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court**, to administer the Oath of Office.

The Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court, administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr., as Chairman of the Wayne County Commission.

Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett announced that the order of business was the election of the Vice-Chair of the Commission. Following which, she requested nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Palamara, supported by Commissioner Woronchak, nominated Commissioner Williams as Vice-Chair of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett proceeded to announce that Commissioner Keith D. Williams, having received the unanimous vote of the members serving, was duly elected Vice-Chair of the Wayne County Commission, and the resolution was thereby adopted by voice vote.

[Resolution No. 2009-002]

PROPOSED

The Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court, administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to Commissioner Keith D. Williams, as Vice-Chair of the Wayne County Commission.

Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett announced that the order of business was the election of the Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Commission. Following which, she requested nominations for the Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Commission.

Commissioner Palamara, supported by Commissioner Woronchak, nominated Commissioner Varga as Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, **Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett proceeded to announce that Commissioner Ilona Varga having received the unanimous vote of the members serving, was duly elected Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission, and the resolution was thereby adopted by voice vote.**

[Resolution No. 2009-003]

The Honorable Milton Mack, Jr., Chief Judge of Third Judicial Circuit Court, administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to Commissioner Ilona Varga as Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission.

At this point in the proceedings, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett relinquished the Chair to Chairman Edward A. Boike, Jr., who gave the following remarks:

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN BOIKE: “To our Wayne County Clerk, Cathy Garrett, it’s always a pleasure to have her here and whenever we get an opportunity to see her we are thankful. Cathy thank you very much. We also have standing in is County Executive Bob Ficano. All elected officials, not including the Commissioners, will you please stand to see everyone that is here? The Treasurer of Wayne County, Ray, just wanted to say “hi” and we don’t need any money yet.

This is great and it’s just been great to see all of the swearing in’s today with all the loved ones and all the friends. Acknowledging Art Blackwell who was a past Chairperson I believe in 1989, our Attorney General, and all of the judges. It is great to see you.

PROPOSED

Commissioners, it is truly an honor to be selected Chairman of the Wayne County Commission by my colleagues and I know you have put me in a position of putting your faith and trust in me and I promise that I am not going to let you down. The job of Chairperson is a major responsibility. I know and understand that and it is a huge undertaking. Some of the research that I've been doing with your help and you can certainly see what is ahead of us. I have been entrusted in providing the leadership and oversight of the County's Legislative body. I do not take this lightly. I will work to uphold the Wayne County Charter as we took the oath today several times, set policy, and provide financial accountability for the taxpayers of Wayne County, but it's with your help. I'm going to be calling on you, for a lack of a better word, a whole bunch for help and assistance.

To our two new Commissioners, Diane Webb and Joan Gebhardt, I'd love to extend a warm welcome to the Wayne County's 2009-2010 Legislative Session. What's been nice about the Commissioners, our two newest ones, when they were Commissioners-elect, they attended a lot of our Rules meetings and other meetings. So I know they are prepared when we get into part of the business today.

At our last Commission meeting we took a bold step and we passed temporary new rules and you are all going to view on today something that we've never done before, but we are going to save that as a treat at the end. It's the blind draw that we had talked about in the policy board. In the days and weeks ahead we will look at how we can put new policies and procedures at the Commission. Just as the automotive industry is reinventing itself, Wayne County government must change the way it operates. One of my key priorities is to streamline the County Commission, again with your help. We will have to find ways to work more efficiently and effectively. We have a very talented and dedicated team of employees but we need to make sure they work with more structure and order. We will give them the tools and the training to perform their jobs more productively. We all know Wayne County is currently enduring one of its worst economic downturns since the depression. Experts say its even going to get worse, unfortunately, Bob. Our challenge is to minimize the reduction in services and programs we provide our citizens and communities. Wayne County has 43 separate and distinct municipalities. Each with their own unique challenge and our task is to balance the needs and the resources available to all 43 communities and be attuned to their needs, but we must seek additional funding sources to improve roads, maintain drains, fight foreclosures and develop underutilized properties. Of course, the common denominator is that all communities need jobs. As a legislative branch of county government we will work with County Executive Bob Ficano and his staff to diversify our economy, create new employment, and generate additional tax base for our county and our communities. We are facing tough times. No question about that, but this is a County that put the world on wheels. We're the ones that defend liberty at its' darkest hour.

PROPOSED

On election night President-elect Barack Obama said: "We have never been a state of red states and blue states. We are and always will be the United States of America." We can borrow that and bring it to the County and that statement applies to Wayne County and we are not a County of city and suburb. We are one Wayne County. We can emerge from this current storm by being strong and united like I've seen time after time and had the honor to work with members of this Commission. I'm calling on you my colleagues and you might get sick of me calling you and asking your advice, but you won't. I know everybody on this Commission. I am calling on you my colleagues to join me in tackling the challenges we face with the same resolve and spirit that you have shown time and time again. These traits define Wayne County. We are Wayne County. All united. Detroit is our county seat. We are 43 communities and I am looking so forward to working with you all and again I'm going to be asking a lot for your help. We'll have committees all assigned and will get into business very, very shortly. Thank you all so very much."

CONSIDERATION OF STANDING RULES OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure provides, in part:

"...The Commission shall also adopt Temporary Rules of Procedure. ..."

Vice-Chair Williams, supported by Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, pursuant to the Commission's Standing Rules of Procedure, moved adoption of the Rules as the Temporary Rules of Procedure for 60 days.

There being no discussion, Chairman Boike requested a vote on adoption of the foregoing matter and resolution, which prevailed, a majority of Commissioners serving having voted therefore by the following Roll Call:

Yea -- Commissioners Bell, Blackwell, Cox, Gebhardt, Killeen, Leland, McNamara, Palamara, Parker, Webb, Woronchak, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, Vice-Chair Williams, Chairman Boike -- 14
Nay -- None
Abstain -- None
Not Voting -- None
Excused -- Commissioner Ware -- 1

[Resolution No. 2009-004]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Rule 2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, any matters not having received final action by the outgoing Commission shall be referred back to the Committees for

PROPOSED

consideration, except those matters "... declared as requiring emergency action involving civil disaster, public health, and public safety..."

Note: A report will be submitted by the Acting Clerk of the Commission detailing those matters which have been submitted to the Commission for consideration, but which did not receive final action during the 2007-2008 Session.

Commissioner Palamara, supported by Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, moved to refer the foregoing matter to the appropriate Committees.

Following discussion, **the Commissioners voted as follows:**

Yea -- Commissioners Bell, Blackwell, Cox, Gebhardt, Killeen, Leland, McNamara, Palamara, Parker, Webb, Woronchak, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, Vice-Chair Williams, Chairman Boike -- 14
Nay -- None
Abstain -- None
Not Voting -- None
Excused -- Commissioner Ware -- 1

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, ORDINANCES, AND RESOLUTIONS

The Acting Clerk of the Commission advised there were no Presentation of Petitions, Ordinances and Resolutions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

To Committee
and
Set Dates for
Nominations
as Appropriate

1. Communication from the Acting Clerk of the Commission Joyua A. Bouldes advising as to the various boards and commissions and other appointed positions in which vacancies shall occur in the coming year. (2008-58-001)

Vice-Chair Williams, supported by Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, moved that the foregoing communication be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Yea -- Commissioners Bell, Blackwell, Cox, Gebhardt, Killeen, Leland, McNamara, Palamara, Parker, Webb, Woronchak, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, Vice-Chair Williams, Chairman Boike -- 14
Nay -- None
Abstain -- None
Not Voting -- None
Excused -- Commissioner Ware -- 1

PROPOSED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The Acting Clerk of the Commission advised there were no Communications from Sources other than Governmental Agencies.

NEW BUSINESS

The Acting Clerk of the Commission did a Blind Draw for the Commission Personnel Review Panel. Commissioner Tim Killeen, Commissioner Bernard Parker, Commissioner Diane L. Webb, Commissioner Laura Cox, and Commissioner Alisha R. Bell were chosen as Personnel Review Panel members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Acting Clerk of the Commission advised that the next Commission meeting is rescheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pursuant to the County Commission's Rules of Procedure, Chairman Boike invited comments from the public. Mr. Danny Wilson gave remarks.

As no other business was presented, **Chairman Boike thereupon requested a Quorum Call, and the Acting Clerk of the Commission reported that the following Commissioners were in attendance:**

PRESENT: Commissioners Bell, Blackwell, Cox, Gebhardt, Killeen, Leland, McNamara, Parker, Palamara, Webb, Woronchak, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, Vice-Chair Williams, Chairman Boike -- 14

EXCUSED: Commissioner Ware -- 1

PROPOSED

A quorum being present, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Varga, supported by Commissioner Parker, declared the Commission adjourned until Thursday, January 22, 2009, the time being 10:48 a.m.

JOYUA A. BOULDES
Acting Clerk of the Commission

JAB:dl