



CITY OF MILFORD  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2025

The City Council of the City of Milford met in the Milford City Hall in Special Meeting Session on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

PRESIDING: Mayor F. Todd Culotta

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilmembers Daniel Marabello, Madula Kalesis, Nadia Zychal, Lori Connor, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson and Jason James, Sr.

STAFF: City Manager Mark Whitfield, City Clerk Katrina White and Human Resources Director Jamesha Williams

COUNSEL: Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Call to Order – Mayor Todd Culotta**

Mayor Todd Culotta called the meeting to order at 8:36 pm. Roll Call showed that there were nine members present.

**Invocation**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Wilson.

Councilmember James made the motion for Council to forgo the interviews with the candidates and go into recess until 2:00 pm. Seconded by Councilmember Samaroo.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilmember James made the motion to recess until 2:00 pm. Seconded by Councilmember Samaroo.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Culotta called the regular session back into order at 2:31 pm.

Councilmember James made the motion to return to open session. Councilmember Zychal seconded.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Motion to Recess into Executive Session**

Councilmember James made the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Samaroo seconded.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Executive Session**

*Personnel - Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004(b)(9) Personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed*

### **Return to Open Session**

Councilmember James made the motion to go back into open session. Councilmember Wilson seconded.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Nadia Zychal, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**The motion carried unanimously. 8-0**

### **Potential Motion/Personnel - City Manager Interviews**

Councilmember Marabello made the motion to offer the position of city manager to Candidate #2. Seconded by Councilmember Wilson.

**Yes** Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Nadia Zychal, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**No** Madula Kalesis

**The motion carried. 7-1**

City Manager Whitfield stated that he and the recruiter could work on the contract and thought it would be good for council to determine a salary range. His recommendation was to start out around \$180,000-\$185,000

Councilmember Connor made the motion that if Candidate #2 were to decline or Council couldn't come to an agreement with Candidate #2 that Council would move forward in hiring Candidate #1. Seconded by Councilmember James.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**No** Nadia Zychal

**The motion carried. 7-1**

The hiring recruiter, Rick Ginex, stated that he would suggest that whatever offer is being sent to Candidate #2 would not be only salary and asked what other benefits council wanted to be included. He stated that a reasonable time is usually given to respond to an offer.

Councilmember Stewart made the motion for Council to give no more than 7 business days for Candidate #2 to respond to the offer. Councilmember James seconded.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Nadia Zychal, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**The motion carried unanimously. 8-0**

Councilmember James stated that the advertised pay range was from \$160,000 to \$190,00 and the mid-range is \$180,000.

City Manager Whitfield stated that they would put together a contract package and bring it back to Council, based on the negotiations.

Councilmember Connor made the motion to start with a salary offer of \$170,000. Councilmember Kalesis seconded.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Lori Connor, and Michael Stewart

**No** Daniel Marabello, Nadia Zychal, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**The motion was denied. 3-5**

Councilmember James made the motion that the current city manager and the recruiter to negotiate the contract with a salary offer of \$180,000. Councilmember Wilson seconded.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Nadia Zychal, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**The motion carried. 8-0**

## **Adjournment**

Councilmember Wilson made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember Zychal seconded.

**Yes** Madula Kalesis, Daniel Marabello, Lori Connor, Nadia Zychal, Michael Stewart, Nirmala Samaroo, Katrina Wilson, and Jason James

**The motion carried unanimously. 8-0**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina L. White, MMC  
City Clerk/Recorder