

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MECHANICSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

January 3, 2012

36 West Allen Street, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Call to Order

Mayor Ritter called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken of hold over Council Representatives with Councilmen Humes, Kiskis, Seagrist and Whitcomb present.

Presentation of Election Certificates

Mayor Ritter noted that election certificates were presented by Councilmen elect McDermott, Miller and Stoner.

Administration of Oath of Office

Judge Al Masland administered the Oath of Office to Councilman elect Miller.

Mayor Ritter administered the Oath of Office to Councilmen elect McDermott and Stoner.

Roll Call of Elected Councilmen

Roll call was taken for newly elected Council Representatives with Councilmen McDermott, Miller and Stoner present.

Election of Council President

Mayor Ritter opened the floor for nominations for the Office of President.

Councilman McDermott nominated Councilman Seagrist.

Councilman Humes nominated Councilman Whitcomb.

Councilman Humes nominated Councilman McDermott.

Mayor Ritter asked if there were any further nominations and seeing none called for a nomination to be closed. Councilman Whitcomb made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Councilman Kiskis. Mayor Ritter called for a vote on the nomination of Matthew Seagrist for Council President. There were five votes for the nomination of Councilman Seagrist (Kiskis, McDermott, Miller, Seagrist and Stoner) and two against (Humes and Whitcomb). The motion passed. Solicitor Schorpp stated that due to the increase financial compensation for the position of President, council members should refrain from voting on their own nomination, as it may constitute an ethics violation. Councilman Seagrist stated that this body has a long established tradition of allowing all members to vote for the election of Council leadership. Councilman Seagrist offered examples of past elections where council members were permitted to vote on their nomination for President. Councilman Seagrist stated that he respectfully disagrees with the Solicitors determination. Solicitor Schorpp stated that he is providing this legal opinion to Borough Council and Council may choose to disregard this information and proceed. If this is an ethics violation it would be a determination of the Ethics Commission. Councilman Seagrist indicated that he chooses not to take the Solicitor's recommendation. Mayor Ritter then declared Councilman Seagrist, Council President.

Election of Council Vice President

President Seagrist opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Vice President.

Councilman Kiskis nominated Councilman McDermott. Councilman Humes nominated Councilman Whitcomb. Councilman Miller moved the nominations for Vice President of Borough Council be closed. President Seagrist called for a vote on the nomination of Councilman McDermott for Vice President.

Humes	No	Seagrist	Yea
Kiskis	Yea	Stoner	no
McDermott	Yea	Whitcomb	No
Miller	Yea		

President Seagrist stated that the motion to elect Councilman McDermott to the position of Vice President of Mechanicsburg Borough Council passed with four members voting in favor, three against.

Election of President Pro Tem

Vice President McDermott nominated Councilman Kiskis. President Seagrist called for any other nominations, and there were none. Councilman Miller made a motion to close the floor for nominations. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion to close the nominations. President Seagrist called for a vote on the nomination of Councilman Kiskis as President Pro Tem. The vote was unanimous.

Seating of Councilmen

President Seagrist seated Council members starting to the right, next to Mayor Ritter, with Councilman Humes, Councilman Miller and Vice President McDermott. President Seagrist seated the following to the left of the Solicitor, Councilman Kiskis, Stoner and Whitcomb.

Approval of the Agenda Items

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the agenda items for reorganization as listed. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Agenda Items

Motion to Approve the Agenda and Meeting Format for 2012.

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the agenda and meeting format for 2012. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion and President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion. After discussion the motions passed with all in favor.

Motion to Establish Voting Procedures on Roll Call, Voice Votes, Alphabetically.

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Vice President McDermott, to establish voting procedures on roll call as voice in alphabetical order. President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion and seeing none, the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Appoint the Borough Solicitor as Parliamentarian.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint the Borough Solicitor as Parliamentarian. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion and President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion. As there was no discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Appoint Chief Spotts as Sergeant at Arms.

Councilman Kiskis made a motion, second by Councilman Whitcomb, to appoint Chief Spotts as Sergeant at Arms. After opening the floor for discussion, President Seagrist asked Chief Spotts if he was comfortable with the appointment. Chief Spotts indicated that he accepts the appointment. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Motion to Re-appoint Patrick Dennis as the Right-to-Know Officer for Mechanicsburg Borough.

Vice President McDermott made a motion to appoint Patrick Dennis as the Right-to-know Officer for Mechanicsburg Borough. Councilman Kiskis seconded the motion and President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion. President Seagrist asked Manager Dennis if he would accept the responsibility. Manager Dennis indicated that he would and the vote was called. The motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Approve PNC Bank, PLGIT, Orrstown Bank & Integrity Bank as Depositories of Borough Funds.

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to appoint the financial institutions listed as depositories for Borough Funds. President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion and as there was none, the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Establish Roberts Rules of Order as Standard for Meetings.

Vice President McDermott made a motion to establish Roberts Rules of Order as the standard for Borough Council meetings. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion and President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion. With no discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Appoint Chairperson for Vacancy Board.

Vice President McDermott nominated Cecilia Viti as Vacancy Board Chairperson. Councilman Kiskis seconded the motion. President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion, and stated that Ms. Viti has agreed to succeed former Councilman Stoner to that position. After discussion the motion passed unanimously. President Seagrist thanked former Councilman Stoner for serving as Vacancy Chairman.

Motion to Appoint Pennoni Associates as Sewer Enforcement Officer.

Councilman Humes made a motion to appoint Pennoni Associates as Sewer Enforcement Officer. Councilman Miller seconded the motion and President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion to Appoint Jason Foster as Building Codes Official for the Borough.

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Vice President McDermott to appoint Jason Foster as Building Code Official for the Borough of Mechanicsburg. President Seagrist opened the floor for discussion, after which a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Council Committees

President Seagrist stated that Manager Dennis provided Borough Council with a packet on some suggested revisions to the current Borough Council Committee structure. President Seagrist stated that he is not prepared to ask Borough Council to decide tonight to make such substantial changes. President Seagrist turned the floor over to Manager Dennis, who reviewed the proposed changes that were put forth in Borough Council packets. Manager Dennis stated that in 2011 staff had elevated advertising costs. When looking over the expenses, it was clear that the additional meeting advertisements during 2011 lead to budget overruns for advertising. Manager Dennis stated that staff is aware that all of the elected official are balancing their full time jobs and personnel obligations and desire to use their time and tax payer dollars efficiently. Manager Dennis stated that staff prepared an option which would eliminate the Council Committee structure and allow all of Council to meet and discuss proposed agenda item in a work session, to be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. This would save money, as it would eliminate the need to advertise Council Committee meetings, as this work session would be advertised for each month and could be cancelled, if not required. Items from this meeting would be place on the agenda for the Regular Council meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month for action. Manager Dennis stated that staff received several complaints from residents about meeting schedule during 2011 on Saturdays. Manager Dennis stated an alternative approach would be to set monthly or quarterly Council Committee meetings, so these meeting could be advertised once, saving advertising dollars. Councilman Humes asked when they voted on the agenda for approval of the meeting format and agenda format what they were voting for because she thought they were voting for the suggested revisions to the meeting format. President Seagrist stated that he thought they were voting to keep the current schedule and agenda format for meetings, not making any revisions. Discussion followed on advertising requirements and the cancellation of meetings. President Seagrist asked Borough Council members if they are comfortable moving forward with Manager Dennis's meeting proposal. Councilmen Humes, Kiskis and Whitcomb all spoke in favor of the proposal of Manager Dennis. President Seagrist directed Manager Dennis to advertise a Council work session for the 1st Tuesday of each month and keep the Regular Meeting of Borough Council on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

President Seagrist stated that he has some preliminary Council Committee assignments to make at this time and noted that there may be changes in the future.

Council Committees

Finance, Administration & Ordinance

Councilman Miller, Chairman
Councilman Kiskis
President Seagrist

Community & Economic Development

Councilman Kiskis, Chairman
Councilman Humes
Councilman Miller

Loan Review Committee

Councilman Humes, Chairman
Councilman
Citizen at Large

Property, Parks & Recreation

President Seagrist, Chairman
Vice President McDermott
Councilman Whitcomb

Municipal & Community Outreach

Vice President McDermott, Chairman
Councilman Humes
Councilman Miller

Union Negotiation Committee

President Seagrist, Chairman
Councilman Miller
Borough Manager Dennis

Internal Review Committee

President Seagrist, Chairman
Councilman Miller
Councilman Stoner
Borough Manager Dennis

Board and Committee Liaisons

Historic and Architectural Review Board – Councilman Humes
Planning Commission – Councilman Miller
Main Street Mechanicsburg – Councilman Humes
Shade Tree – Councilman Whitcomb

President Seagrist stated that he is replacing the accident review committee with the Internal Review Committee and asked that he be informed of any accidents involving any piece of taxpayer funded equipment so it could be properly investigated publicly. President Seagrist noted that this is a preliminary list and other appointments would be made as needed moving forward.

Delegates

Capital Region COG – Vice President McDermott
Cumberland County Municipal Advisory Board – Vice President McDermott
Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee – Vice President McDermott

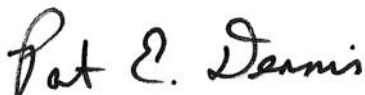
Any Other Business

President Seagrist thanked members of Council for the honor of serving as President of Council. President Seagrist stated that he will be a fair advocate for every person that comes before Borough Council. President Seagrist welcomed new Council members Miller and Stoner to Borough Council. President Seagrist stated that he and the newly elected members of Council share a similar history in that they applied for a vacancy on Council and were not appointed, but went on to be elected by the good people of Mechanicsburg to serve their interest in this position of trust on Borough Council. He went on to ask that they use their position to work for the taxpayers that elected them, not in the interest of those seated around the table.

Adjournment

Councilman Kiskis made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick Dennis
Borough Secretary