

NIAGARA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY 2024

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JAN 1, 2024. 11:00 A.M.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY COUNCILMAN ZAJAC

B. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM

Motion by Council Member Perry to elect Council Member Zajac as Chairperson Pro Tem by roll call vote.

Council Member Myles seconded the motion.

No debate on the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	yeas	nays
ARCHIE	x	
BAX	x	
MYLES	x	
PERRY	x	
ZAJAC	x	
Totals:	5	

The clerk announced the vote tally and that council member Zajac had been elected as the Chairperson Pro Tem. The Chairperson Pro Tem then announced the commencement of opening ceremonies.

II. OPENING CEREMONIES AND OATHS OF OFFICE

A. POSTING OF COLORS BY THE NFPD AND NFFD HONOR GUARD.

B. INVOCATION – PRAYER BY REVEREND AL WARNER.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- LED BY CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM.

D. RETIREMENT OF COLORS.

E. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR-ELECT, ROBERT M. RESTAINO, BY HON. DANIELLE RESTAINO, CHIEF JUDGE OF THE NIAGARA FALLS CITY COURT.

F. MAYOR’S SPEECH GIVEN BY THE HONORABLE MAYOR ROBERT M. RESTAINO.

G. OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS-ELECT, BRIAN ARCHIE AND JAMES PERRY.

Pastor Craig Damone Pridgen re-administered the oath of office to Council Member-elect, Brian Archie.

Democratic Elections Commissioner, Lora Allen, re-administered the oath of office to Council Member-elect, James Perry.

H. OATH OF OFFICE TO CITY OFFICIALS: THE CHIEF OF POLICE, THE FIRE CHIEF, AND THE CITY CLERK.

The Honorable Danielle Restaino administered the oath of office to the Superintendent of Police, Nicholas Ligammari.

The Honorable Danielle Restaino administered the oath of office to the Fire Chief, Gary Pochatko.

I. OATH OF OFFICE TO NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATOR-ELECT, CHRISTOPHER MCKIMMIE.

The Honorable Danielle Restaino administered the oath of office to the County Legislator-elect, 3rd District, Christopher Mckimmie.

J. COUNCIL DIRECTED TO STAND AT EASE.

The Chairperson Pro Tem, David Zajac, directed that Council ‘stand at ease’ for an intermission to allow guests to depart the gallery.

III. MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM

IV. CITY CLERK CALLED THE ROLL FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

ARCHIE __X__ BAX __X__ MYLES __X__ PERRY __X__ ZAJAC __X__

The Honorable E. Jeanette Ogden, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, 4th Judicial Department, then re-administered the oath of office to the City Clerk, Elizabeth Eaton.

V. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024

A. MOTION TO ELECT A NEW CHAIRPERSON.

Motion by Council Member Archie to declare the Council Chair vacant and proceed to elect a new Chairperson by roll call vote. Council Member Myles seconded the motion.

No debate on the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	yeas	nays
ARCHIE	x	
BAX	x	
MYLES	x	
PERRY	x	
ZAJAC	x	
Totals:	5	

The clerk announced the vote, and the Councilperson Pro Tem announced the motion was adopted.

B. CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM CALLED FOR NOMINATIONS

Council Member Myles nominated himself.

Council Member Archie nominated Council Member Perry.

Council Member Zajac nominated himself.

C. ROLL CALL VOTE FOR COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member Archie voted for James Perry.
Council Member Bax voted for James Perry.
Council Member Myles voted for himself.
Council Member Perry voted for himself.
Council Member Zajac voted for Donta Myles.

The Clerk announced the vote tally, and the Councilperson Pro Tem introduced Council Member James Perry as the new Chair for a term ending on December 31, 2024, in accordance with City Charter Section 3.2 (A).

D. OATH OF OFFICE WAS ADMINISTERED TO THE COUNCIL CHAIR, JAMES PERRY, BY THE CITY CLERK.

VI. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

With no motions to amend the proposed Agenda, the Chair asked if there would be a motion to conduct a roll call vote to adopt the Agenda, as presented.

Council Member Archie so moved. Council Member Myles seconded the motion.

No debate on the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	yeas	nays
ARCHIE	x	
BAX	x	
MYLES	x	
ZAJAC	x	
PERRY	x	
Totals:	5	

The Clerk announced the vote tally, and the Chair announced that the Agenda was adopted as presented.

VII. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTIONS

1. RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING THE NIAGARA GAZETTE AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER PER CITY CHARTER § 3.12.

By all Council Members

Motion by Council Member David Zajac to designate the Niagara Gazette as the official newspaper, per City Charter § 3.12. Council Member Myles seconded the motion.

No debate on the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	yeas	nays
ARCHIE	x	
BAX	x	
MYLES	x	
ZAJAC	x	
PERRY	x	
Totals:	5	

The Clerk announced the vote tally, and the Chair announced that the motion was adopted.

2. RELATIVE TO ADOPTION OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS.

By all Council Members

Motion by Council Member Zajac to adopt the resolution relative to establishing the City’s investment policy for 2024. Council Member Bax seconded the motion.

No Debate on the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	yeas	nays
ARCHIE	x	
BAX	x	
MYLES	x	
ZAJAC	x	
PERRY	x	
Totals:	5	

The Clerk announced the vote tally, and the Chair announced that the motion was adopted.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

With no further business remaining, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm without a motion or second, as permitted by RONR (12th ed.) 21:15.