

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

REORGANIZATION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2, 2024

The scheduled January 2, 2024 reorganization meeting was called to order by Mayor Anthony Keiper at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Council Members Robert Morgan, Sheree Speicher, Doug Beri, Eugene Kupchella, Richard Burkert; Borough Manager Amanda Layton

Absent: Council Member Herb Ewald

Visitors: John Klanchar, Kevin Pile

Public Comment

Mr. Klanchar welcomed the recently elected council members and informed council they are welcome to nominate him to fill the vacant council position.

Meeting Agenda

Mayor Keiper administered the Oath of Office to newly elected council members Eugene Kupchella, Robert Morgan and Sheree Speicher.

Mrs. Speicher nominated Doug Beri as Council President. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to close the nominations and elect Doug Beri as Council President. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Beri nominated Sheree Speicher as Council Vice-President. A motion was made by Mr. Beri to close the nominations and elect Sheree Speicher as Council President. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Mrs. Speicher nominated Robert Morgan as Council President Pro Tem. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to close the nominations and elect Robert Morgan as Council President Pro Tem. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Amanda Layton as Borough Manager. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Amanda Layton as Borough Secretary and Borough Treasurer. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Debra Riek as Assistant Borough Secretary and Assistant Borough Treasurer. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting – Page 2 of 3

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Attorney Eric Hochfeld of Sahlaney, Dudeck & Hochfeld as Borough Solicitor. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Attorney William Barbin as Zoning Solicitor. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Kotzan & Associates as Borough Auditor. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Stiffler McGraw & Associates as Borough Engineer. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency as Zoning and Codes Enforcement Officer. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint First Commonwealth Bank, Somerset Trust Company and PLGIT as Borough Banking Institutions. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Sheree Speicher, Robert Morgan, Richard Burkert, Doug Beri and Amanda Layton as approved signers on all bank accounts. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to reappoint Robert Walker to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to reappoint Nick Patton to the Alternate Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to reappoint Samantha Hartland to the Alternate Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to reappoint John Follansbee to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority for a 4-year term. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to reappoint Charles Arnone to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority for a 4-year term. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve advertising the borough is accepting resumes for the vacant council position to fulfill a 2-year vacancy. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting – Page 3 of 3

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the professional services agreement with the EADS Group for technical assistance in developing an Active Transportation Plan through the WalkWorks Grant. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert informed council he would be abstaining as his son-in-law is employed by the EADS Group and will be active in the technical assistance to develop the plan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the January 2, 2024 reorganization meeting at 4:18 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton
Borough Manager