

SPECIAL SESSION - NOVEMBER 14, 1994

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Winifred Northcross administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Mayor, Ingrid B. Sheldon, and Councilmembers: Tobi Hanna-Davies, First Ward; Jane Lumm, Second Ward; Jean Carlberg, Third Ward; Stephen C. Hartwell, Fourth Ward; and Elisabeth L. Daley, Fifth Ward.

The newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers took their seats.

The special session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Tobi Hanna-Davies, Patricia Vereen-Dixon, Peter Fink, Jane Lumm, Haldon L. Smith, Jean Carlberg, Peter Nicolas, Stephen C. Hartwell, Christopher Kolb, Elisabeth L. Daley, Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon, 11.

ABSENT : 0.

NOTICE OF CALL OF SPECIAL SESSION

The certification and notice of call of special session was read and ordered placed on file with the City Clerk.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW COUNCIL

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE ELECTED

The Mayor declared nominations open for election of Mayor Pro Tem for the ensuing Council year.

Councilmember Hanna-Davies moved and Councilmember Smith supported that Councilmember Kolb be nominated for the office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Lumm moved and Councilmember Fink supported that Council cast a unanimous ballot to elect Councilmember Kolb as Mayor Pro Tem.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried unanimously and Christopher Kolb elected Mayor Pro Tem for the current Council year.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS DEFERRED

Council unanimously agreed that Council appointments to the various boards, commissions and committees be deferred to the November 21, 1994 regular session of Council to allow review of the assignments.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL RULES POSTPONED

Councilmember Kolb moved and Councilmember Smith supported that the previous Rules of Council be adopted for the current Council year.

Councilmember Nicolas moved that the Rules of the Council be amended by adding the following language:

No session of the City Council shall extend beyond 12:00 midnight. At 11:00 and 11:30 p.m., the City Clerk or her designee shall inform the Council of the time. At 12:00 midnight, all debate shall cease and the Chair shall recognize only three motions from the floor. The first shall be a motion to adjourn if all scheduled business of the Council is complete. The second shall be a motion to recess the meeting to a later evening. The third shall be a motion to suspend the rules and continue the meeting, subject to super-majority approval as outlined in the Council Rules.

Councilmember Nicolas moved that consideration of the Council Rules and the amendment be postponed until the close of the public hearing.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - RESERVED TIME

JOHN PSYCHAS - CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYOR SHELDON

John Psychas, 959 Wall St., congratulated Mayor Sheldon for her victory at the recent election. He stated that the Mayor's victory is a stamp of approval from the citizens of Ann Arbor on her ability to get things done under trying circumstances.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A public hearing was conducted on the topic "Violence Against Women" to elicit women's experiences in terms of sexual assault and domestic violence, and to ask for suggestions for prevention from the community. Notice of public hearing was published on November 5 and 12, 1994.

The following people appeared and expressed support for the recently established Commission on Increasing Safety for Women. They emphasized the importance of cooperation from all segments of the community in this effort, especially in the area of education to help recognize and prevent violence. Many speakers cited the City of San Diego as a model for developing a coordinated community response for intervention in domestic violence cases.

Some of the speakers related their sexual assault experiences and expressed concern with shortcomings in community response to violence against women, such as slow response time by the police, perpetrators not held accountable for their crimes, and insufficient services for victims.

Several speakers expressed concern with the tactics of the Ann Arbor police in its investigation of the serial rapist. The speakers stated that police actions of targeting and harassing the African-American community are racist and unconstitutional and called for investigation of the situation as well as a public hearing on the issue.

Further suggestions for prevention of violence against women included:

- City Council support of state-wide legislation, such as House Bill 4430 to allow criminal prosecution beyond the age of 24 in cases of child sexual abuse, House Bill 5061 (Campus Sexual Assault Assistance Act) to provide certain rights to people who are assaulted on campus, and House Bills 5804-08 to increase the effectiveness of domestic violence restraining orders;

- a long-term commitment from City Council and the community to end violence against women;
- appointment of a diverse membership for the Commission on Increasing Safety for Women;
- more street lighting;
- more safety measures in public housing;
- more resources for convicting perpetrators and prosecution of perpetrators to the fullest extent;
- more comprehensive services for victims and increased funding to agencies assisting victims;
- continued funding for the Dating Violence Prevention Program run by the Domestic Violence Project for high school students;
- continued support of AATA A-Ride Program for disabled and elderly citizens;
- more reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault incidents by the media;
- a larger award to catch the serial rapist in order to protect the person or family offering information;
- educating women to be more aware and to take a proactive approach;
- consideration of police chief candidates who are sensitive to the issue of violence against women;
- early education in schools to recognize and prevent violence; and
- award money for catching the serial rapist used for sexual assault prevention such as lighting for parks or self-defense classes for women who cannot afford them.

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

Amy Coha, 3304 Maple Dr., Associate Director of Domestic Violence Project/Safe House;

Debi Cain, Director of the University of Michigan Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center;

Daniel Saunders, 442 W. Delhi Rd., Associate Professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work;

Gene Ragland, Medical Director of the Emergency Center at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Vice President of the Domestic Violence Project Board;

Carole McCabe, 1640 Knight Rd., Director of Avalon Housing, a non-profit housing organization;

Charles Kieffer, 263 Crest Ave., Director of the SOS Community Crisis Center;

Honest Candy, 822 Arch St., graduate student at the University of Michigan School of Social Work and member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Board;

Rick Liska, 173 Wallace;

Shirley Trout, speaking on behalf of older battered women;

Julia Bayha, survivor of sexual abuse;

Carol Plummer, 817 Edward St., therapist working with sexually abused children;

Alicia Aiken, 1229 Prospect St., presented a statement by Julie Field, Director of Women in the Law Clinic;

Anne Humphrey, 2328 Stone Dr., supervisor with Families First Program;

Nichole Paradis, 1229 S. State St., Michigan Student Assembly member and Chair of the MSA Women's Issues Commission;

Jane Collins, 2633 Pittsfield Blvd., survivor of sexual abuse;

Annemarie Fuller, 4809 Aberdeen, representing the Junior League of Ann Arbor;

Anita Smith, 3045 Wolverine Dr., worker in the Washtenaw County court system;

Karen March, disabled University of Michigan Medical School student;

Odile Hugonot Haber, 531 Third St., Coordinator of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom;

Sandy Graham-Bermann, 1524 Dicken Dr., University of Michigan Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology and developer of Kids Club, a program for children in families with domestic violence;

Joe Burke, 313 Maple Ridge, Chief Assistant Prosecutor for Washtenaw County;

Brian Mackie, 2112 Arlene St., Prosecuting Attorney for Washtenaw County;

Andrew Wright, 100 S. Observatory St., Michigan Student Assembly City Liaison;

Sarah Heuser, 123 Allen Dr., member of the Movement Against Violence Against Women;

Lisa Lassen, Supervising Attorney for the Family Law Project and staff attorney for Legal Services of Southeastern Michigan;

Jean Ledwith King, 3134 Sunnywood Dr., attorney;

Robert Randolph, 1940 Camelot Rd., Fifteenth District Court Administrator on behalf of the judges;

David Garvin, 2500 Prairie St., Director of the Alternatives to Domestic Aggression Program at Catholic Social Services, a program that works with batterers;

Mary Valerie, 210 S. Main St., creator of "Safety Networks", an organization that connects women with walking and jogging groups;

Catherine McClary, 9395 Kearney Rd., representing Domestic Violence Project/Safe House;

Laurie Young, 1506 Broadway St., member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Board;

Jessica Curtin, 412 Green Rd., University of Michigan student;

Jen Rubin, 802 Dewey Ave., sexual assault survivor;

Therese Dowd, 369 Lexington Dr., representing the Assault Crisis Center;

Susan Kaufmann, 630 Fifth St., Associate Director of the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan;

Sharon Bush, Ann Arbor resident;

Ilene Zisk, 415 Lawrence St., Apt. 10, sexual assault survivor;

Patrice Maurer, 417 Skydale Dr., sexual assault survivor;

Coleen Reaume, 9201 Arlington Dr., Ypsilanti, psychotherapist who works with women survivors of violence;

Elizabeth McClare, former coordinator of the disbanded Citizen Advisory Committee on Rape Prevention;

Kathy Hagenian, 2301 Platt Rd., Assistant Director of the Domestic Violence Project/Safe House, member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Board, and legislative co-chair for the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence;

Ann Mitchell Damon, 3901 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., domestic violence survivor;

Larry Hunter, former First Ward Councilmember; and

Susan McGee, 2301 Platt Rd., Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Project/Safe House.

There being no one else to speak the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

The Mayor declared a recess at 10:50 p.m.

The Mayor again called the meeting to order at 10:58 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW COUNCIL (Cont.)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RULES ADOPTED

The question on the table is Councilmember Nicolas' proposed amendment to the Rules of the Council:

No session of the City Council shall extend beyond 12:00 midnight. At 11:00 and 11:30 p.m., the City Clerk or her designee shall inform the Council of the time. At 12:00 midnight, all debate shall cease and the Chair shall recognize only three motions from the floor. The first shall be a motion to adjourn if all scheduled business of the Council is complete. The second shall be a motion to recess the meeting to a later evening. The third shall be a motion to suspend the rules and continue the meeting, subject to super-majority approval as outlined in the Council Rules.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Yeas, Councilmembers Fink, Lumm, Nicolas, 3;

Nays, Councilmembers Smith, Carlberg, Hartwell, Kolb, Daley, Hanna-Davies, Vereen-Dixon, Mayor Sheldon, 8.

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

Councilmember Nicolas moved that the Rules of the Council be amended by adding the following language:

1. Maintain the current speaking limit of 5 minutes for the first time a Councilmember speaks to an agenda item.
2. Reduce from 3 minutes to 2 minutes the speaking limit for the second and final time a Councilmember speaks to an agenda item.
3. Reduce from 5 minutes to 3 minutes the speaking limit for the first time a Councilmember speaks to an amendment, amendment in the nature of a substitute or a motion to divide a question.

4. Reduce from 3 minutes to 2 minutes the speaking limit for the second and final time a Councilmember speaks to an amendment, amendment in the nature of a substitute or a motion to divide a question.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Yeas, Councilmembers Fink, Lumm, Nicolas, Hartwell, Mayor Sheldon, 5;

Nays, Councilmembers Smith, Carlberg, Kolb, Daley, Hanna-Davies, Vereen-Dixon, 6.

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

The question being the adoption of the previous Rules of the Council, on a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried with Councilmember Nicolas dissenting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Councilmember Kolb moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Sheldon asked that Councilmembers please contact her office for information on

meeting times for the various committees they might be interested in.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

COUNCILMEMBER KOLB

Councilmember Kolb thanked the Mayor and Council for conducting the public hearing on violence against women and stated that Council should stay focused on this issue and allow public safety to be one of its top priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER VEREEN-DIXON

Councilmember Vereen-Dixon echoed Councilmember Kolb's remarks and expressed hope that City Council can do something to make a difference.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL

DAVID NOEL - VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMELESS WOMEN

David Noel, representing the Homeless Action Committee, extended congratulations to the Mayor on her reelection and to the newly elected Councilmembers. Mr. Noel expressed concern that homeless women are more likely to be victims of violence and that police tactics used to search for the serial rapist are racist and unconstitutional.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting

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adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Janet L. Chapin
Recording Secretary