

Reorganization Meeting of
January 3, 2012

The Reorganization Meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held on Monday, January 3, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donald Rehrig. Members of Council were: Bessie Bauchspies, John Bird, Darryl Arner, Scott Rehrig, and Grant Hunsicker. Two Council seats are vacant.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Mayor Donald Rehrig, Solicitor James Nanovic, Treasurer Kira Michalik and Secretary Brenda Koons.

Welcome by Mayor

Mayor Donald Rehrig welcomed everyone to the start of a new year. There is a new person coming on board and possibly a second. We all need to work together to make the town more appealing to people especially in the downtown. LDIC is working on enhancing the downtown and as council we can help them by having them achieve their goals.

Swearing in of new Officers

Darryl Arner, Grant Hunsicker, Bessie Bauchspies and John Kreitz were sworn in.

Election of Officers

Election of President

Councilor Scott Rehrig nominated Grant Hunsicker to be President. No other nominations. The nominations were closed by Grant Hunsicker. All were in favor with no objections. Grant Hunsicker was named Council President.

Election of Vice President

President Hunsicker nominated Scott Rehrig to be Vice President. No other nominations. Grant moved that the nominations be closed. All were in favor. Scott Rehrig was named Council Vice President.

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

President Hunsicker nominated Darryl Arner to be the Chairman Pro-Tem. Councilor Rehrig moved that the nominations be closed. All were in favor. Darryl Arner was named President Pro-Tem.

The meeting was then turned over to Grant Hunsicker.

Declaring of One Vacancy on Council (Two-Year Term)

President Hunsicker first resigned his 2-year position and accepted the 4-year position. He recommended they advertise for the position and Councilor Rehrig seconded the recommendation and all were in favor.

Appointment of Borough Officials and Officers

Motion to Appoint/Reappoint the Following Borough Officials –

Nicole Beckett, Borough Manager
Brenda Koons, Borough Secretary
Kira Michalik, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
Kim Rubin, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Bruce Steigerwalt, Borough Engineer
James Nanovic, Borough Solicitor
Mary Strohl, Tax Collector for 511 Taxes

CENTAX, Tax Collector for Earned Income Tax
Carl Faust, Building Code Official (Interim)
Steve Schickram, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer
Felicia Pilla, Health Officer
Gary Frable, Fire Chief
Patrick Mriss, Assistant Fire Chief
Neal Ebbert, Police Chief

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motion to appoint/reappoint all persons listed above. All were in favor.

Appointments to Authorities/Commissions/Boards

Appointment of Vacancy Board Chairman (1-Year Term)

(Expiration of Term of Daniel Murray)

A motion was made by Councilors Rehrig/Arner to reappoint Daniel Murray as the Vacancy Board Chairman if he so desires. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Appointment to Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to appoint Bessie to the Canal Commission. No questions, no objections. Motion Carried.

Appointments to the Library Board (2)

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to appoint Darryl and Bessie to the Library Board. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative for Police Pension Committee

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies made the motions to appoint Scott as the Council Representative for the Police Pension Committee. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

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

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to appoint John Kreitz and the delegate and John Bird as the alternate. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to the Central Carbon Municipal Authority

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to appoint Bessie to CCMA. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

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

Resolution R001-2012

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motion to adopt. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Designate Voting Delegate and Alternate for PSAB Annual Conference (To be held April 29-May 2 at Seven Springs

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motion to designate Grant as voting delegate and Scott as the alternate. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

The Borough Manager said she had the Police Chief's contract and the DROP Ordinance to act on. Since they are personnel, if council wishes to discuss anything they could call an executive session.

Councilor Rehrig asked the solicitor to refresh his memory on where these matters stand as he was not at the previous council meeting.

Attorney Nanovic said that council approved him to draw up a draft Memo of Understanding at the last meeting which permitted Joe Lawrence to enter into the DROP program and to have his sick time applied to his pension as was contemplated when it was drawn up. The Collective Bargaining Agreement was basically modified to go to what it was meant to be when it was originally negotiated which was that Joe would be able to get his sick pay now and he would still be able to participate in the DROP program. Joe still works but gets no more credit to his pension. So as of January 8 no more credit would go to his pension. Any amount that would have been placed toward his pension would now go into a separate account and that he will receive at the end of the 5 years when he retires. Councilor Rehrig asked if he gets any more money now and the Solicitor said only his sick pay.

Attorney nanovic said it was originally explained as I am now retiring but not drawing from my pension yet and I'll still work for you for 5 years.

Councilors Bauchspies/Rehrig made the motions to accept Joe Lawrence's application for the DROP program as presented. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Councilor Rehrig asked if the possible new police chief is 100% to come back to the job and was told by the Borough Manager that she had papers saying he was.

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to accept the contract for Neal Ebbert as the Chief of Police. No questions, no objections. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. All were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary

