



## **Minutes: Battle Creek City Commission Organizational Meeting**

Meeting Date: December 6, 2022- 7:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chair: Mayor Mark A. Behnke

Title: Battle Creek City Hall - City Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Commissioners**

Mayor Mark Behnke	Commissioner Roger Ballard
Commissioner Jim Lance	Commissioner Jenasia Morris
Commissioner Patrick O'Donnell	Commissioner Carla Reynolds
Commissioner Jake Smith	Commissioner Christopher Simmons
Commissioner Sherry Sofia	

#### **City Staff**

Rebecca Fleury, City Manager	Jill Steele, City Attorney
Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager	Victoria Houser, City Clerk

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Certificate of Determination) on the vote cast at the Annual City Election held November 8, 2022, for the offices of City Commission. (To be received)**

Victoria Houser, City Clerk, presented the Board of Canvassers' Report:

Mayor Mark A. Behnke having received 6,917 votes.  
At-Large City Commissioner Carla Reynolds having received 6,920 votes.  
At-Large City Commissioner Sherry Sofia having received 6,408 votes.  
At-Large City Commissioner Jake Smith having received 5,403 votes.  
Ward 1 City Commissioner Roger Ballard having received 1,092 votes.  
Ward 2 City Commissioner Jenasia Morris having received 1,143 votes.  
Ward 3 City Commissioner Patrick O'Donnell having received 1,101 votes.  
Ward 4 City Commissioner Christopher Simmons having received 1,252 votes.  
Ward 5 City Commissioner Jim Lance having received 2,814 votes.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE by the City Clerk**

Clerk Houser administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Mayor and City Commissioners.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - (LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER INDIVIDUAL)**

Michelle Salazar commended Comm. Ballard for his strive in being a member of the City Commission, thanking him for his representation of the LGBT community, thanking all commissioners for their dedication to serving the City of Battle Creek.

David Moore congratulated the newly elected commissioners, wishing them all the best.

## **ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR**

**A motion was made by Comm. Lance, supported by Comm. Morris, that the election of the Vice Mayor be conducted by nomination and roll call vote, called in random order, by lot.**

Ayes: BALLARD, BEHNKE, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH SOFIA

## **MOTION APPROVED**

### **NOMINATION OF VICE MAYOR**

Comm. Morris nominated Comm. Reynolds for office of Vice Mayor.

Comm. Simmons nominated Comm. Sofia for office of Vice Mayor.

Clerk Houser called the roll call vote, in random order, by lot.

Commissioners Ballard, Morris, Reynolds and Smith voted for Comm. Reynolds to serve as Vice Mayor.

Commissioners Lance, Behnke, O'Donnell, Simmons, and Sofia voted for Comm. Sofia to serve as Vice Mayor.

Comm. Sofia, having received the required 5 votes, is elected Vice Mayor of the City of Battle Creek for a two year term.

## **SETTING THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

Mayor Behnke noted the next order of business was to set the City Commission schedule for the forthcoming year.

**A motion was made by Comm. Lance, supported by Comm. Morris, that the Battle Creek City Commission shall meet at 7 pm in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall, unless the meeting is set to be virtual, on the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning December 6, 2022, pursuant to City Ordinance 212.04(d), with the following exceptions: that the April 4, 2023 meeting be moved to April 11, 2022 due to Spring Break and the July 4, 2023 meeting be moved to July 11, 2023 due to the July 4th holiday.**

## **MOTION APPROVED**

Ayes: BALLARD, LANCE, MORRIS, O'DONNELL, BEHNKE, REYNOLDS, SIMMONS, SMITH, SOFIA

Commission Schedule 2022-2023

## **CITY COMMISSION COMMENT**

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Mayor Behnke adjourned the Organizational meeting at 7:46.

Citizens who wish to address a specific issue on the floor may do so after being recognized by the Mayor or presiding Commissioner. At the time for general public comments, after being properly recognized, citizens may address the commission on any subject within the control and jurisdiction of the City of Battle Creek. Citizens will be subject to the following summarized limitations, which are set out fully in ordinance 212.02, Art XVII:

1. Citizen comments on any Resolution before the Commission may be made either before or after the Commissioners have had an opportunity to discuss the Resolution, at the discretion of the Chair;
2. Citizens wishing to speak to a particular Resolution should raise their hands and wait to be recognized before speaking;
3. Before speaking, an individual who has not filled out a comment card disclosing this information, shall identify themselves by name and address and, if appropriate, group affiliation for the record.
4. Citizens will confine their remarks to matters currently pending on the floor, and be brief and concise in making their remarks;
5. If a citizen becomes repetitive or, in the opinion of the Chair, takes an inordinate amount of time in making comments, that citizen will be ruled out of order and the Commission will continue with its business;
6. Citizens should address all remarks to the Commission as a whole, and not to individual Commissioners.

These Rules will apply to comments by citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda.

The City of Battle Creek will provide necessary, reasonable, auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired, and audiotapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting, upon seven days' notice to the City of Battle Creek. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing or calling the following:

Victoria Houser  
Office of the City Clerk  
Post Office Box 1717  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49016  
269/966-3348 (Voice)  
269/966-3348 (TDD)

**Summary:**  
Commission Schedule 2022-2023

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Upload Date	Type
<a href="#">City Commission Schedule 2022-2023</a>	11/22/2022	Backup Material