

JOURNAL OF THE COMMISSION

CHARTER COUNTY OF WAYNE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

NO. 1

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - 2017

FIRST DAY

Commission Chamber, Mezzanine, Guardian Building, Detroit, MI

Thursday, January 5, 2017

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 Guardian Building in Detroit on the third business day after January 1st, the 5th day of January, 2017 at 10:13 a.m., and were called to order by the Acting Commission Clerk, Pamela Lane.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Following the processional, the Wayne County Sheriff's Honor Guard led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

The Acting Clerk of the Commission introduced Reverend Dr. E.L. Branch, Senior Pastor of Third New Hope Baptist Church, who gave the following invocation:

“God of love and peace, we honor you today for your goodness and your mercy toward us. Thank you for the beauty and glory of this day and for the new year that you have given us with so many open doors and fresh opportunities. Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility to love, protect and care for others; especially for those who are sometimes thought of as the least and the last among us. Thank you for Wayne County and its system of government. Thank you for the Wayne County Commission and for the Commissioners who have been selected to serve this community for this challenging season. God, we pray your blessings upon this occasion today and upon all who are present for these proceedings. We pray that your love and your grace would be shown through their lives and through their actions and that as they serve the citizens of this community, that your name would be honored and glorified. I pray strength and courage and integrity and boldness upon them so that they can best do the jobs they are assigned to do. May this Swearing-In ceremony be a charge to them to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with their God. God, we pray that you would cover them and keep them in every way. Use them all to your own glory and for the betterment of your people. I pray a prayer of covering upon our nation, state and local governments and for the causes that bind us together as one. Dear God, may your name be blessed and glorified in all things, both now and forever, in the mighty and matchless name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior we pray. AMEN.”

CERTIFICATION OF COMMISSIONERS-ELECT AND ROLL CALL

The Acting Clerk of the Commission, Pamela Lane, advised that the Board of Canvassers duly certified the following list of Commissioners-elect:

First District	TIM KILLEEN
Second District	JEWEL WARE
Third District	MARTHA G. SCOTT
Fourth District	ILONA VARGA
Fifth District	IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN
Sixth District	BURTON LELAND
Seventh District	ALISHA R. BELL
Eighth District	DIANE L. WEBB
Ninth District	TERRY MARECKI
Tenth District	C. JOSEPH BARONE
Eleventh District	ABDUL “AL” HAIDOUS
Twelfth District	GLENN S. ANDERSON
Thirteenth District	GARY WORONCHAK
Fourteenth District	RAYMOND E. BASHAM
Fifteenth District	JOSEPH PALAMARA

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:

Zelda Anderson administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Tim Killeen of the First District.

The Honorable State Representative Sherry Gay-Dagnogo administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Jewel Ware of the Second District.

Christina Scott (granddaughter) and **Alasia Chavious (great-granddaughter)** of Commissioner Scott administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Martha G. Scott of the Third District.

Blake Hirt, grandson of Commissioner Varga, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Ilona Varga of the Fourth District.

Reverend James L. Moss, son-in-law of Commissioner Clark-Coleman, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman of the Fifth District.

Rosanne Leland, wife of Commissioner Leland, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Burton Leland of the Sixth District.

Kranston Young, Sr. (husband), Kranston Young, Jr. (son) and Morgan Young (daughter) of Commissioner Bell, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Alisha R. Bell of the Seventh District.

Garrett Spielman, son of Commissioner Webb, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Diane L. Webb of the Eighth District.

Vincent Salmon and Aleksander Salmon, grandsons of Commissioner Marecki, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Terry Marecki of the Ninth District.

Olivia Barone and Isabelle Barone, daughters of Commissioner Barone, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner C. Joseph Barone of the Tenth District.

Kevin M. McNamara, Supervisor of Van Buren Township, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Abdul "Al" Haidous of the Eleventh District.

Melissa Hope, daughter of Commissioner Anderson, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson of the Twelfth District.

Vivian Woronchak, wife of Commissioner Woronchak, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Gary Woronchak of the Thirteenth District.

The Honorable 23rd District Judge Joseph Slaven administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Raymond E. Basham of the Fourteenth District.

Luke Westerdale, grandson of Commissioner Palamara, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Joseph Palamara of the Fifteenth District.

ELECTION OF WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION OFFICERS

A. Chairperson of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Acting Clerk of the Commission, Pamela Lane.

B. Vice-Chair of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Acting Clerk of the Commission, Pamela Lane.

C. Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Commission

The Constitutional Oath of Office will be administered by the Acting Clerk of the Commission, Pamela Lane.

Commissioner Bell, supported by Commissioner Webb, nominated Commissioner Gary Woronchak as Chairman of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, **the Acting Clerk proceeded to announce that Commissioner Gary Woronchak, 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 a voice vote.**

[Resolution No. 2017-001]

The Acting Clerk announced that the next 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 Woronchak, supported by Commissioner Killeen, nominated Commissioner Alisha R. Bell as Vice-Chair of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, **the Acting Clerk proceeded to announce that Commissioner Alisha R. Bell, 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 a voice vote.**

[Resolution No. 2017-002]

The Wayne County Clerk announced that the next 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 Clark-Coleman, supported by Commissioner Bell, nominated Commissioner Jewel Ware as Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission.

There being no other nominations, **the Acting Clerk proceeded to announce that Commissioner Jewel Ware, 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 a voice vote.**

[Resolution No. 2017-003]

The Acting Clerk of the Commission administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to Commissioner Gary Woronchak, as Chairman, Commissioner Alisha R. Bell, as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Jewel Ware, as Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission.

At this point in the proceedings, the Acting Clerk of the Commission, Pamela Lane, relinquished the Chairmanship to Chairman Gary Woronchak, who gave the following remarks:

“I’d like to begin by welcoming all of our guests who have joined us today as we begin the new term of office with our traditional ceremony and election of officers. I want to thank our staff for all that they do. The Wayne County Commission is fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals who so often go above and beyond to provide commissioners with the analysis, counsel, organization and much more that we need to do our jobs well. And, of course, I want to thank all of my colleagues, my fellow commissioners, for allowing me to chair this honorable body for a fourth term. Your trust and confidence mean a lot to me. Thank you. This is an historic moment for the Wayne County Commission. This is the first time – perhaps ever – that there are no new commissioners among us at the start of a term. I did the research, I stopped when I got back to 1992, and I could not find a term when there were no new commissioners, until now. This is a first. I think this will make us a stronger commission. All of us have some experience as Wayne County Commissioners, and most of us have a lot, but also, we have been a team, together from one term into the next. We know each other, we know how to work with each other, and we are a better legislative body because of it. We

should all be proud of the work we've done together, and I look forward to that continuing into this new term. The term that we have just ended, together, was about as active and high-impact a two years as any that I can recall in my six terms here. It had controversy, it had drama and it had some major issues. This is not surprising, given that some of the county's challenges were hitting a critical point as a new administration was installed to address those challenges. As a team, we had some notable successes. Things that we, as the legislative branch, can claim as our own. We got the parks millage renewed and, on our initiative, put forth ballot language that not only locked in the local parks improvement program that has benefitted our communities for several years, but we expanded it to include, for the first time, significant investment into neighborhood parks in the City of Detroit. Also among our accomplishments, as we exited from the state consent agreement over county finances, we convinced the administration to make certain that the required two-year budget would not extend beyond the 2018 fiscal year. This was an obscure, technical point, but it was important because it meant the remaining emergency manager powers held by the administration over our unions would expire before the next round of collective bargaining. We made sure that the next contracts negotiated with county employees will be done in good faith, and without any built-in disadvantage for our workers.

Even on issues when we have been less successful, I'm still proud of the good battles we've fought. When a special property tax was put in place to cover \$40 million of a lawsuit settlement, the Commission tried to spare the taxpayers from the one-time judgment levy by transferring funds being held in reserve. We were unable to override a veto, but we fought hard on behalf of the taxpayers we represent. And certainly, no issue was bigger over the last term, or more difficult, than the consent agreement with the state of Michigan. When the County Executive requested that the state review the county's finances, with the goal being a consent agreement under the emergency manager law, the Wayne County Commission was by no means a passive bystander in the process. To the contrary, when the state review board made a preliminary report suggesting that a financial emergency existed, the Commission submitted an 11-page rebuttal taking issue with the state's findings. Even if it was obvious where the whole thing was headed, the Commission pushed back, with the belief that our financial situation was something we could resolve without state intervention. After the Governor declared a financial emergency, the Commission spent many hours of due diligence over several meetings to determine that a consent agreement was the least bad of the options before us. Even then, we stood our ground, and negotiated with the administration a consent agreement that would preserve as much self-governance as possible under state oversight, and one that kept the Commission's powers intact. My point in all of this looking back, is to demonstrate why I can say with confidence that, looking forward, the Wayne County Commission will continue to stay strong and perform the check-and-balance functions that are our duty under the law.

On some of the bigger issues, we have at times clashed with the administration of County Executive Warren Evans. But that should never be construed as any lack of respect toward the County Executive or his team. Warren Evans came into his job two years ago with the county facing serious challenges that were not of his making, and he did exactly what he should have done – planned out and executed dramatic steps toward addressing the challenges. The Wayne County Commission, likewise, did exactly what we should have: Ask difficult questions, do detailed analysis, and, when

necessary, push back in a manner that is respectful and professional. Government is designed to have some level of built-in friction between the branches. We're supposed to be at odds sometimes. It's really quite an effective system, all designed so the people's business will be conducted openly, fairly, and without corruption. There is an executive branch to administer the daily operations and delivery of service. And there is a legislative branch to directly represent the people in this process. That is self-governance. Whether it's a county commission, the state Legislature or the United States Congress, the people must approve of what government does. And the people do that through us, their elected representatives. In every single vote we take, never should our reason be, I'm voting for this because it's what the administration wants. Of course they want it. They're the ones putting it before us. Every single vote we take should be because we have examined, questioned and considered the item before us, and believe that vote is in the best interest of the people we represent. We are here for them. That said, I hope the most difficult days are behind us, and I look forward to working with the administration, in our respective roles, to continue the resurgence of Wayne County, and to build on the work we have done in the past two years. As messy as the process of government can become, let us always keep in mind that we have a common destination, even if we may sometimes argue over which road we should take to get there. My colleagues, it is a privilege to work alongside each of you. And it is an honor to serve you for another term as your Chairman. Thank you".

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...."

Commissioner Palamara, supported by Commissioner Anderson, 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 Woronchak 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:

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Yea --	Commissioners Anderson, Barone, Basham, Clark-Coleman, Haidous, Killeen, Leland, Marecki, Palamara, Scott, Varga, Webb, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Ware, Vice-Chair Bell, Chairman Woronchak -- 15
Nay --	None
Abstain --	None
Not Voting --	None
Excused --	None

[Resolution No. 2017-004]

READING, CORRECTING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Vice-Chair Bell, supported by Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Ware, moved approval of the Journal of the Sixth Day Annual meeting held on December 15, 2016.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Yea -- Commissioners Anderson, Barone, Basham, Clark-Coleman, Haidous, Killeen, Leland, Marecki, Palamara, Scott, Varga, Webb, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Ware, Vice-Chair Bell, Chairman Woronchak -- 15
Nay -- None
Abstain -- None
Not Voting -- None
Excused -- None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pursuant to the County Commission's Rules of Procedure, Chairman Woronchak invited comments from the public. There were no members of the public requesting to address the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Testimonial Resolutions and Certificates of Appreciation

1. By Commissioners Marecki and Barone honoring **Ronna Romney McDaniel** for being Republican National Committee Chair.

Commissioner Marecki, supported by Commissioner Barone, moved approval of foregoing Testimonial Resolutions and Certificates of Appreciation.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Yea -- Commissioners Anderson, Barone, Haidous, Killeen, Leland, Marecki, Palamara, Varga, Webb, Vice-Chair Pro Tempore Ware, Vice-Chair Bell, Chairman Woronchak -- 12
Nay -- None
Abstain -- Commissioners Basham, Clark-Coleman, Scott -- 3
Not Voting -- None
Excused -- None

Resolutions in Memoriam

1. By Commissioners Marecki and Anderson in memory of **R. Lee Morrow**.
2. By Commissioner Ware in memory of **Tyrone Carter II**.

3. By Commissioner Ware in memory of **Wilmer Warr**.
4. By Commissioner Clark-Coleman in memory of **Essie B. Thompson**.
5. By Commissioner Haidous in memory of **Alan Bates**.
6. By Commissioner Haidous in memory of **Paul Katcher, Sr.**
7. By Commissioner Bell in memory of **Sonja M. Scott**.
8. By Commissioner Barone in memory of **David Siegrist**.
9. By Commission Anderson in memory of **David Peter Stapleton, Jr.**

Chairman Woronchak requested all to stand for a moment of silence in honor of the foregoing individuals.

REMARKS BY MEMBERS

The Acting Clerk of the Commission advised that there were no Remarks By Members requested to be added to the Journal.

Commissioner Haidous, supported by Commissioner Webb, moved adjournment. The motion prevailed, the time being 11:35 a.m., and Chairman Woronchak declared the Commission adjourned until Thursday, January 19, 2017.

Pamela Lane
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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