

Re-Organizational Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

The January 5th, 2026 Reorganization Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Mayor Denise Leibensperger at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Member Michele Bartek, Council Member Joseph Butrie, Council Member Gwyneth Collevecchio, Council Member Joseph Genits, Council Member George Gilbert, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Denise Leibensperger.

Council Man Bruce Markovich and Solicitor Robert Yurchak were not in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Oath of Office and Affidavit of Residency is on file for newly elected council persons: Gwyneth Collevecchio, Joseph Genits, George Gilbert, and Mayor Denise Leibensperger.

Administration of Oaths to newly elected members (if needed)

Mayor Denise Leibensperger asked Council Members Joseph Genits, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and George Gilbert to rise and be sworn in together.

Council Members Joseph Genits, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and George Gilbert were given their oath of office by Mayor Denise Leibensperger.

Election of George Gilbert as Council President

Mayor Denise Leibensperger opened the floor for nominations for President of Council:

Council Member Joseph Genits nominated George Gilbert.

There were no other nominations and Mayor Denise Leibensperger ruled the nominations closed.

On roll call vote for George Gilbert for President: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevecchio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 6-Yes, 0-No.

Election of Joseph Genits as Council Vice President

Mayor Denise Leibensperger opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council:

Council Member Jack Soberick nominated Joseph Genits.

There were no other nominations and Mayor Denise Leibensperger ruled the nominations closed.

On roll call vote for Joseph Genits for Vice President: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevchio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 6-Yes, 0-No.

Mayor Denise Leibensperger took her seat at the council table and George Gilbert took the president's chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Election of Michele Bartek as President Pro Tempore

President George Gilbert conducted nominations for President Pro Tempore:

Council Member Jack Soberick nominated Michele Bartek.

Motion to close by Joseph Genits.

There were no other nominations and President George Gilbert ruled the nominations closed.

On roll call vote for Michele Bartek for President Pro Tempore: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevchio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 6-Yes, 0-No.

Reappointment of Ashley McLaughlin as Borough Secretary

Motion to reappoint Ashley McLaughlin as Borough Secretary by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion to close by Michele Bartek.

On roll call vote for Ashley McLaughlin as Borough Secretary: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevchio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 6-Yes, 0-No.

Reappointment of Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer

Motion to reappoint Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion to close by Jack Soberick.

On roll Call vote for Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, No; Gwyneth Collevchio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 5-Yes, 1-No.

Reappointment of Robert Yurchak as Borough Solicitor

Motion to reappoint Robert Yurchak as Borough Solicitor by Joseph Genits.

Motion to close by Joseph Butrie.

On roll Call vote for Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevechio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 6-Yes, 0-No.

Reappointment of Arro Consulting as Borough Engineer

Motion to appoint Arro Consulting as the Borough Engineer by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion to close by Michele Bartek.

On roll Call vote for Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer: Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, No; Gwyneth Collevechio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert, Yes; 5-Yes, 1-No.

Reappointment of Arro Consulting as Borough UCC Building and Permit Official

Motion to reappoint Arro Consulting as Borough UCC Building and Permit Official only no zoning by Joseph Genits and seconded by Michele Bartek.

On roll Call vote for Maria Ahner as Borough Treasurer: Michele Bartek, No; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevechio, Yes; Joseph Genits, Yes; Jack Soberick, Yes; and George Gilbert; Yes; 5-Yes, 1-No.

Motion to go off the agenda

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Joseph Butrie, Gwyneth Collevechio, Joseph Genits, Jack Soberick and George Gilbert.

Motion was opposed by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion to go off agenda passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for a zoning official to become an employee of the Borough of Lansford and do standard code

Motioned to table motion until the January 14th, 2026 Monthly Meeting by Joseph Genits and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Borough Council meeting dates for 2026 (Motion needed to advertise)

Has been the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.(sample schedule attached)

The monthly meetings will start at 6:00p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Motion to advertise monthly meetings for the second Wednesday of each month with committee/workshop meeting dates to be decided once committees are assigned.

Motion by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Borough Council Committee meeting dates for 2026 (Motion needed to advertise) (sample schedule attached)

Motion was addressed in previous motion.

Resolution 2026-01 establishing check signers

Resolution 2026-01 establishes check signers for the borough bank accounts. The resolution states that the Borough Treasurer and Council President sign the checks. If the Treasurer or Council President is unavailable, signatures will then be required by the Borough Secretary or Council Vice-President.

Motioned by Joseph Genits and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Member assignments (President of council makes this decision; if not prepared, this may be set at the next regular meeting):

- a. Zoning & Ordinance
- b. Public Works
- c. Municipal Administration
- d. Parks & Recreation
- e. Public Safety

George Gilbert stated that President of Council makes the decisions on what council member is assigned to which committee and that he will be holding off appointing committee member assignment until the January 14th, 2026 Monthly Meeting.

The following Board/Commission Appointments will be made at the special meeting January 5th, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

A. Joint Water Authority – one seat [term expires 12/31/25]

Motion to table the Joint Water Authority seat appointment until the January 14th, 2026 Monthly Meeting by Joseph Genits and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Courtesy

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about various things he feels need to change in the borough.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Abbott Street offered congratulations to the council.

Christopher Ondrus of 10 Edgemont Road inquired about the monthly meeting starting time.

Motioned to have the monthly meetings begin at 6:00p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month with executive sessions to occur after the meetings as needed.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

John Hosak of 442 East Patterson Street asked that the borough send a letter to Blue Ridge Communications expressing the concerns of borough residents about the issues that they have been experiencing with Blue Ridge Communications service and to have them provide better service to residents for the price as they are franchised through the borough.

General Matters/New Business

Motion to have the 2025 yearly audit conducted.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to obtain quotes for the yearly audit.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to obtain quotes to conduct a forensic audit for 2025.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Genits spoke about requesting Nicole Beckett to come from Lafayette College to the borough and provide a presentation to the borough on the things she, can offer via Lafayette College, ways of improving the borough.

Joseph Genits spoke about the borough needing to consider hiring a grant writer.

Joseph Gents spoke about a junior council program which allows a high school student to be appointed to serve on the council.

The meeting went immediately into the Special Meeting at 6:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley McLaughlin".

Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary