

**REORGANIZATION MEETING
Lansford Borough Council
6:30 p.m. January 2, 2018**

The reorganization of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:30 p.m. January 2, 2018 at the Lansford Borough Hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was called to order by Solicitor Michael Greek in the absence of an elected Mayor or President of Council.

Roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attending were council persons Joseph (Joe) Butrie, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Bob Silver, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich, Matthew Walsh, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent was Jr. Council person Isabella Blasko.

Councilman Walsh nominated John Turcmanovich to preside over the meeting, second by Bob Silver, and all were in agreement.

Election of President

Councilman John Turcmanovich opened the floor for nominations for the office of President: Joseph Butrie nominated himself as president. There was no second. Nomination failed. Irma Leibensperger nominated Jared Soto, second by Marie Ondrus. Matt Walsh nominated Bob Silver, second by Bob Silver. There were no more nominations and Mr. Turcmanovich ruled the nominations closed.

On roll call vote, the first nomination for president, Jared Soto:

Joe Butrie, yes; John Turcmanovich, yes; Matthew Walsh, no; Marie Ondrus, yes; Bob Silver, no; Irma Leibensperger, yes, Jared Soto, yes. Result: 5 yes, 2 no. The motion to elect Jared Soto council president passed.

Election of Vice-President

The meeting was turned over to newly elected president Jared Soto (to applause) and he conducted nominations for Vice-President:

Marie Ondrus nominated Irma Leibensperger, second by Bob Silver. Matt Walsh nominated Bob Silver, second by Jared Soto. Joe Butrie nominated himself, second by Matthew Walsh.

There were no more nominations and Jared Soto ruled nominations closed.

On roll call vote, the first nomination for vice president, Irma Leibensperger:

Matthew Walsh, no; John Turcmanovich, yes, Joe Butrie, no; Marie Ondrus, yes; Bob Silver, yes; Irma Leibensperger, yes; Jared Soto, yes; Result: 5 yes, 2 no. The motion to elected Irma Leibensperger vice president passed.

Election of President Pro Tempore

President Soto conducted nominations for President Pro-Tempore:

Joe Butrie nominated John Turcmanovich, second by Bob Silver. Jared Soto nominated Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich. Irma Leibensperger nominated Marie Ondrus, second by Matthew Walsh. Matthew Walsh nominated Joe Butrie, second by Joe Butrie. Marie Ondrus requested her nomination be removed.

There were no more nominations and Jared Soto called nominations closed.

On roll call vote, the first nomination for president pro-tempore John Turcmanovich:

Matthew Walsh, yes; John Turcmanovich, yes; Joe Butrie, yes; Marie Ondrus, yes; Bob Silver, yes; Irma Leibensperger, yes; Jared Soto, yes. Result: 7 yes, 0 no. The motion to elected John Turcmanovich president pro tempore passed unanimously.

Appointment of Borough Solicitor

Irma Leibensperger made a motion to reappoint Attorney Michael Greek as Borough Solicitor. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All voted in agreement to retain the services of Attorney Michael Greek.

Appointment of Borough Engineer

Bob Silver made a motion to advertise for the position of borough engineer, a Request For Proposals (RFP) from engineers. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in agreement, motion passed. A borough engineer was not appointed at this meeting.

Appointment of Borough Code/Zoning Official

Bob Silver made a motion to keep the existing code official, Lehigh Valley Inspection Service, and the motion included the advertisement of a Request for Proposal's from code/zoning companies or individuals. The RFP is to be tailored to the borough needs. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in agreement, motion passed.

Vacant Mayor Seat

Matthew Walsh made a motion to declare the seat of mayor vacant, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in agreement, motion passed.

Background: Bob Silver was elected in November 2017 to both borough council and mayor. Bob Silver choose to take the oath to serve on borough council leaving the mayor's seat vacant. One letter of interest from Robert Gaughan for the mayor seat was reviewed by members of council.

Bob Silver made a motion to appoint Robert Gaughan as mayor. There was no second to the motion and the motion died for lack of second.

Matthew Walsh made a motion to retain the existing letter of interest for the mayor appointment and advertise for more letters of interest. Joe Butrie second the motion.

There was discussion about the time constraints to appoint a mayor. Attorney Greek said council had 45 days to make the appointment so council set the deadline for letter acceptance January 31st. However, this was incorrect. Council had 45 days to accept a resignation. Council had 30 days to appoint a mayor once the vacant seat is declared, after 30 days it goes to the vacancy board. (Currently in Lansford the vacancy board member seat is vacant.)

All were in favor of the motion except Bob Silver, opposed. Motion passed.

Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule

Bob Silver made a motion for meetings to start at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month that executive sessions, when warranted, be held at the beginning of the meeting between 6:00 & 6:30 p.m. If executive session matters are not resolved after 6:30 p.m., the group will come out of executive session for the remainder of the meeting and go back into executive session at the end of the meeting. All were in favor to advertise the meetings at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Approval of signatories on checks

Resolution 2018-01, to designate and approve signors for borough checks, was reviewed by borough council.

The resolution names borough council president, vice president, secretary treasurer and assistant secretary treasurer as signors.

Beginning January 1st, 2018 the secretary treasurer is the only signor on borough accounts. In the past there were four individuals to sign checks. At least two elected officials should be signors – all checks need two signatures and one signature must be an elected official.

Matthew Walsh made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-01, second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passes.

Committee Member Assignments

A list of last year's committee assignments was reviewed and President Soto asked each council member to give him a list of the committee's on which they would prefer to serve before the next regular meeting on January 10th at 6:00 p.m.

- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Municipal Administration
- Parks & Rec
- Community Development / Planning/Zoning

Public Courtesy- no one had comments for public courtesy

From the audience Rose Mary Cannon congratulated all the council members and said that there is a lot to do. Matthew Walsh thanked former council persons Rose Mary Cannon and Martin Ditsky for their dedication and help while on council, that they were as an asset to the borough.

Other Business

John Turcmanovich urged the three new members to attend new council boot camp classes given by the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs.

Matthew Walsh made a motion for the borough to pay the cost for new members and existing members to attend the new borough council members' boot camp class. Joe Butrie second the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Joe Butrie urged for a member of council to volunteer for Carbon County Council of Governments, COG. Jared Soto plans to attend the COG meetings, he urged a second person to attend.

Motion to reopen the budget was made by Bob Silver. The motion was Second by Irma Leibensperger. Bob Silver urged each member to review the budget and bring their ideas to reduce the current 1.31 millage increase in the reopened 2018 budget. The budget must be advertised and approved by February 15th. On roll call vote, Matthew Walsh, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus and Bob silver voted yes, John Turcmanovich, Joe Butrie, and Jared Soto voted no. Motion passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Matt Walsh, second by John Turcmanovich and the group dispersed at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer