

Reorganization Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2024

Mayor Licia Cogley called the meeting to order. Five newly elected officials were sworn in by Mayor Cogley – Jason Heaton, Janet Helbig, Louis Little, Jacob Tate, Robert Tate. Roll call – all members present, solicitor excused.

Mayor Cogley called for nominations for president of council: Jeffrey Seybert nominated Robert Tate for president and was seconded by Jacob Tate. With no other candidates nominated, Mr. William Heaton moved to accept the nomination of Mr. Robert Tate and was seconded by Mr. Louis Little. A roll-call vote passed the nomination as follows: Mr. Little – yes; Mr. William Heaton – yes; Mr. Robert Tate – yes; Mr. Jeffrey Seybert – yes, Mr. Jacob Tate – yes; and Mr. Jason Heaton – yes.

Nominations for Vice President were called for. Mr. Jacob Tate nominated Mr. William Heaton for Vice President and was seconded by Mr. Louis Little. With no other candidates nominated Mr. Tate moved to accept the nomination of Mr. William Heaton and was seconded by Mr. Little. A roll-call vote passed the nomination as follows: Mr. Little – yes; Mr. William Heaton – yes; Mr. Robert Tate – yes; Mr. Jeffrey Seybert – yes, Mr. Jacob Tate – yes; and Mr. Jason Heaton – yes. The gavel was passed to Mr. Tate and the meeting resumed under his leadership.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2023 minutes and Special Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Bill Heaton and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed all in favor. No officer's reports were available due to the fact that no bank statements and other documents necessary to create the financial reports were received by the date of this meeting. There is no correspondence.

Mr. Bob Tate called for a motion to reappoint J. Martin & Associates as the borough auditors for 2024. Mr. Bill Heaton moved to reappoint J. Martin & Associates as auditor and was seconded by Mr. Jason Heaton. The motion passed all in order.

Mr. Little moved to reappoint Mrs. Patricia Lansberry as borough secretary and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Jake Tate moved to reappoint Mr. Bob Tate as code enforcement officer pending more information and was seconded by Mr. Jason Heaton. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jake Tate moved to reappoint Mr. Bill Heaton as emergency management coordinator, seconded by Mr. Lou Little and passed all in favor.

Mr. Bill Heaton moved to reappoint Mr. Joseph Budicak as solicitor and was seconded by Mr. Lou Little. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Lou Little moved to reappoint Widmer Engineering, Inc. as borough engineering firm and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jake Tate moved to hold the 2024 regular meetings of borough council on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. beginning February 2024. Mr. Bill Heaton seconded the motion and it passed all in favor.

Mr. Little moved to hear the citizens present at the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Kevin Farkas, webmaster will make any revisions to the website, and make any changes, information necessary to social media with the newly elected council members.

Mr. Jeremy Tate has still not had his garbage issue with Aiken resolved. Because of the contract, he is responsible for the bills.

With no other citizens wishing to comment, Mr. Bill Heaton moved to return to the regular order of business, seconded by Mr. Little. The motion carried.

Mr. Lou Little reported that the equipment is ready for winter.

Mr. Jake Tate reported that the fencing for the pickle ball court should be installed by the end of January weather permitting.

Mr. Bob Tate asked how the fire department spent money donated by council. Mr. Little responded that they used the money for the purchase of gear, paying the bills and making repairs. The fire department squad was destroyed by chemicals when taken to the train derailment in East Palestine.

Mr. Bill Heaton moved to pay any bills received for January and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Little moved to ratify purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Jason Heaton. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Jeff Seybert moved to enter an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Jake Tate seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Mr. Jake Tate moved to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Mr. Jason Heaton.

The decision was made in executive session to terminate the employment of James Buckenheimer because he was not showing up at work and not reporting off. Mr. Bill Heaton moved to fire Mr. Buckenheimer due to absence from work without reporting off and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed all in favor.

We will have to advertise for a new laborer. Mr. McNeely should be included in all interviews along with the committee. He will not have a vote but is being included to explain what the duties will be for the prospective employee. It will be okay to hire if a suitable employee is found.

President Tate asked if there was any other business and Lindsey Aiken responded that she is the municipality accounts representative for Aiken Refuse. She explained that it is a family owned business and she just wanted to get to know the borough better and to place a face with the name of the people she has been in contact with. Mr. Tate said that we have serious issues with the contract we have with Aiken. Lindsey explained that with an unlimited contract there is nothing that can be changed. Every resident of the borough is invoiced. Another question that was raised is that when we spoke to Mr. Aiken prior to the acceptance of the service we were told that a small truck was

available to service alleys and other places not accessible to large trucks. This has not happened. Mr. Jake Tate has to drag his trash at least a block because the big trucks can't access his address. Lindsey will ask about the small truck. She also suggested that we look at our ordinance and think about exceptions. She doesn't believe that Mr. Aiken would be opposed to doing it as a 2-can limit. We should have our solicitor look into this.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Little moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Helbig at 7:42 with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary