



# 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. PEEL** .....Cliff Chamberlain  
**MAYOR SUPERBA** ..... William Petersen  
**MS. JOHNSON** ..... Brittany Burch  
**MR. BLAKE** .....James Vincent Meredith  
**MR. BREEDING** ..... Kevin Anderson  
**MR. HANRATTY** ..... Danny McCarthy  
**MR. ASSALONE** ..... Jeff Still  
**MS. INNES** ..... Penny Slusher  
**MS. MATZ** .....Sally Murphy  
**MR. OLDFIELD** .....Francis 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

**OLDFIELD.** I believe it is.

**SUPERBA.** Announcing what you'd like to talk about is not an announcement, anymore than announcing that you're going to the bathroom.

**OLDFIELD.** Well, that's embarrassing. I didn't think when I came in here tonight I would have to hear the word "bathroom."

**SUPERBA.** That might not be the last time tonight you hear that word.

**OLDFIELD.** Let me go on the record as saying, "I hope it is."

**SUPERBA.** Are there any other announcements?

**OLDFIELD.** I would like to announce that there is an unclaimed empty parking space available to this council.

**SUPERBA.** What are you saying, that you want the parking space?

**OLDFIELD.** No, I'm not saying that. Even though I most definitely want the parking space. My announcement concerns the simple fact that a parking space that has been reserved for many many years has now become available and I don't recall that we've ever had a method in place for selecting the new...parker.

**SUPERBA.** I still don't consider this even remotely in the realm of "announcements." It certainly doesn't square with the nature of every other announcement we've read aloud in my sixteen years on the board.

**OLDFIELD.** Sixteen years, Mayor Superba? Sixteen, is that right?

**SUPERBA.** Something like that.

**OLDFIELD.** Because I have been on this board now for thirty-nine years, and let me tell you –

**ASSALONE.** Come on, George.

**OLDFIELD.** Now you wait a second, I get to finish this whatever this is.

**ASSALONE.** What is this?

**OLDFIELD.** It is what I set out to make. It is an announcement that a parking place, heretofore occupied, has now come free, and I think we have an obligation to determine the process for selecting the new occupier of the parking place. Space.

**ASSALONE.** Then why are you telling us how many years you've served on the board? That's not germane.

**OLDFIELD.** Well, I was responding to Mayor Superba's claim that he had never before heard an announcement like mine in his sixteen years on the board, and I was making the point that I've served on the board somewhat longer than that. But vis-a-vis the parking space allocation, it's also germane that no member of this board has served longer than I, and in fact no one really comes close except for Ms. Innes, and does anyone on this board find it strange that no one on this board parks further away than me? Farther?

**ASSALONE.** I don't find that strange. Does anyone else find that strange?

**SUPERBA.** I don't find it strange.

**BREEDING.** I don't find it strange.

**OLDFIELD.** Why don't you find it strange?

**BREEDING.** Why does anyone not find something strange?

**OLDFIELD.** That's no answer. Why don't *you* find it strange?

**ASSALONE.** Because nobody cares.

**OLDFIELD.** That has nothing to do with why it isn't strange!

**SUPERBA.** So you're saying it's not strange.

**OLDFIELD.** *You* said it's not strange.

**SUPERBA.** So we agree. Any other announcements?

**OLDFIELD.** Is this issue resolved? Rather, this issue is not resolved.

**SUPERBA.** Why don't you bring it up as new business at next week's meeting?

**OLDFIELD.** How can it be new business next week?

**SUPERBA.** Then bring it up as last week's business. Next week.

**OLDFIELD.** Might I bring it up as new business at *this* week's meeting?

**SUPERBA.** You might.

**OLDFIELD.** I might.

**SUPERBA.** Yes, now if there are no –

**OLDFIELD.** And I might not.

*(Pause.)*

**SUPERBA.** If there are no further announcements, we can proceed with the approval of the minutes.

**INNES.** Your Honor, before we approve the minutes, I wonder if I might read something to the council.

*(Some barely concealed groans and sighs from other MEMBERS.)*

**SUPERBA.** And what is that?

**INNES.** A statement.

**SUPERBA.** What is the nature of the statement?

**INNES.** It is a statement I'd like to read to the council. About the council.

**BREEDING.** I wonder if it might be more appropriate to read in a meeting of the Council Rules Committee.

**SUPERBA.** Ms. Matz?

*(Surprised to be called on, MATZ stands, spills some pills and pill bottles from a plastic bag.)*

**MATZ.** Yes?

**SUPERBA.** You're chairperson of the Council Rules Committee.

**MATZ.** Yes, I am.

**SUPERBA.** Is there a committee meeting scheduled in the near future?

**MATZ.** That would depend on your definition of future.

**SUPERBA.** "Events that will happen in the time to come."

**MATZ.** Then yes, of course.

**SUPERBA.** Ms. Innes?

**INNES.** All due respect, my piece doesn't address council rules, per se. It has more to do with spirit.

**BREEDING.** Spirit in what sense?

**INNES.** Esprit de corps.

**BREEDING.** Couldn't you just summarize the piece?

**INNES.** I could, but I don't think it would do the piece justice.

**BREEDING.** Does the piece deserve justice?

**INNES.** Don't all pieces?

**BREEDING.** No.

**INNES.** I write better than I speak.

**BREEDING.** Most of us write better than we speak but that doesn't mean we go around reading pre-written statements aloud.

**INNES.** Maybe *you* don't.