

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Ephrata Borough Council Reorganization Session was called to order by Honorable Mayor Ralph E. Mowen at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 2, 2024, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

The following Council Members were in attendance: Nancy Aronson, Timothy Barr, Alan Buohl, Kory Musser, Thomas Reinhold and Gregory Zimmerman. Absent were Council Members Linda Martin and Victor Richard.

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Nancy Harris, Police Chief Christopher McKim, Borough Assistant Solicitor James R. McManus, III, Esquire, and Stephanie Fasnacht, Recorder.

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

Larry Alexander, Ephrata Review
Steve Aronson, 424 Lake Street, Ephrata
Kristen Zimmerman, 947 Dawn Avenue, Ephrata
Trish Zimmerman, 947 Dawn Avenue, Ephrata

A moment of silence was held which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Harris provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Mowen asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mayor Mowen asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Oaths of Office

Mayor Mowen administered the Oaths of Office to the following members of Borough Council: Gregory Zimmerman, who was duly re-elected to the Office of Council Member from the First Ward for a 4-year term; Kory Musser, who was duly re-elected to the Office of Council Member from the Second Ward for a 4-year term; and, Nancy Aronson, who was duly elected to the Office of Council Member from the Third Ward for a 4-year term. The newly elected and re-elected members of

Council presented their signed Affidavits of Residency to the Borough Secretary and took the Oath of Office.

Nominations

Mayor Mowen opened nominations for the Office of President of Council. Mr. Zimmerman nominated Mr. Reinhold. Mayor Mowen called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mayor Mowen declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Vice President of Council. Mr. Zimmerman nominated Ms. Martin. Mayor Mowen called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mayor Mowen declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of President Pro Tempore of Council. Mr. Zimmerman nominated Mr. Richard. Mayor Mowen called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mayor Mowen declared nominations closed.

Mayor Mowen presented the slate of candidates which included Thomas Reinhold for President, Linda Martin for Vice President, and Victor Richard for President Pro Tempore. The candidates were unanimously elected as presented.

Mayor Mowen passed the gavel to Thomas Reinhold, President.

First Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

With no citizens in attendance wishing to address Council at this time, President Reinhold moved onto the Approval of Committee Recommendations.

Committees (No Meetings Held in December 2023)

- Budget and Finance Committee
- Development Activities Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Highway Committee
- Municipal Enterprises Committee
- Community Services Committee
- Special Projects Committee
- Personnel Committee

Approval of Committee Recommendations

Budget and Finance Committee

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2024-01 appointing the Legal Firm of Salzmann Hughes, P.C. to serve as the Solicitor and appointing James R. McManus, III, Esquire, to serve as the Assistant Solicitor for the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council accept the resignation of Robert Ginter as elected tax collector. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2024-02 appointing the County of Lancaster to collect Borough real estate taxes for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Second Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

With no citizens in attendance wishing to address Council, President Reinhold moved onto the Discussion/Announcements.

Discussion/Announcements

Ms. Aronson commented she is "... very pleased and honored to serve on Borough Council" and extended her gratitude to her fellow Council members for sharing their time and knowledge with her.

Mr. Musser extended his appreciation in serving a second term with Borough Council. Mr. Musser additionally advised he attended the New Year's Eve event hosted by Mainspring of Ephrata commenting, "... it was an excellent event!"

Mr. Barr welcomed Ms. Aronson as well as returning Council Members - Mr. Musser and Mr. Zimmerman.

Mr. Buohl also welcomed Ms. Aronson to Borough Council.

Mr. Zimmerman echoed previous comments by welcoming Ms. Aronson.

Assistant Solicitor McManus commented, "... it is wonderful to see everyone again" as he attended the meeting in the absence of Solicitor Wakefield.

Chief McKim advised that the graduates from the academy have begun their on-street training with the Department and he is, "... happy to have them."

Mayor Mowen commented that while he was not able to physically attend Mainspring's New Year's Eve event, he was following the happenings via Facebook. Mayor Mowen stated it appeared there was a nice crowd in attendance and that the fireworks were quite a display. Mayor Mowen also extended a warm welcome to Ms. Aronson to Council. Mayor Mowen concluded his comments by stating, "... it's a start to a new year ... let's work together."

President Reinhold welcomed Ms. Aronson to serving on Borough Council. President Reinhold advised he and Vice President Martin worked on establishing new committee assignments noting they made "... some tweaks and changes." President Reinhold additionally advised he attended

Mainspring's New Year's Eve event stating he was glad to see an increase in the number of people in attendance. President Reinhold concluded his comments by wishing all a "Happy New Year."

Adjournment

Mr. Barr moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Nancy E. Harris, P.E.
Secretary

SJF