



BOROUGH OF DORMONT

**REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE DORMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 7:00PM
IN THE DORMONT MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Phil Ross asked the newly elected Council members to come forward to be sworn into office. Council members Kate Abel, John Maggio and Daniele Ventresca were sworn into office by Mayor Ross.

Mayor Ross called the Meeting of the Dormont Borough Council to order at 7:00PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The following members of Council responded to roll call:

Robert Palmieri, Jeff Fabus, Joan Hodson, John Maggio, Drew Lehman, Daniele Ventresca, Kate Abel

Also present: Ben Estell, Manager
John Rushford, Borough Solicitor
Mayor Phil Ross
Dana Nardoizzi, Jr. Council

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ross asked for nominations for Council President.

Palmieri, nominated Maggio; Fabus, nominated Abel; Hodson, no nominations; Maggio, no nominations; Lehman, nominated Maggio; Ventresca, no nominations; Abel, no nominations.

Roll call: Palmieri, Maggio; Fabus, Abel; Hodson; Abel; Maggio, Maggio; Lehman, Maggio; Ventresca, Maggio; Abel, Maggio. Maggio 5, Abel 2.

Mayor Ross informed that John Maggio is the new Council President by a vote of 5-2.

Ross turned the gavel and meeting over to Maggio.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

President Maggio asked for nominations for Vice Council President.

Abel nominated Lehman. There were no other nominations.

Maggio informed that Drew Lehman is the new Vice President of Council.

APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY BOARD CHAIR

Maggio asked for nominations for the Vacancy Board.

Abel nominated Michael Maher for the Vacancy Board.

Roll call: Abel, Yes; Ventresca, Yes; Lehman, Yes; Maggio, Yes; Hodson, No; Fabus, Yes; Palmieri, Yes. Maher was appointed to the Vacancy Board by a vote of 6-1.

Motion by Lehman, second by Ventresca to recess for Executive Session.
Motion carried 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE DORMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4
IN THE DORMONT MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Maggio informed that the meeting is reconvened.

Maggio informed that during the Executive Session they discussed the manager's evaluation and contract.

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Police Chief Bisignani informed that the Police Department responded to 210 calls for service for the month of December and 3110 calls of service for the year. Bisignani informed that for 2015 property crimes are down 14%, crimes against persons are down 15%, crimes against

society are down 9%, reportable vehicle accidents are down 19% and non-reportable accidents were down 6%.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

None.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Estell informed that he renewed the Boroughs insurance policy and noticed that the Borough does not currently hold terrorism insurance. Estell asked the HDH Group to get a quote on adding that to the insurance policy. Estell discussed the nominations for the DVFA Officers and Commission/Board reappointments. Nominations for the DVFA officers are: Chief, Jeff Arnold; Deputy Chief(s) Brant Bertha, Jim Kolesky, Mat Davis, Jeff Stakich; Assistant Chief, Rick LaGamba; Captain, Max Schoppen; Lieutenant, Gerry McMahon.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Lehman, second by Hodson to accept Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E, F, (A. Motion to accept the written report of the Borough Solicitor, B. Motion to approve the written reports of Borough Officials, C. Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2015 Council Business Meeting, D. Motion to approve the Warrant List for December 2015, E. Motion to approve the 2016 Dormont Volunteer Fire Department Office Nominations, F. Motion to accept recommendation of the Manager to approve the following reappointments: i. Don Militzer to the Civil Service Commission for a Term of Six [6] Years, ii. Cynthia Harris to the Zoning Hearing Board for a Term of Five [5] Years, iii. John McCloskey to the Planning Commission for a Term of Five [5] Years, iv. Peter Barna to the Recreation Board for a Term of Five [5] Years v. Sarann Fisher to the Solid Waste Commission for Term of Five [5] Years). Motion carried 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Ventresca, second by Abel to employ Mr. Benjamin Estell as Borough Manager effective January 1, 2016 and adopt Resolution #1 of 2016, approving an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of employment for a term of two years as required by Borough Code.

- i. Public Comment: None.
- ii. Council Discussion: None.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Lehman, second by Fabus to approve Ordinance #1613, Repealing Ordinance #1563 and Re-implementing Chapters 12-1 through 12-8 to the Borough of Dormont Code.

- i. Public Comment: None.
- ii. Council Discussion: Hodson expressed her opinion with this motion regarding transparency. Palmieri expressed his agreeance with this motion. Ventresca asked why now. Hodson stated that the previous manager did not like them.

Roll call: Abel, No; Ventresca, No; Lehman, No; Maggio, No; Hodson, Yes; Jeff, Yes; Palmieri, Yes.

Motion failed 4-3.

Motion by Ventresca, second by Abel to reintroduce the Agenda Meetings to fall on the last Monday of every month beginning on January 25, 2016.

- i. Public Comment: None.
- ii. Council Discussion: Hodson asked if the additional meeting is budgeted for and if the Borough would spend more money in Solicitor fees. Rushford informed that the meetings are included in his retainer.

Roll call: Abel, Yes; Ventresca, Yes; Lehman, Yes; Hodson, No; Jeff, Yes; Palmieri, Yes; Maggio, Yes.

Motion carried 6-1.

Motion by Ventresca, second by Lehman to authorize the Manager and Solicitor to advertise and draft an Ordinance to dissolve the Stormwater Authority and repeal the Ordinance creating a Stormwater Authority.

- i. Public Comment: female resident stated that all the time and effort to get this going is now being dismissed just like that
- ii. Council Discussion: None.

Roll call: Abel, Yes; Ventresca, Yes; Lehman, Yes; Maggio, Yes; Hodson, No; Jeff, No; Palmieri, No.

Motion carried 4-3.

Motion by Ventresca, second by Abel to appoint Drew Lehman as the Official Delegate of the Allegheny County Boroughs Association and John Maggio as the Alternate.

- i. Public Comment: None.
- ii. Council Discussion: Discussed who the delegate is currently.

Motion carried 7-0.

Maggio asked the Solicitor about reopening the budget for the purpose of raising the millage for Stormwater issues. The Solicitor informed that Maggio has a period of time to reopen the budget, or he could make a motion tonight. Rushford informed that he has until February 15th.

Motion by Maggio, second by Lehman to reopen the budget with the intent to raise the millage for some Stormwater issues.

- i. Public Comment: Seth Davis, 3061 Latonia Avenue RE: What guarantees that the money would go toward storm water and who will oversee that money as it goes toward storm water?
Lehman believes funds should be administered by the manager.
Estell explained the difference between the storm water and sanitary waters as they go into the city system and the money they entail.
Michelle Ross, 3250 Beacon Hill Avenue RE: Asked what the millage increase would be.
Matt Meehan, Hillsdale Avenue RE: Doesn't agree with raising the millage and doing away with the Stormwater Fee. He is in favor of a Stormwater Authority.
Seth Davis, Latonia Avenue, doesn't like council's form of discussion. Why not reappoint people to the authority if you don't like the way it is.
Michael Maher, Illinois Avenue RE: asked that this be put on the table again.
- ii. Council Discussion:

Motion carried 7-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fabus asked about the committee appointments.

Maggio stated that he will have the information by the end of the week.

Fabus briefed on upcoming events in Dormont including Open Gym. At the Hollywood Theater there are Lord of the Rings and Elvis Presley viewings upcoming. The Dormont Dash is May 28th; the Easter Egg Hunt is in late March and Dormont Day is July 4th, on a Monday this year.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fabus, second by Abel to Adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.