

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

February 12, 2019

Pursuant to Section 1.2 of the Rules of Order and Procedure, adopted by the Council of the City of Fairmont on February 6, 1978, and amended at the regular meeting of Council held February 6, 1979, the Bi-Ennial Organizational Meeting of Council of the City of Fairmont was convened this 12th day of February, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Public Safety Building, 500 Quincy Street, Fairmont, West Virginia.

As per West Virginia Code §8-9-1 and Rule 2.2 of Council's Rules of Order and Procedure, Mayor Mainella presided over the meeting for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the Councilmembers elected at the Municipal General Election held November 6, 2018 for the First District and Fifth District and for the purpose of conducting the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Mainella called the meeting to order.

IN RE: OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCILMEMBERS RICE AND BLEDSOE

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office of Councilmember to Joshua D. "Josh" Rice and Barry H. Bledsoe. Josh Rice and Barry Bledsoe, the members elected to serve on Council for the City of Fairmont at the Municipal Non-Partisan General Election held November 6, 2018 and after the recount held on January 11, 2019.

Joshua D. "Josh" Rice, a resident of 1040 Indiana Avenue, representing the First District, elected for a term of four years, commencing February 12, 2019 and expiring December 31, 2022.

Barry H. Bledsoe, a resident of 171 Bailey Circle, representing the Fifth District, elected for a term of four years, commencing February 12, 2019 and expiring December 31, 2022.

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office, to-wit: "Do you, and each of you, having been duly elected to serve as a Councilmember of the City of Fairmont, solemnly swear, that you will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, and the Charter of the City of Fairmont, and that you will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of a Councilmember of the City of Fairmont, so long as you shall continue therein, to the best of your skill and judgment, so help you God?"

Councilmembers Rice and Bledsoe replied "I will".

Thereupon, the City Clerk declared Josh Rice and Barry Bledsoe duly sworn in as members of the Council of the City of Fairmont and extended congratulations to them.

The City Clerk called the roll of Councilmembers present to determine the representation of the Council Districts:

First District	Joshua D. Rice
Second District	Frank G. Yann
Third District	Karl David Kennedy
Fourth District	Kenneth "Brad" Merrifield
Fifth District	Barry H. Bledsoe
Sixth District	Dora Kay Grubb
Seventh District	Philip R. Mason
Eighth District	Thomas Mainella
Ninth District	Donna M. Blood

Also present were:

Interim City Manager	Bruce McDaniel
City Clerk	Janet L. Keller
City Attorney	Kevin V. Sansalone
Police Chief	Steve Shine
Fire Chief	Edward Simmons

IN RE: ELECTION OF MAYOR

Mayor Mainella called for nominations for the Office of Mayor.

Councilmember Mason nominated Brad Merrifield to serve as Mayor.

Councilmember Yann nominated Tom Mainella to serve as Mayor.

Councilmember Mason moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blood.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk to close the nominations.

The Mayor declared the nominations closed by unanimous vote of Council.

Mayor Mainella asked the Clerk to call the roll on the nomination of Brad Merrifield for Mayor.

Roll call was taken on the nomination of Brad Merrifield as Mayor and the following votes were recorded:

Councilmember Yann	No	Councilmember Blood	No
Councilmember Bledsoe	Yes	Councilmember Grubb	Yes
Councilmember Merrifield	Yes	Councilmember Rice	No
Councilmember Kennedy	Yes	Mayor Mainella	No
Councilmember Mason	Yes		

Thereupon, Mayor Mainella declared Brad Merrifield elected as Mayor by majority vote of Council.

IN RE: OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR MERRIFIELD

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office of Mayor, to-wit: “Do you, Brad Merrifield, having been duly elected to serve as Mayor of the City of Fairmont, solemnly swear, that you will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, and the Charter of the City of Fairmont, and that you will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Mayor of the City of Fairmont, to the best of your skill and judgment, so help you God?”

Mayor Merrifield replied “I will”.

Thereupon, Mayor Merrifield formally took the presiding Chair.

IN RE: ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Merrifield entertained nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Merrifield nominated Phil Mason to serve as Deputy Mayor.

Councilmember Mainella nominated Frank Yann to serve as Deputy Mayor.

Councilmember Grubb moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blood.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk to close the nominations and the following votes were recorded:

Councilmember Kennedy	Yes	Councilmember Bledsoe	Yes
Councilmember Blood	Yes	Councilmember Rice	Yes
Councilmember Mason	Yes	Mayor Merrifield	Yes
Councilmember Mainella	No	Councilmember Grubb	Yes
Councilmember Yann	Yes		

Mayor Merrifield declared the nominations closed by majority vote of Council.

Roll call was taken on the nomination of Phil Mason as Deputy Mayor and the following votes were recorded:

Councilmember Rice	No	Councilmember Mason	Yes
Councilmember Blood	No	Councilmember Yann	No
Councilmember Kennedy	Yes	Councilmember Bledsoe	Yes
Councilmember Grubb	Yes	Mayor Merrifield	Yes
Councilmember Mainella	No		

Mayor Merrifield declared Phil Mason duly elected as Deputy Mayor by majority vote of Council. He then asked the City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor Mason.

IN RE: OATH OF OFFICE – DEPUTY MAYOR MASON

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office of Deputy Mayor, to-wit: “Do you, Phil Mason, having been duly elected to serve as Deputy Mayor of the City of Fairmont, solemnly swear, that you will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, and the Charter of the City of Fairmont, and that you will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of Deputy Mayor of the City of Fairmont, to the best of your skill and judgment, so help you God?”

Deputy Mayor Mason replied “I do”.

IN RE: ADOPT COUNCIL’S RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

Mayor Merrifield stated that the Council’s Rules of Order and Procedure need to be adopted as mandated by both the Charter and Council’s current Rules of Order and Procedure.

Mayor Merrifield entertained a motion to adopt the Council's Rules of Order and Procedure as amended.

Motion:

Councilmember Mason moved to adopt the current Council's Rules of Order and Procedure as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grubb.

Discussion:

Councilmember Mason asked the Mayor to explain the amendment.

Mayor Merrifield stated that the amendment was suggested by Councilmember Bledsoe to deal with situations like just occurred in our marathon election that we just got done having. The Rules originally stated that the Organizational Meeting would be held in early January and we had to postpone it two times. The City Attorney re-wrote the language that makes it happen after the waiting periods from the election and all of the certifications are done. He noted that was the only amendment.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk.

The Mayor declared the City Council's Rules of Order officially re-adopted by unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merrifield entertained a motion for the adjournment of the Organizational Meeting.

Motion:

Councilmember Mason moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Blood seconded the motion.

Mayor Merrifield declared the Organizational Meeting adjourned by voice vote of Council at 7:13 p.m.