



# Newton City Council

## 2020-2021 Caucus

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**7 PM  
ROOM 211**

### **ORDER**

1. Call to Order by CLERK PRO TEM (Attendance by Roll Call).
2. Election of a Temporary Presiding Officer for Caucus.  
Nomination/Second
3. Adoption of Caucus Rules.  
Motion to accept
4. Selection of 2020-2021 City Council Officials:
  - A. President
  - B. Vice-President
  - C. President Emeritus

Nominations/Seconds  
Candidates Speeches  
Questions for the Candidates
5. Any other matter to be brought before the Caucus.

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The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1. Meeting for Election.**

After the Council members have been sworn, the Council shall convene to elect a President, Vice-President and President Emeritus. The Mayor shall preside for the purpose of electing a Temporary Presiding Officer whose powers shall be limited to the conduct of the election. In default of the election of such a Temporary Presiding Officer, the former President-Emeritus, if then a member of the Council, and if not, the most senior member then serving shall act as Temporary Presiding Officer to preside over the election of officers until a President is duly elected by the Council and can act as Presiding Officer and the Council can be formally organized. For purposes of this section, the "most senior member" shall mean the Council member with the greatest number of years of service on the City Council. The Council must elect its President before balloting can begin for Vice President.

#### **Section 2. Special Committee of the Whole.**

In order to facilitate the election of officers who command the support of a majority of the full Council, the Council shall entertain nominations and preliminary voting on candidates for office under the procedures hereinafter set forth in a Special Committee of the Whole, Temporary Presiding Officer presiding. No candidate shall be reported to the full Council for subsequent formal election who has not attained a majority of the full Council or thirteen (13) votes.

#### **Section 3. Balloting Procedure.**

After nominations are closed, votes are cast repeatedly for the slate of nominees on the ballot until a candidate receives an absolute majority vote in favor of his or her election (13 or more votes). For the purposes of this Article, "absolute majority" shall mean a majority of the members of the full City Council, or at least thirteen (13) votes. Votes shall be cast in the manner provided in paragraph B until the field is narrowed to 2 candidates.

B) **Narrowing the Field to two candidates:** If more than two candidates remain in the race after votes are cast for the first slate of nominees, then the candidate receiving the fewest votes on that ballot is eliminated as a candidate and may not again become a candidate until such time as an inability to elect (deadlock) is declared. If two or more candidates tie for the lowest vote total and three or more candidates remain in contention, repeat ballots are cast until one of the tied candidates is eliminated from contention. After three rounds of votes to break a tie among nominees on a particular ballot, candidates who are tied for the fewest votes shall also be removed if the removal of all such candidates (who are tied) would leave at least two candidates remaining.

C) **Tie-breaking Ballots for 2 Remaining Nominees:** If the field is narrowed to 2 candidates, neither of whom receives an absolute majority, then the possibility of opening the field to more candidates is disallowed until three ballots between the two candidates are cast. If no winner

emerges during the course of those three ballots, then an inability to elect a candidate (deadlock) is declared and both candidates are eliminated from contention. In the event of an inability to elect a candidate (deadlock), then nominations are re-opened, provided, however, that the two candidates who were on the ballot that resulted in the inability to elect (deadlock) cannot be nominated again until such time as a second inability to elect (deadlock) is declared, in which case, the process begins again and any Council member may be nominated.