

Reorganization Meeting of
January 2, 2018

The Reorganization Meeting of Lehighton Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Clark Ritter. Members of Council were: Ryan Saunders, Joe Flickinger, Autumn Abelovsky, Grant Hunsicker, Lisa Perry, and Jared McEvoy. Absent: Darryl Arner and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, and Police Chief Brian Biechy.

Welcome by Mayor

Mayor Clark Ritter welcomed everyone to the start of a new year.

Election of Officers

Election of President

Ryan Saunders nominated Grant Hunsicker to be president. All were in favor. Grant Hunsicker was named Council President.

Election of Vice President

Ryan Saunders nominated Darryl Arner to be vice-president; Autumn Abelovsky nominated Joe Flickinger to be vice-president.

The mayor was unsure if Darryl could be nominated as he was not present to accept or reject the nomination. The borough manager called Darryl to see if he was coming to the meeting and was told no. She then asked if he would accept the nomination for vice-president and Darryl said he would accept the nomination.

A roll call vote was taken for Darryl for vice-president with Jared McEvoy, Ryan Saunders and Grant Hunsicker voting in favor of Darryl being vice-president and Autumn Abelovsky, Lisa Perry and Joe Flickinger voting against Darryl being vice-president. The mayor must break the tie and reserved his right to vote until the end of the week.

Appointment of Chairman Pro-Tem to Preside in the Absence of President and Vice President

Joe Flickinger nominated Darryl Arner to be the Chairman Pro-Tem. All were in favor. Darryl Arner was named President Pro-Tem.

The meeting was then turned over to Grant Hunsicker.

Appointment of Vacancy Board Chair – Letter of Interest from Christopher Rodrigues

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to appoint Mr. Rodrigues as the Vacancy Board Chair and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Appointment of Borough Officials and Officers

Motion to Appoint/Reappoint the Following Borough Officials –

Each person was appointed separately. The councilors who made the motions to reappoint them are listed after each name and all were in favor of each appointment.

Nicole Beckett, Borough Manager – Councilors Saunders/McEvoy

Brenda Kreitz, Borough Secretary – Councilors Perry/Saunders

Cathy Smith, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary – Councilors Flickinger/McEvoy

Kim Rubin, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Councilors Perry/Ryan

Lonny Armbruster, L&P Supervisor – Councilors Saunders/Perry

Barry Fisher, Assistant L&P Supervisor – Councilors Abelovsky/Perry

Kris Kunkle, Public Works Supervisor – Councilors Saunders/Perry
Jeff Smith, Assistant Public Works Supervisor – Councilors Flickinger/Perry
Tom Evans, Recreation Director – Councilors Saunders/Perry
Bruce Steigerwalt, Borough Engineer – Councilors Abelovsky/Flickinger
James Nanovic, Borough Solicitor – Councilors Flickinger/Abelovsky
Tax Collection Committee, Tax Collector for Earned Income & Local Service Taxes (Berkheimer) –
Councilors Flickinger/Saunders

Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer – Councilors Saunders/Perry
Felicia Pilla, Health Officer – Councilors Perry/Saunders
Patrick Mriss, Fire Chief – Councilors Abelovsky/Perry
Michael Mriss, Assistant Fire Chief – Councilors Perry/McEvoy

Brian Biechy, Police Chief – Councilor Flickinger made a motion to table this item until after executive session. Motion died for lack of a second. Councilors McEvoy/Saunders made the motions to appoint and all were not in favor. Roll call vote: No – Councilor Flickinger; Yes – Councilors McEvoy, Perry, Saunders, Abelovsky and Hunsicker. Motion carried.

Times News, Official Public Notification – Councilors Flickinger/McEvoy
System Design Engineers, Sewage Enforcement Officers – Councilors Perry/McEvoy

Appointments to Authorities/Commissions/Boards

Appointment to Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission

Council asked for more information on this item i.e. where the meeting is held, date and time before making the appointment.

Appointments to the Library Board (1)

Councilor Abelovsky asked if there would be a conflict with her being the borough representative with her having a family member sitting on the library's board. The borough secretary will get clarification from the solicitor and return this item to the next agenda.

Appointment of Council Representative for Police Pension Committee

Councilor Perry said she would go on the committee. Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to appoint Councilor Perry to the committee and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee

Councilors Flickinger/McEvoy made the motions to appoint Nicole as the delegate and all were in favor with no questions or objections. The alternate will be appointed at the next meeting.

Designate voting delegate and alternate for the Carbon County Council of Governments

Councilors McEvoy/Saunders made the motions to appoint Joe as the delegate and Darryl as the alternate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Authorization to Update Bank Depositories and Signatories for all Borough Financial Transactions

Resolution R001-2018

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motion to adopt and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Designate Voting Delegate and Alternate for PSAB Annual Conference (To be held June 10-13 at Hershey)

Councilors McEvoy/Abelovsky made the motions to appoint Grant the voting delegate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors McEvoy/Flickinger made the motions to appoint Lisa the alternate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R002-2018 allowing absent council members to participate in council meetings via electronic means

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to abolish this resolution stating that everyone at the table considers this a priority to be here and does not see it as a necessity anymore and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

The mayor interrupted the meeting stating he was ready to cast his vote for Darryl as vice president. Mayor Ritter voted no.

President Hunsicker said then that makes Councilor Flickinger vice president.

Councilors Abelovsky/Flickinger made the motions to reopen the 2018 budget for the purpose of reevaluating our millage rates. Councilor McEvoy asked if this item could be tabled until Darryl was present. Autumn said there were time constraints on reopening the budget. Nicole said yes by February 15th. She said we could hold a special meeting. Nicole said we must first act on the motion on the floor. Roll call: No – Councilors McEvoy, Saunders, Hunsicker; yes – Flickinger, Perry, Abelovsky. The mayor again broke the tie by voting yes to reopen the budget. Nicole will set up a special meeting.

Motion to appoint Glenn Finsel to Planning Commission (to fill unexpired term of Alton Steigerwalt ending December 31, 2018)

Councilors Flickinger/Abelovsky made the motions to appoint and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. for reasons of personnel and all were in favor.

Councilors McEvoy/Saunders made the motions to back into regular session at 7:35 p.m. and app were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors McEvoy/Saunders made the motions adjourn at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary