



The Minutes

by Tracy Letts

SAMUEL FRENCH

The world premiere of *THE MINUTES* was produced and presented at Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director; David Schmitz, Executive Director) in Chicago, Illinois, on November 9, 2017. The performance was directed by Anna D. Shapiro, with scenic design by David Zinn, costume design by Ana Kuzmanic, lighting design by Brian MacDevitt, and sound design and original music by Andre Pluess. The stage manager was Christine D. Freeburg. The cast was as follows:

MR. PEELCliff Chamberlain
MAYOR SUPERBA William Petersen
MS. JOHNSON Brittany Burch
MR. BLAKEJames Vincent Meredith
MR. BREEDING Kevin Anderson
MR. HANRATTY Danny McCarthy
MR. ASSALONE Jeff Still
MS. INNES Penny Slusher
MS. MATZSally Murphy
MR. OLDFIELDFrancis Guinan
MR. CARP Ian Barford

CHARACTERS

MR. PEEL
MAYOR SUPERBA
MS. JOHNSON
MR. BLAKE
MR. BREEDING
MR. HANRATTY
MR. ASSALONE
MS. INNES
MS. MATZ
MR. OLDFIELD
MR. CARP

Note: Innes and Oldfield should be older than the others.

SETTING

A city council meeting room

the Sheriff's Department was recovering more than a hundred lost and stolen bicycles each year, on the streets of Big Cherry and the greater metropolitan Big Cherry area, and that Sheriff Assalone, Councilman Assalone's brother, was holding them in police storage and then disposing of them. So Mr. Carp activated a search for charitable organizations to which Sheriff Assalone could donate these bikes. Troubled teens' youth shelter, and the Lutheran Church, and a couple of others.

(Beat.)

Maybe some of you know this, but again, I missed the last meeting and I don't have a copy of the minutes and Mr. Carp isn't here to inform me about the direction he would want me to take this.

ASSALONE. You missed a meeting.

PEEL. Yes, I missed last week's meeting –

ASSALONE. *You* missed a meeting. And so now you expect us to use the time in this week's meeting to inform you about last week's meeting. As if that's the best use of our time.

PEEL. Um. You wouldn't need... No one would need to catch me up if I had a copy of the minutes from last week's meeting.

ASSALONE. But those minutes do not exist. You've been told that and now you're holding up the meeting to get someone to recite to you what happened at last week's meeting. That you missed.

PEEL. You keep saying that, Mr. Assalone. I know I missed the meeting, I was at my mother's deathbed and subsequent funeral.

ASSALONE. And while I'm sure everyone here feels great sympathy for your loss, it's not our fault that your mother is dead.

PEEL. No...it's not...

SUPERBA. Mr. Peel, if it helps: this item has been resolved in a way that I believe Mr. Carp would have found more than satisfactory.

BREEDING. *More* than satisfactory.

SUPERBA. Sheriff Assalone has agreed to donate the bikes to the nonprofit which shows the greatest need. A portion to the youth shelter, a portion to the Lutheran Church and so on. Right, Mr. Assalone?

ASSALONE. Oh sure. Gratis.

PEEL. Great.

ASSALONE. Write-off.

PEEL. Well, that's great to hear.

SUPERBA. *(To the group.)* So there's no need for further discussion on Item 6.1, is there? Ms. Matz?

MATZ. Yes, no, there is no need for further discussion. God knows.

SUPERBA. Right, but in light of Mr. Carp's absence, you might recall I asked you to write up the resolution so that we could vote on it.

MATZ. Yes, my recollection is that you asked me to write up the resolution so that we could vote on it.

SUPERBA. That's my recollection.

MATZ. Mine too. But the *truth* is...the *truth* is, I haven't done that.

SUPERBA. Okay.

MATZ. And I'm not sure why. Remind me, what resolution is this?

SUPERBA. The resolution stipulates that Sheriff Assalone will donate the bicycles to the nonprofit that shows the greatest need.

MATZ. Yes, of course. I understand.

SUPERBA. Okay. Will you do it?

MATZ. Yes. What.

SUPERBA. Write up the resolution.

MATZ. Yes.

SUPERBA. For next week?

MATZ. *(Long, unmotivated pause.)* Yes.

SUPERBA. All right, so we can move on to our next item, 7.1. The Fountain at Mackie Creek Park. Mr. Hanratty, you have the floor.

HANRATTY. Yes, I would like to discuss the fountain.

BREEDING. *(Sotto voce.)* Here we go.

HANRATTY. Here we go: So, just so you understand, I've had some visual aids drawn up.

(HANRATTY gets the posters he entered with, erects them on an easel. The top one is a very simple, large outline map. HANRATTY uses a laser pointer for his presentation.)

Just to orient you. This is City Hall. This is the old Rexall Drug. Right? Here's the battlefield. Mackie Creek, of course. And right here is the current fountain.

OLDFIELD. Now Harry, what am I looking at here? Is this a medallion?

HANRATTY. What? A medallion?

OLDFIELD. Is this a medallion of some sort, a hood ornament? It spins with the wind, that sort of thing?

HANRATTY. No, George. It's...it's a *map*. Of the park.

OLDFIELD. Got it.

HANRATTY. You know this fountain. People without disabilities are able to walk up to it, up those old

circular stone steps, and sit on the edge, have an ice cream. Some throw in coins.

OLDFIELD. And what is the purpose of those coins?

HANRATTY. What?

OLDFIELD. To what end do they put coins in the fountain?

HANRATTY. To make a wish.

OLDFIELD. The wishes cost money?

HANRATTY. Uh.

ASSALONE. For God's sake, George.

OLDFIELD. What?

ASSALONE. You aren't familiar with the tradition of tossing a coin in a fountain and making a wish?

OLDFIELD. Excuse me, friends, I'll shut up!

HANRATTY. In any case, people without disabilities have an access to the fountain that the disabled have simply never enjoyed. And that's unfair.

OLDFIELD. *(To ASSALONE.)* And I suppose you know what happens to all those coins too, smart guy!

INNES. You've spit on me, George.

OLDFIELD. Sorry.

INNES. My God, you've spit on me.

OLDFIELD. I'm sorry.

SUPERBA. Can you explain why I have two sets of numbers here?

HANRATTY. Certainly, Mr. Mayor. If you look in your folder, you'll see the green-shaded pages, and these show the financial proposal for a complete renovation of the fountain, in which we rip out the old one and replace it completely with a majestic new fountain, designed by local architect Faint Waysbury.