

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Downingtown Borough Council met for their reorganization meeting on January 2, 2024 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: Councilors Rakoff, Plaughner, Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor Ladow and members of Borough staff. Mayor Dague called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Dague administered the oath of office to re-elected Borough Council members Alex Rakoff, Joe Ferris and Brad Horstmann.

Mayor Dague called for nominations for Borough Council President. Councilor Howard nominated Councilor Rakoff, Councilor Ferris 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 unanimous vote.

President Rakoff called for nominations for Borough Council Vice President. Councilor Ferris 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 unanimous vote.

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

Citizens to be Heard - There were no citizens to be heard.

Appointments

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Jeffrey Smith, Borough Manager/Secretary. Vice President Plaughner made a motion to reappoint Jeffrey Smith, Borough Manager/Secretary, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

President Rakoff requested a motion to appoint Campbell Durrant, PC, Borough labor counsel. Vice President Plaughner made a motion to appoint Campbell Durrant, PC, Borough labor counsel, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Jack Robinson (JMR Engineering), Zoning Officer. Councilor Ferris made a motion to reappoint Jack Robinson (JMR Engineering), Zoning Officer, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Mark Force, Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilor Horstmann made a motion to reappoint Mark Force, Emergency Management Coordinator, Vice President Plaughter seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to reappoint Millie Byerly, Assistant Borough Secretary/Open Records Officer. Councilor Ferris made a motion to reappoint Millie Byerly, Assistant Borough Secretary/Open Records Officer, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President Rakoff requested a motion to appoint Lt. Powell, Police Open Records Officer. Vice President Plaughter made a motion to appoint Lt. Powell, Police Open Records Officer, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending 12-31-23) – Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2023, Vice President Plaughter seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Minutes (December 6, 2023) – Vice President Plaughter made a motion to approve the Borough Council minutes of December 6, 2023, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Deferred Business - None

New Business

Resolution 2024-01 Preliminary/Final Plan Approval Beaver Creek Elementary School Project – Dale Lauver (DASD Director of Facilities, Planning & Management) and Justin Brewer (D.L. Howell) provided Borough Council with additional information on specific areas of the project. After questions and discussion Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01, Councilor Howard seconded, motion carried 5-0. Councilor Horstmann abstained.

Zoning Hearing Board Reappointments

Vice President Plaughter made a motion to reappoint Caitlin Bottomley and Corrine Trice to new terms as members of the Zoning Hearing Board, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order


Council members wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Dague reported new Police Chief Brendan Brazunas was sworn in earlier this evening and looks forward to the future of the Police Department under Chief Brazunas' leadership.

Adjournment

Councilor Ferris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Millie Byerly
Assistant Secretary