

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022**

The Downingtown Borough Council met for their reorganization meeting on January 3, 2022 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: Councilors Rakoff, Howard, Van Dyk, Plaughner, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor McErlane and members of Borough staff. Mayor Dague called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Honorable Brett Binder administered the oath of office to re-elected Mayor Phil Dague and re-elected Borough Council member Angela Howard, as well as, newly elected Borough Council members Joseph Ferris, Lindsay Helm, Steven Plaughner and tax collector Beth Rakoff.

Mayor Dague called for nominations for Borough Council President. Councilor Howard nominated Councilor Rakoff, Councilor Plaughner seconded. There were no other nominations. Mayor Dague asked for a vote on the nomination of Councilor Rakoff as Borough Council President. Councilor Rakoff was appointed President by a majority vote.

President Rakoff called for nominations for Borough Council Vice President. President Rakoff nominated Councilor Plaughner, Councilor Howard seconded. There were no other nominations. President Rakoff asked for a vote on the nomination of Councilor Plaughner as Borough Council Vice President. Councilor Plaughner was appointed Vice President by a majority vote.

President Rakoff called for nominations for Borough Council President Pro-Tem. Councilor Ferris nominated Councilor Howard, Vice President Plaughner seconded. There were no other nominations. President Rakoff asked for a vote on the nomination of Councilor Howard as Borough Council President Pro-Tem. Councilor Howard was appointed Borough Council President Pro-Tem by a majority vote.

Appointments

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Stephen Sullins, Borough Manager. Councilor Howard made a motion to reappoint Stephen Sullins, Borough Manager, Vice President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Kerry Eltman, Director of Finance. Vice President Plaughner made a motion to reappoint Kerry Eltman, Director of Finance, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Lamb McErlane PC, Borough Solicitor. Vice President Plaughner made a motion to reappoint Lamb McErlane PC, Borough Solicitor, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint JMR Engineering, Borough Engineer. Councilor Van Dyk made a motion to reappoint JMR Engineering, Borough Engineer, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Minutes (December 1, 2021) – Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the Borough Council minutes of December 1, 2021, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending 12-31-21) – Councilor Van Dyk made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2021, Vice President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

Ryan Kuhnle, 425 Sunset Dr., congratulated Borough Council members and thanked Councilor Helm for her leadership and commitment to the community.

Executive Session (Personnel)

President Rakoff asked for a motion to extend offers of employment to two full-time police officers. Vice President Plaughner made a motion to extend offers of employment as full-time police officers to Matthew McBride and Killian White, pending background and psychological testing. Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Plaughner made a motion to advertise and hire an AFSCME full-time building/property maintenance inspector, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Deferred Business

Award MTF (Multimodal Transportation Fund) Program Grant – Vice President Plaughner made a motion to award the bid for the Woodbine Road Multi-Use Trail Project to low bidder Ply-Mar Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$474,150, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 2022-01 Borough Signatories – Vice President Plaughner made a motion to appoint Councilor Ferris as an additional signatory for Borough accounts, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Revised MMO Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Pension – Vice President Plaughner made a motion to approve the revised MMO for \$170,000, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ratify 2022-2025 AFSCME Non-Uniformed Employee Contract – Councilor Howard made a motion to ratify the AFSCME Non-Uniformed Employee Contract for the term 2022-2025, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FEMA Buyout Program Update (Barry Cassidy) – Mr. Cassidy provided a list of the properties to be submitted for the buyout, Council had questions regarding the process, impact, etc. After discussion, Council agreed to defer action until specific information was obtained.

Boards & Commissions Council Liaisons/Appointments

- DARA Board – Vice President Plaughner made a motion to reappoint Dan Castaldi to the Board for another term, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- Planning Commission – Councilor Ferris was appointed as Council liaison.
- Parks & Rec Commission – Councilor Howard was appointed as Council liaison.
- Historic Commission – Councilor Ferris was appointed as Council liaison.
- DARC Board – Councilor Helm was appointed as Council liaison.

Mayor & Council Updates

Welcome and congratulations to all members of Borough Council.

Mayor Dague extended his condolences to the Pearce family on the loss of Robert Pearce.

President Rakoff announced there will not be a meeting on January 5th, next Borough Council meeting will be held on February 2nd.

Adjournment

Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Millie Byerly
Assistant Secretary