

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Special Meeting
Held December 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Neil Mackinnon III, and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Staczek, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Ruse, and Wagner.

Mayor Mackinnon explained that the purpose of this meeting was to consider applicants for the vacant seat on city council. He said the meeting would begin with each applicant, in alphabetical order, given three minutes to explain why they want and why they should be appointed to the vacant seat.

William Carroll: Said his reason for seeking the seat is that he wants to give back to the community he lives in. He said he has served as the Economic Development Director for the City of Toledo and is retired from an executive position with Dana Corporation. He said he can represent Rossford and help with economic development as he currently is a member of the Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority. He said he had thought of running in the last council election but was serving as the chairman of the Port Authority levy campaign and did not think it was fair to not devote all this time to that effort. He said he is very interested in our community and wants to help it grow.

Robert Densic: Said he moved to Rossford 19 years ago because of the people and that the city feels like a town. He did run in the last council election going door to door and said that he can use his skills and experience to help the community. He said that he would represent the diverse interests of the community to the best of his ability. He currently is the university architect for Eastern Michigan University overseeing planning and design decisions and would like to bring that planning experience to Rossford.

Pamela Duricek: Said that she is running for the seat of her late husband as a way to further her late husband's goals. She said she is not a yes person or a go-along person and that Rossford deserves a person like that. She will stand behind her beliefs and do what is best for the regular people of Rossford.

Dennis Foy: Said the single biggest reason he is seeking this seat is that he did not fulfill his term the last time he was on council due to being selected police chief of Rossford. He said he has management experience and a people person but not a politician.

Joseph Minarcin: Said he is a former business owner in Rossford and served 16 years on the Rossford Board of Education. He said he is retired from the Ohio Air National Guard and loves this community, has no personal agenda and will make informed decisions.

Mayor Mackinnon then opened up the meeting to questions from council.

Mr. Staczek asked Mr. Carroll if he intended to run for the seat in two years if he was selected and the response was yes. He asked Mr. Foy the same question and the response was if his health allows. Mr. Staczek asked Mr. Minarcin if he is too close to the schools and would it hinder him on council. Mr. Minarcin said he does not think council is close enough to the schools but that being he is no longer affiliated with the schools it would not be a problem but would be an asset. Mr. Staczek asked Mr. Densic if his strong views would affect his being on council. Mr. Densic said that his views are based on research, facts, and principles. He lives and stands by his principles at all times but respects those with opposing principles. Mrs. Duricek was asked if she would run in two years and if she is seeking the seat due to her negative emotion toward the mayor or any other council members or to fulfill Chuck's goals. She responded that she is running in order to see her late husband's passions fulfilled and not for any sort of vendetta.

Mr. Oberdorf said that council has worked very hard to cut fat out of the budget and utilize as many grants as possible and asked all the applicants for their position on utilizing grants. Mr. Densic said that federal grants would depend if they fell under a constitutionally prescribed program, he would like state grants to come under more local control rather than state legislators and bureaucrats controlling this and attaching strings that are often not in our best interest, and is in favor of private grants. Mrs. Duricek said she is not well versed in grants but said that Chuck often said we did not want to be held hostage to federal grants and also he spoke of having a college intern to do grant

writing. Mr. Carroll said he has used grants extensively at the Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority and that each grant needs to be evaluated individually for its benefit to the community but that grants are generally good for the community. Mr. Foy said he had experience with grants while on the police department and that they can be good but need to look at each grant closely. Mr. Minarcin said he is in favor of whatever grants we can obtain.

Mrs. Eckel asked this question for all applicants – what is the immediate impact you can make on council? Mr. Minarcin said he would have a learning curve but he is willing to listen and research the issues in order to be a positive impact on council. Mr. Foy said he would have a lot of catch up work to do but his expertise would help in the public safety area. Mr. Carroll said his impact would be in the finance and economic development areas where he would look at projects and lead and work regionally to develop. He considered job and business retention to be very important areas he could also have an impact in. Mrs. Duricek said she would pick up on what she needed to know and that she would encourage people to make the downtown more viable and get more people to stop and visit. Mr. Densic said he can make an immediate impact and add value to council in the area of capital improvement. He said ¼ of the city's budget is in that area and he knows how to look at, manage, offer comments, and solve problems.

Mr. Marquette thanked everyone for participating.

Mr. Ruse said the city is in a unique position in that the candidates all have unique skills and passions. He asked all the candidates what they see as the number one issue facing Rossford. Mr. Foy responded that it is economic development, infrastructure, and shortage of manpower in the departments. Mr. Carroll said that economic development which is job growth and retention is the number one issue and that we need to develop a solid plan. Mrs. Duricek agreed it is economic development and suggested a medical facility in the Crossroads as a place to start. Mr. Densic said that two things have to go hand in hand, strong planning and economic growth. Mr. Minarcin said economic development and infrastructure.

Mr. Ruse asked what they see council's role as with the schools. Mr. Carroll said he really does not know at this time. Mrs. Duricek said they are two different entities and we cannot combine everything and that council wants to keep the downtown viable but yet the school wants to move the high school. Mr. Densic said they are separate entities but it is council's duty to explore all options. Mr. Minarcin said we need close contact between the mayor and the school superintendent and that a strong city has strong schools. Mr. Foy said he agrees with Mr. Minarcin and suggested an ad hoc committee made up of two council and two board members plus the mayor and superintendent.

Mr. Ruse asked what should be council's role in downtown redevelopment. Mrs. Duricek said we need to make people responsible for their building fronts and stop building beings used for storage instead of viable businesses. Mr. Densic said part of council's job should be to serve as an ambassador between businesses and other organization and to take the lead in planning for the downtown, possibly developing a master plan for the city. Mr. Minarcin said that having a business downtown is difficult and that council needs to frequent downtown businesses and enforce the ordinances that regulate. Mr. Foy said council should take the lead along with the RBA and look for grants to assist downtown businesses. Mr. Carroll said council needs to be an ambassador and be involved in the downtown and with small businesses. He said a master plan and standards for downtown need to be developed and we need to work on figuring out how to attract business downtown. He said the city needs to be directly involved and assist in getting grants and helping small business.

Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Minarcin why he did not run in the last election and why he is now interested. Mr. Minarcin said he is now retired and did not run in the last election because he thought the six people running for the four seats which included three incumbents were well qualified. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Carroll if he would run in two years or if the levy issue would preclude him running again and was told it would not since the levy issue would not be up for another four years. Mr. Wagner told Mr. Densic some people view him as obstinate and used the example of Mr. Densic resigning from the school committee in 2010. Mr. Densic said he resigned from that committee due to the process used being a flawed process with flawed data and not wanting his name associated with it.

Mr. Staczek thanked all the candidates for going through this process and asked how they would handle nuisance properties. Mr. Densic said that often the problem is not our rules on nuisance properties but being hamstrung by state and more often federal rules. Mrs. Duricek said council needs to hold their ground and not pick and choose but enforce the rules for everyone. Mr. Carroll said he would use the laws we have and get the community together to help as in neighbors helping neighbors. Mr. Foy he understands this problem from his time as a police sergeant. Mr.

Minarcin encouraged strong enforcement of our current ordinances and possibly a public meeting quarterly to let the people know what is being done and what needs to be done.

Mr. Oberdorf asked how each candidate would use their experience to develop the Crossroads. Mr. Minarcin said he has heard that lot prices are too high and he would get with the proper people to assist. Mr. Foy said the administration needs to take the lead with the assistance of council to work on attracting business to that area. Mr. Carroll thinks this is a perfect opportunity for regional cooperation between Lucas and Wood County, Toledo and Rossford and that businesses are looking for buildings that are already up so we need to entice developers to do spec buildings in that area. Mrs. Duricek thinks the Crossroads is a fabulous place and a perfect spot for business to locate but we need to make sure acreage prices are comparable to Northwood and Perrysburg. Mr. Densic said the Crossroads is a great location and that we need to make sure we are flexible with our zoning and work with private developers.

Mrs. Eckel asked their feelings on assessing homeowners for street improvements or for a permanent road levy. Mr. Carroll said he is not in favor of either and that it is council's responsibility to figure out how to pay for road improvements but that at some point this may be a last resort. Mrs. Duricek said she is not in favor of assessments and that we should have gotten more money from the casino not just the onetime \$200,000 payment. Mr. Densic said he is not in favor of assessments and that we need a long term plan for the care of all city streets, facilities, and equipment. Mr. Minarcin said any plan proposed now calls for money we don't have. He said council needs to come up with a plan and cost and then see if the community will buy in. Mr. Foy said he is not in favor of any new tax for streets and we should use the dollars we have.

Mrs. Eckel asked Mr. Densic how we would get things done without using grants such as federal grant for Lime City Rd. etc. improvements. Mr. Densic said we need to work on getting block grants back from the state and that Rossford roads should be paid for by our funding, state roads by state grants and funding, and that he is opposed to federal grants. He then gave an explanation of why he is opposed to federal grants which involved the oath of office and the constitution of the United States saying he cannot find anywhere in the Constitution that talks about federal grants and that the county is 17 trillion dollars in debt.

Mrs. Eckel asked how each candidate would reconcile his commitment to his/her supporters to being part of a council team. Mr. Minarcin said he would listen to all his constituents and their opinion and at the end of the day make the best decision for the city as a whole. Mr. Foy said you do what is in the best interest of Rossford. Mr. Carroll said that these are all at-large council seats so that you are responsible to the citizens of Rossford to make the best decision overall for the city. Mrs. Duricek said she would vote the way the people who put you in the seat wanted. Mr. Densic said as a representative republic we need to listen to the citizens of the community and vote accordingly.

Mr. Ruse asked each applicant how much of a time commitment they have to offer. Mr. Minarcin said he has the time and would spend whatever time is needed. Mr. Foy said he is committed to whatever is necessary. Mr. Carroll said he would not be here if he was not willing to commit to the time necessary. Mrs. Duricek said from living with Chuck she knows the time commitment and that is a 24/7 commitment. Mr. Densic said 24/7 and that he is here to serve.

Mr. Staczek asked if Mr. Carroll would have a problem with his role on the Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority conflicting with Rossford's interest. Mr. Carroll said he had already checked with the state and it was determined there was no conflict and that council would have to trust him to keep confidential those items that may involve both entities. He said the positive aspect of serving both would be bringing them together and Toledo still benefits from joint economic development.

Mr. Oberdorf asked what type of relationship each candidate would have with the mayor to allow a productive council. Mr. Minarcin said he wants a positive relationship with the mayor with one positive team working together. Mr. Foy said we need to have a positive relationship with the mayor, department heads, and other council members. Mr. Carroll said he would work together and respect the Mayor's views and that nothing get done without working together. Mrs. Duricek said she is able to keep her business and personal views separate. Mr. Densic said he echoed Mr. Foy's thoughts and added the citizens as being the most important group to have a positive relationship with.

Mayor Mackinnon thanked all the applicants for their interest in the position and said they all did a great job. He said the city cannot lose with whatever applicant is selected

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the applicants only. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to return to regular session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor MacKinnon requested nominations for the vacant seat and Mr. Oberdorf nominated Joseph Minarcin, Mr. Wagner nominated Robert Densic, and Mr. Staczek nominated William Carroll. Per the procedure established prior to the meeting votes on each candidate were requested in the order they were nominated with voting ending as soon as any candidate receives a majority. If no candidate received a majority the procedure can be repeated.

Vote on Mr. Minarcin was Oberdorf, Eckel, and Ruse aye, Staczek, Marquette, and Wagner no.

Vote on Mr. Densic was Marquette and Wagner aye, Staczek, Oberdorf, Eckel, and Ruse no.

Vote on Mr. Carroll was Staczek and Ruse aye, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, and Wagner no.

None of the candidates having achieved a majority vote of four Mr. Heban said that council could again go through the nomination process today, delay until next week's council meeting, or not make a decision and allow the mayor to appoint a candidate at the expiration of the thirty day period from the death of Mr. Duricek. He also said that the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is not removed from the process.

At this time Mr. Oberdorf nominated Joseph Minarcin, Mr. Staczek nominated William Carroll, and Mr. Marquette nominated Robert Densic. Mr. Marquette clarified that Mr. Heban had said that council can vote aye for more than one candidate.

Vote on Mr. Minarcin was Oberdorf, Wagner, Ruse, Marquette, and Eckel aye. Mr. Staczek voted no. Mr. Minarcin was selected by a 5-1 majority vote and thus voting on the other nominations ended.

It was decided that Mr. Minarcin would be sworn in at the December 23rd regular council meeting.

Mr. Ruse moved and Mr. Wagner seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Neil Mackinnon, III
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council