

MINUTES OF AN ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
TEANECK HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1930,
AT 12:00 M.

Prior to the meeting of the new Council, Mr. Hanniball and Mr. Deissler were present as members of the old Township Committee.

Mr. Hanniball - Mr. Deissler, have you any communications?

Mr. Deissler - I have oaths of office of incoming Council. They have all been filed according to law.

Mr. Hanniball invited new Council up on the rostrum.

Mr. Hanniball - Being the only member of the old Township Committee available today, it is my duty to turn over the Government of the Township of Teaneck to the new Committee. As I understand it, Mr. Morten is the new Temporary Chairman, and I, therefore, take great pleasure in welcoming this new Township Council and wishing them the best of success during their administration.

Mr. Morten - Mr. Hanniball, as a retiring member of the Township Committee, we accept from you the emblem of authority, recognizing that we have a very serious and a very responsible duty to perform. We have tried to perform that duty so far as today is concerned in a way that will be acceptable to our citizens and to the retiring Township Committee. We thank you for this effort on your part to turn over this Government to us, and we will try to merit the confidence of the citizens in the same way that you say you have tried in the past. We thank you.

Mr. Morten, as Temporary Chairman, asked whether the oaths of office of the new Council had been filed. Deputy Clerk replied that they had been filed.

Mr. Morten - Assuming the position of Temporary Chairman, I will now call for an election for Mayor.

In counting the votes cast, the Deputy Clerk reported that Mr. Karl D. Van Wagner had received four votes for the office of Mayor and Mr. Louis G. Morten had received one vote.

Mr. Morten - I declare him elected. Mr. Van Wagner, do you accept?

Mr. Van Wagner - I appreciate this high honor, and I shall do all within my power to discharge my obligations to the electorate. I thank you gentlemen for this vote of confidence.

Mr. Morten - As Temporary Chairman, I now render to you as Mayor of the Township of Teaneck the gavel and emblem of your authority.

Mr. Van Wagner - Friends and neighbors of Teaneck, we assume office as the governing body of Teaneck Township convinced that the electorate, in casting their ballots on October 14th, were inspired first by their conviction of the advantages of the new form of government represented by our candidacies, and second, by their belief in our honest intention to live up to our pre-election pledges, and their belief that these pledges were made, not as an appeal for votes, but as evidence of our intentions.

Under that conviction we now renew and make of public record all those pledges, to wit:

We pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, to carry out faithfully the letter and spirit of the law under whose provisions Teaneck has adopted a new form of government by employing as Municipal Manager for Teaneck a non-partisan business executive of recognized standing in the Municipal Manager profession - an expert qualified for the position by reason of proven, practical, successful achievement in the administration of municipal business in the United States.

We pledge ourselves to see that a thorough examination of all municipal departments is made, and that a budget is prepared for approval that shall eliminate all extravagances, waste and inefficiency and tend to bring about a reduction of taxation.

We pledge ourselves to make a careful study of the Township's finances;

to sell its bonds in a competitive market at the lowest rate of interest, with public bidding on all issues without favoritism.

We pledge ourselves to recognize no other mandate than that of the citizens of Teaneck; and for the assurance of every voter we declare and affirm, under the highest sense of honor, that we have offered no position, emolument or employment, nor made any promise involving either pecuniary or honorary consideration, to any individual whomsoever.

We pledge ourselves to hold no secret sessions.

We pledge ourselves to favor no individual, party, organization or corporation to the detriment of the taxpayers of Teaneck.

We pledge ourselves to use merit as the sole criterion for the selection and advancement of all township employees, and without regard to their political faith or affiliations; and to inaugurate a system of civil service for subordinate employees where and when practicable and desirable.

We pledge ourselves not to undertake public improvements until after the most careful investigation and study has been made, and to undertake needed improvements only after all costs have been ascertained and determined and the legal number of taxpayers concerned are satisfied as to their reasonableness.

We pledge ourselves to give the ablest and best qualified citizens of Teaneck, irrespective of party, opportunity to share in the government of the Township through the creation of advisory boards, as provided in the New Jersey Municipal Manager Act, and in every way to conduct township affairs impartially and for the best interests of the citizens as a whole, without regard to race, party, faith or any other consideration except their equal rights as citizens.

In keeping with those pledges we assume office under a deep sense of our obligation in all our official acts to disregard all other allegiances except our allegiance to the best interest of the citizens of Teaneck as a whole.

To that end we require and have a right to demand that the electorate which by its votes has laid upon us this burden of responsibility shall continue throughout our term of office to manifest the same lively interest in the needs of this community that they have manifested during the campaign that ended on October 14th.

It is not our intention to proceed with ill-advised haste, or to make immediately any revolutionary changes. It is our purpose to enlighten ourselves as quickly as possible as to actual conditions of township affairs, and to invite the cooperation of citizens in the consideration of any conditions that demand a remedy.

With this in view, as authorized by the statute under which we hold office, we shall create from time to time advisory boards, calling upon our ablest and most representative citizens to serve thereon.

We feel that we have a right, in view of the provisions of the Act under which we were elected, to demand that when such a call is made upon citizens for their services in the interest of their fellow citizens they shall not withhold their cooperation and that they shall give us the full benefit of all their knowledge, experience and talents, as freely as they would give them to the consideration of their own business. Under the Municipal Manager Act these advisory boards will have power to investigate the subjects assigned to them and to make recommendations to this council. This opens the way for the citizens in general to share in making the government under this council successful, and when any such advisory boards are created any citizen of the Township who has information that would help the boards reach adequate conclusions should voluntarily offer such information before such boards at public hearings. This is of the essence of the merit of the Municipal Manager Act, namely, that it actually places in the hands of the people of the Township the power to conduct their own government.

To the general body of employees of the Township we give assurance, in keeping with our pledges, that none shall be removed except to effect economy in the interest of taxpayers or for other justifiable cause. We enter office under obligation to no individual or body of individuals to reward them for their support of our candidacies by employment.

With a full sense of the heavy responsibility we have undertaken we assume office with a firm determination that the guide of all our acts shall be strict fidelity to our pledges to the people of Teaneck, and to their confidence in us which they have expressed by their votes.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ely, seconded by Mr. Warner:

RESOLVED that Mr. Henry Diehl be appointed Township Clerk of the Township of Teaneck, by the Township Council thereof, to hold office during the pleasure of the Township Council;

That the salary of said Clerk be fixed at the rate of Five Hundred Dollars per year, payable semi-monthly, or at such other times as may be hereafter determined, but at least monthly.

That before assuming the duties of his office he furnish a bond in the sum of One Thousand Dollars to be approved by this Council, as to form and sufficiency, and thereafter filed as required by law.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

Mr. Diehl - I hereby file my oath of office.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Morten, seconded by Mr. Paquin:

RESOLVED that Mr. Paul A. Volcker be appointed Township Manager of the Township of Teaneck, by the Township Council thereof, to hold office during the pleasure of the Township Council;

That his salary is fixed at the rate of Seventy-five Hundred Dollars per year, to commence as soon as he shall assume and perform the duties of his office, and be payable in equal semi-monthly payments, or at such other time or times as may be hereafter determined, but at least once each month.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Morten:

RESOLVED that the term of Harold V. Reilly as auditor of the Township of Teaneck shall cease and determine on November 11th, 1930, and that his employment as such auditor be terminated on that date.

That Mr. Ely be appointed auditor of the Township by the Township Council thereof, to hold office during the pleasure of the Township Council. That the salary of said Auditor be fixed at One Dollar per year.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ely, seconded by Mr. Warner:

RESOLVED that the term of Wesley R. Falt as Treasurer of the Township of Teaneck shall cease and determine on November 11th, 1930, and that his employment as such Treasurer be terminated on that date.

RESOLVED that Mr. Richard J. Pearson be appointed Township Treasurer of the Township of Teaneck, by the Township Council thereof, to hold office during the pleasure of the Township Council;

That before assuming the duties of his office he furnish a bond in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, to be approved by this Council as to form and sufficiency, and thereafter filed as required by law.

That the salary of said Treasurer be fixed at one dollar per year.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Morten, seconded by Mr. Paquin:

RESOLVED that the term of Ernest Weller as attorney of the Township of Teaneck shall cease and determine on November 11th, 1930, and that his employment as such attorney be terminated on that date,

RESOLVED that Mr. Frank A. Morrison be appointed Township Attorney of the Township of Teaneck by the Township Council thereof; to hold office during the pleasure of the Township Council;

That his salary be fixed at a retainer of Ten Dollars for each meeting of the Township Council attended by him, and a reasonable charge for fees and disbursements for such additional services as the Township Council shall request him to render in the interests of the said Township.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Paquin, seconded by Mr. Ely:

RESOLVED that the term of John W. Waldron as Recorder of the Township of Teaneck shall cease and determine on November 11th, 1930, and that his employment as such Recorder be terminated on that date; and

That Mr. Leland Perry be appointed Police Magistrate of the Township of Teaneck by the Township Council to hold office for a term of four years from the date of his appointment, with the powers, authority, and jurisdiction provided by law relative thereto;

That his salary be fixed at the sum of One Thousand Dollars, payable semi-monthly or such other times as may be hereafter determined, but at least monthly.

That before assuming the duties of his office he furnish a bond in the sum of One Thousand Dollars to be approved by this Council, as to form and sufficiency and thereafter filed as required by law.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Morten:

RESOLVED that the State Department of Municipal Accounts at Trenton, N. J. be requested to make a full and complete examination of all the books and accounts of the Township of Teaneck and report thereon to this Council as soon as such examination has been completed.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ely, seconded by Mr. Warner:

RESOLVED that the offices of the several Township offices shall be kept open to the public for the transaction of business continuously from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, and that the hours on Saturdays be from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

On roll call all Committeemen being in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Morten, seconded by Mr. Paquin:

RESOLVED that none of the funds of the Township shall be paid to anyone for any purpose except by a check upon a bank, which check shall be signed by Township Treasurer, the Mayor and Township Clerk.

In the event of the inability of the Treasurer to act, the same shall be signed by the Assistant Treasurer.

In the event of the inability of the Mayor to act, same shall be signed by Township Councilman, Samuel S. Paquin.

In the event of the inability of the Township Clerk to act, the same shall be signed by the Deputy Township Clerk.

On roll call all Councilmen being in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Morten:

RESOLVED that the regular meetings of this Council be held at the Municipal Building on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month at eight o'clock P.M., commencing on November 25th, 1930. When such meetings shall fall upon a legal holiday, the Council may designate another day for the holding of such meeting.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ely, seconded by Mr. Warner:

RESOLVED that the term of Mr. H. C. Benzenberg as Clerk of the Recorder's Court shall cease and determine on November 11th, 1930, and that his employment as such clerk be terminated on that date.

On roll call all Councilmen voting in favor and none against, resolution was declared adopted.

Township Clerk reported that oath of office of Mr. Frank A. Morrison had been filed.

Mayor asked if Deputy Clerk had anything to present. Deputy Clerk replied that she had nothing to present.

Mayor - I would like to present Teaneck's Municipal Manager, Mr. Paul A. Volcker.

Mr. Volcker - Mr. Mayor, and gentlemen of the Council, and my new friends and neighbors to be, - my words are going to be very, very brief. I suppose to most of you this particular time is a time of elation. I know that there are others in the room to whom the elation and satisfaction is buried deeply beneath a sense of responsibility of all the work that is to be done. I am one of those whose satisfaction is buried at present beneath the sense of responsibility of the work that is to be done here. From time to time, under the City Manager Act, I am going to have the pleasure of reporting to Council and to you directly through

the City Manager's reports. These City Manager's reports, required by the City Manager Act, are a most vital part of the City Manager Act to keep the people in close touch with what is going on. Just in conclusion let me say there is one thing I don't like about your fine City Hall, - when you come in the front door, and walk in here you see nothing but closed doors. Now the door to my office, and the doors to the other offices of this administration are going to be figuratively open to everyone. I will be glad to see and talk over with you your problems and mine.

Mayor - I have received the following wire from Chicago, Ill. date of November 11th to Chairman, Town Council, Town Hall - I regret exceedingly that business keeps me from Teaneck and doesn't permit me to be present at your organization meeting today to personally express to each of you gentlemen my sincere wishes for a fair trial of the new form of Government and to again offer, in my humble way, any assistance toward bringing this about. Lacey Walker.

Mrs. Whipple - Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the new Township Committee, I, as a citizen, would like to have put on the minutes of this meeting the keen respect, admiration and appreciation I have for Mr. Lacey Walker. I want it recorded that I considered his services most unselfish, most unprejudiced and most honest. I thank you.

Mr. Ammon - Honorable Mayor, Councilmen and taxpayers, I am very glad to have the privilege to tell you from my heart what I think about this occasion. We are here assembled and we have got the blessing of our Lord with the nice weather. We not only have one holiday for Teaneck today, we have the Armistice Day, the same day which will all over the World will be celebrated. Now I have to say to you gentlemen, you can't reduce the taxes, but you will have time to do so maybe in a year from today. Now you have this month the honey flow in this Castle here. The citizens and taxpayers they have saved all their money to bring it here this month before the first of December. You will have hard times to go through, and you are now in the Township of Teaneck. That means you are sailing in a big ship in the Township of Teaneck, you have a Captain appointed, and certainly he will take care of it and he will give you the orders to bring that ship and land it in a good haven where there is plenty for the Township to spend. I wish you from my heart all the success so you can show the people and what was here before in your place what you can do and maybe you can do better, what you very likely will do according to your pledges that Mr. Mayor just read a little while ago to you. If you do so it can be no other way because you got a manager and anybody that has a business manager tend to their business will succeed, I don't care how little the business is. I was in business, and I was there myself to take the rudder and steer the ship. And if you gentlemen all stick together with one thought, and with God's blessing you will be blest because you know all the biggest Statesmen in this Country from Washington up, he went in seclusion himself and went and talked to the Lord himself so they can do the business the right way and win the battles.

Abraham Lincoln did the same, and the Columbus what sailed in his ship that can't be compared with your ship that you are sailing in, he succeeded and he found the land he was looking for and the first thing he did, he thanked the Lord; he saved them and steered them the right way, and I wish and pray the Lord will bless you men and put the right thoughts in your heads.

Mr. Peters - As a representative of one of the service organizations in Teaneck, and I think my remarks will go in with other service organizations, as Mr. Ammon pointed out, today is Armistice Day and it is a fitting occasion for the new incoming Township Councilmen to put themselves on record that in making appointments to any jobs or any officers, that consideration be given to the ex-service men of Teaneck, who have made sacrifices for their country and whom the whole World today is appreciating by observing this Day. I hope that in your deliberations in making appointments you will take that into consideration.

Mayor - We will take that under advisement.

Mr. Lowe - I would like to congratulate you all as a new resident here and I would like to second the recommendation just made. As a veteran of two wars, I believe you will use your best judgment in commencing the men who stood by our Country in our hour of need. We will stand by you to the end. I congratulate you. It has been my privilege to visit 53 countries and see Governments and I must say this is the most businesslike meeting that I have ever had the great privilege to attend.

Mayor - Insofar as possible and within our power, we will be very glad to cooperate with you in your request and suggestions.

Mr. Hanniball - In line with remarks, might I suggest that you have a silent tribute of a few minutes in reference to today?

Mr. Morten - Mr. Ammon referred to the fact that this is a joyous occasion, first because it is Armistice Day, secondly because it is a day on which we are assuming office, but there is just one other thing that I presume very few of the ladies and gentlemen know. It is a peculiar coincidence, but it just so happens that we are not only celebrating Armistice Day and assuming office, but I'll let you in on a little secret, it happens to be the birthday of our Mayor. As I am not presiding officer, I am not going to be bold enough to tell you how old he is. Irrespective of his actual age, he is the equal of our most venerated councilman and I am not going to tell his age. It isn't always years that count, it is experience, and we have every confidence in him as a Mayor, and we have all unanimously agreed that he should be Mayor. That one vote for me was his, he said he would vote for me, but we told him it would do no good. We have made him Mayor, and we are going to keep him Mayor. He will conduct the affairs of your Township in a manner that will reflect credit upon himself, even though he is the youngest member of the Council. I thank you.

Mayor - I appreciate the tribute of confidence Mr. Morten has paid me and I think it remains to be seen as to whether I can, as the youngest member of this Body, discharge the duties and obligations that I have assumed. There is one commitment that I will make, and that is, and I mean this, at all times our cards will be on the deck, you can watch the deal and cut the card. The pledges that we have made which, in my opinion, are the most important to the electorate of this Town, we not only will keep them, but we will better them. I ask your patience, I ask your indulgence. We are proceeding under, I would say, a handicap; that handicap is pretty well known and manifest and has been for some time. There may be some acts that we will do you will not like, but they will not be done until we have given mature consideration to every act. I consider that the taxpayers have been bled white. The attitude that I have personally taken is that the Government belongs to the people. We are your instrument, call upon us; I would say divorce selfishness. We will do our best for you. Thank you very much.

Mayor - I think it would be very fitting and apropos if we would stand in the spirit of Mr. Hanniball's suggestion for two minutes in silent prayer.

Township Clerk reported that there would be an Armistice Day Celebration outside, conducted by the V. F. W. and their auxiliary, to which everyone was invited. Mayor suggested that everyone attend.

A motion was made by Mr. Morten, seconded by Mr. Ely, and carried, that the meeting adjourn to Tuesday, November 18th, at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry E. Dell

Township Clerk.

cc

Walter Price

MAYOR.

Councilmen

Samuel S. Pagnier

Ludewich L. Mann

Samuel P. Pagnier

Walter Price