

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 5, 2008

The Annual Organization Meeting of Milford City Council was held May 5, 2008 in the Meeting Room of the Delaware Rural Water Association Facility at 210 Vickers Drive, Milford, Delaware.

PRESIDING: Honorable Mayor Joseph R. Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Irvin Ambrose, Michael Spillane, John Workman, Clifford Crouch, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson

ALSO: City Manager Richard Carmean, Police Chief Keith Hudson and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor Timothy Willard

Mayor Rogers called the Annual Organization Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Rogers thanked his wife Ruth for her support over the past 36 years that he served to city as a councilman and as mayor. He then thanked the citizens of Milford for allowing him to serve them noting it was actually half of his life.

Mayor Rogers then wished Mr. Marabello the best of luck, adding he will work with a terrific council and is fortunate to represent a great city. He has served with approximately 68 council members, several city managers and police chiefs. Tonight, he wants to personally thank City Manager Richard Carmean, Assistant City Manager David Baird, Police Chief Keith Hudson, City Clerk Terri Hudson and all the city employees who have worked hard to make Milford the successful community it is today.

City Manager Richard Carmean then read the following results of the 2008 City of Milford Election:

“On behalf of the Board of Elections for the City of Milford, I am reporting the official results of the April 26, 2008 City of Milford Annual Election to be as follows:

In the 1st Ward, a total of 351 persons voted with John Kramlich receiving 152 votes and Michael Spillane receiving 199 votes. As a result, Michael D. Spillane has been elected to serve a two-year term as Council Representative of the 1st Ward to begin this date, May 5, 2008.

In the 3rd Ward, a total of 218 persons voted with Owen Brooks, Jr. receiving 148 votes and Scott Miller receiving 70 votes. As a result, Owen S. Brooks, Jr. will retain his seat as Council Representative of the 3rd Ward for a two-year term to begin this date, May 5, 2008.

In the Mayor’s Race, a total of 893 persons voted, with Daniel Marabello receiving 450 votes and Joseph Ronnie Rogers receiving 443 votes. Therefore, Daniel Marabello will begin his two-year term as Mayor of the City of Milford on this date, May 5, 2008.

Given 2nd Ward Councilperson John Workman and 4th Ward Councilperson Katrina Wilson ran unopposed, an Election for those Offices was not required. Respectively, each will begin their two-year terms this date, May 5, 2008.”

Mayor Rogers then introduced the Honorable Justice Randy J. Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court who was present to swear in the new Mayor and new and re-elected members of City Council.

Justice Holland then administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman Michael Spillane and re-elected Council Members John Workman, Owen Brooks, Jr. and Katrina Wilson.

After the swearing in procedure concluded, the newly elected and re-elected Council Members signed their Oaths of

Office.

The Mayor Elect's wife, Licinia, then held their family bible while Justice Holland administered the Oath of Office to her husband.

Following the swearing in procedure, the newly elected Mayor signed the Oath of Office for Mayor.

Outgoing Mayor Rogers then turned the gavel over to the newly elected Mayor Marabello.

Justice Holland then remarked what a special privilege it is for him to administer the oath of office to any elected official and in particular in the City of Milford where Justice Holland grew up. He said it is a special time for people to reflect what is being witnessed and what makes the United States different from other countries in the world. He reported this began in 1800 with a presidential election. At that time, there was a tie in the electoral college and eventually it was broken when Thomas Jefferson was elected president. It was at that time, there was a peaceful transition of power. What has been seen in the United States since then, is that democracy works. People go to the polls and are represented after a fair election; everyone gets behind the winners and does what is best for the city, the county, the state or the country.

Justice Holland said that at times like this, when we exercise our right to vote and then watch our elected officials take the oath of office, people should be proud of this unique aspect of the United States. He wished all the elected officials well and congratulated outgoing Mayor Rogers on his tenure as the longest serving mayor in any town in the history of the State of Delaware.

He told Mayor Marabello it is a record he can aspire to break.

Mayor Marabello then stated that he is a Milfordian and not a New Jerseyite adding that he will more than likely die here. He chose this city because he liked what he saw. He then thanked the people who came out to vote for him. He believes he has made more friends here for the short time he has been here than in all the years he was in New Jersey. He feels that says something about the folks that live here.

The newly elected mayor looks forward to working with council and thanked everyone for the honor and privilege.

Vice Mayor Nomination

As his first act as Mayor, Mayor Marabello said that he wished everyone could be Vice Mayor and that each council member could serve in the position on a rotating basis.

Mr. Spillane then asked if it was proper for each member of council to have a term as vice mayor. Mr. Marabello stated that is what he prefers. Mr. Spillane said that he would like to entertain it; Mayor Marabello then asked if Mr. Spillane would like to make a motion.

Mr. Spillane followed with a motion to have each council member serve a three-month period as vice mayor on a rotating basis.

Mayor Marabello explained that would allow each council member to serve as vice mayor during his two-year term on a rotating basis, by ward, for three or six months. In this manner, every ward would be represented.

Mr. Workman explained that a vice mayor is nominated each year during the organization meeting. He feels that process remain and does not believe it should be changed to a rotating situation. He advised that the vice mayor has a number of responsibilities and in particular, to fill in when the mayor is unavailable.

Mr. Crouch also pointed out there are financial responsibilities including the signing of checks for a vice mayor. If this were rotated every three months, the check writing process would need to be changed every three months both within the city and at the bank level as well.

Mr. Brooks clarified the vice mayor serves a one-year term and is nominated annually.

City Solicitor Tim Willard referred to the City of Milford Charter requirement that states at the annual organization meeting, city council shall chose a vice mayor for a one-year term or until the next organization meeting which is held following the next year's election. The law reads a vice mayor or one vice mayor.

The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Starling then nominated Councilwoman Katrina Wilson for Vice Mayor, seconded by Mr. Workman. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Wilson thanked council for their vote of confidence again this year.

Councilman Workman then presented the wife of Outgoing Mayor Rogers with flowers noting this is a small token of appreciation for her support of the mayor and the city over the past 36 years.

Mrs. Rogers responded by saying it was an absolute pleasure to be by her husband's side and an honor to be present at the many events they attended over the years.

A presentation was then made by Joel Andrus on behalf of his parents Pastor and Mrs. Royce Andrus who were unable to attend because of an emergency at Christiana Hospital. Mr. Andrus presented a gift stating it is only a small token of love and appreciation for the many wonderful things they have done for this community and their church and is being presented on behalf of the entire Lighthouse Christian Center Congregation.

Mayor Rogers again thanked everyone present noting his appreciation for the many phone calls, cards and other acts of kindness they have received the past week.

Mayor Marabello then declared the Organization Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Certificates of Office were distributed to each elected official following the conclusion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri K. Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Terri K. Hudson, CMC
City Clerk/Recorder