



The City Council Chronicle



Winter 2016



Seated

Michael A. Patterson, Northeast | Molly Clifford Northwest
Elaine M. Spaul, East | Adam C. McFadden, South

Standing

Matt Haag, At-Large | Jacklyn Ortiz, At-Large
Loretta C. Scott, President, At-Large;
Carolee A. Conklin, At-Large | Dana K. Miller, VP, At-Large

From the President's pen:

A note from Loretta Scott

Greetings everyone and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year. 2016 marks the beginning of a new session of the Rochester City Council and with this new session comes a few changes. We welcome Molly Clifford, who was elected to the vacant Northwest District seat, as the newest member of Council.



The Council has reorganized its committee structure, which you can read more about inside this newsletter. We will have 6 standing committees: Finance; Business and Economic Development; Neighborhood and Community Development; Parks and Public Works; and Public Safety, Youth and Recreation, and Arts and Culture in the Center City. In addition to these standing committees the Council will continue to operate an ad-hoc committee on Education.

One of the changes I am most excited to tell you about concerns the timeline for when we hold public hearings. Historically, public hearings have been held during the regular meeting of the City Council. This meant that we didn't hear from people until the night we were planning to vote on legislation. We have voted to change the date of public hearings to coincide with the Committee Meetings. This move will provide more time for the Council to consider and research public comments.

One of my goals as Council President has been to increase the transparency of the Council process. We have done this by opening up new channels of communication, utilizing social media, creating the television program *Inside City Council*, and putting the City Council review of questions on the public record. The moving of our Public Hearings is just one more effort to make the legislative process more accessible to our community. If you have any ideas for ways we can be more accessible please contact the office using the information below.

My Best,

What's Changing with Public Hearings?



Public Hearings will move from the beginning of City Council Meetings (Typically Tuesday Night at 7:30p.m.)

To the end of City Council Committee Meetings at 5:30p.m.

A list of upcoming City Council Meetings and City Council Committee meetings are on the back of this newsletter.

City Council Committees

The Rochester City Council utilizes six committees whose purpose is to review legislation, pass amendments, and recommend legislation for adoption. The committee structure provides Councilmembers the opportunity to focus their attention more directly on specific topics. The committees each receive legislative items from different departments within

the administration as well as Council initiated legislation. Councilmembers are assigned to committees with regard to their different subject matter expertise. Each committee, its chair and membership are appointed by President Loretta Scott. The Chairs of standing committees meet regularly with City Administration to review programs and projects. President

Scott and Vice President Miller serve as ex-officio members on all committees. The committee meetings are held in City Council Chambers, located in City Hall (30 Church Street on the third floor of the A-Building). They are generally held the Thursday prior to the City Council meeting. Upcoming Committee Meetings are highlighted on Page 4 of the newsletter.

Finance Committee

Chair: Carolee Conklin
Members: Molly Clifford, Adam McFadden

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Office of Management and Budget, Department of Finance, the Mayor’s Office (Office of the Mayor, Communications Bureau, Office of Public Integrity, Law Department, Information Technology and the Department of Human Resource Management) and the Library.



Business & Economic Development Committee

Chair: Dana Miller
Members: Mike Patterson, Elaine Spaul

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, specifically legislation involving business and economic development (commercial or residential) and the Office of the Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development.



Neighborhood & Community Development Committee

Chair: Jackie Ortiz
Members: Molly Clifford, Carolee Conklin

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, specifically legislation involving the sale or donation of real estate, inspection and compliance, planning and zoning, the Neighborhood Service Centers, the Rochester Land Bank, and the general improvement and beautification of neighborhoods.



Parks & Public Works Committee

Chair: Matt Haag
Members: Mike Patterson, Elaine Spaul

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Department of Environmental Services, including streets and water projects, and legislation involving parks.



Public Safety, Youth, & Recreation Committee

Chair: Adam McFadden
Members: Molly Clifford, Matt Haag

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Police, Fire, Emergency Communications and Recreation and Youth Services Departments.



Arts & Culture in the Center City Committee

Chair: Elaine Spaul
Members: Adam McFadden, Jackie Ortiz

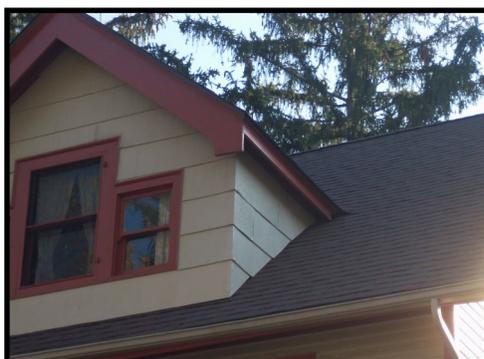
Committee Charge: to review legislation within the Inner Loop geographic area, also known as Center City, that pertains specifically to new projects or programs in order to develop and encourage arts and culture within the Downtown area.

Owner-Occupant Roofing Program

The City of Rochester is providing financial assistance for roof replacements of 136 owner-occupied single-family homes in the city. The assistance covers the cost of roof replacement and other related repairs such as gutters, downspouts, roof flashing and minor chimney repair up to \$12,000. The Owner Occupant Roofing Program was created to ease the financial burden of new roofs for Rochester residents. Interested participants are encouraged to apply. Interested homeowners may submit a pre-application at their Neighborhood Service Center, for more information



call **585-428-6912**. This is the second year that the Council has worked with the administration to ensure that our qualifying residents in need of roof repair have assistance. “We want to make sure that people are able to stay in their homes, we know that owner-occupied housing helps strengthen neighborhoods,” said Jackie Ortiz, Chair of the Neighborhood and Community Development committee, “we are committed to improving the safety and livability of our City homes.”



Round 1: Quadrant-based, a total of 68 pre-applicants will be randomly selected. Senior citizens will make up 30 percent of those selected. (applications accepted from **January 25 to February 25, 2016**). Drawing to be held February 26, 2016.

Round 2: City-wide, names will be selected from a citywide pool of applicants. (applications accepted from **April 25 to May 26, 2016**). Drawing held May 27, 2016.

More Info at:
www.cityofrochester.gov/roofrelief/

Program Requirements

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident alien.
- Applicants must own a single-family residential structure located in the city of Rochester and occupy such property as their principal place of residency. Ownership must be evidenced by a recorded property deed.
- Participants must sign an agreement with the city which requires the owner to live at the property for a period of 3 years after project completion. The owner cannot sell the property during the compliance period.
- Household income cannot exceed 80% of the area median income as per the chart below. This calculation includes all occupants over age 18 receiving income from but not limited to: employment, public assistance, social security, retirement benefits, disability or unemployment benefits.

Haag leads efforts for Dog Parks

Councilmember Matt Haag, who Chairs the Parks and Public Works Committee has been working with the Department of Environmental Services to begin the process of researching the feasibility of a Dog Park Pilot in the City of Rochester. “We’ve seen dog parks be very successful throughout the County; we know that they enjoy wide use, but we have yet to create a public dog park in Rochester,” said Councilmember Haag, “Numerous members of the community have asked us for a City dog park, and we want to first start with pilot locations to ensure full implementation meets the needs and wants of local dog owners.” The City Council is committed to creating a culture of vibrancy and livability in our neighborhoods, and this initiative was driven from citizen input, so if you have other ideas as to how we can better serve you—let us know.



Miller Says: New Committee Open For Business

For several years now, City Council has had a combined Neighborhood and Business Development committee that covered business development, economic development, housing, inspection, permits, and Neighborhood Service Centers and other related areas. “With an increased need for business and economic development, President Scott created a separate Business and Economic Development committee this year that I will be chairing,” said Vice President Miller, “This more



focused approach will ensure that both neighborhood and center city businesses will receive appropriate support, and that there is a priority placed on economic and job development.” Items not related to Business and Economic Development will be under the purview of the Neighborhood and Community Development Committee. If you have ideas for businesses, jobs, or economic development, please email Vice President Miller at Dana.Miller@cityofrochester.gov.

Meeting Molly Clifford, NW Councilmember



Molly Clifford was born and raised in Maplewood, leaving the City briefly to attend college. Molly graduated from Cornell University, and after graduating she came back to Rochester and began a career that has included work in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, as well as government service. This wide array of experience includes: leading development efforts at Golisano Children’s Hospital in the 1990s, managing marketing and public affairs as Assistant General Manager of Rural/Metro Medical Services, directing the City of Rochester’s neighborhood services, and Fire Department administration. Molly continues to work to benefit the community through her role as the Executive Director at Community Health

Strategies, where she collaborates with community members and nonprofit leaders to develop and deliver fire safety and injury prevention programs for vulnerable populations. In addition to her professional commitments, Molly currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Mary’s Place Outreach, which supports refugees resettled in Northwest Rochester, and the Regional Center for Independent Living, which assists people with disabilities to participate fully in the community. She is also a member of the Cathedral Community at Sacred Heart. Molly is the mother of two adult children; she and her partner, Ken Warner, recently bought a house on Lakeview Park and are excited to be back in Maplewood.

Councilmember Spaul Champions "Raise the Age"

New York State is one of only two states in the country that allows juveniles to be prosecuted as adults. Elaine Spaul, East District Rep., was asked to participate on the Governor’s Raise the Age Commission. The group was tasked with identifying recommendations concerning youthful offenders. The commission has recommended raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age, as well as changes to arrest and police custody procedures for youth (including parental notification), removing youth from adult

jails and prisons, and the expansion of services that assist juveniles and limit continued consequences upon their release. Under the proposed recommendations, the most serious offenders will continue to be prosecuted in the adult criminal courts. However, instead of using the same, unsuccessful, “one size fits all” solutions, the proposal calls for the creation of a special Youth Part of the adult courts “This is a very important initiative, and we are all very hopeful that New York State will enact these recommendations,” said Spaul.



Upcoming Council Meetings

JANUARY

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31						

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APRIL

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Do you want to:

Speak to Council

To sign up call:
(585) 428-7421

Speakers start at:
6:30 PM

Speak to Council is held immediately prior to Council Meetings and to speak you must sign up by 5:30 PM on the meeting day.

 Committee Meeting/Public hearing
 Council Meeting