

**TELFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANURARY 2, 2024
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Solicitor James Jacquette assumed the Chair and called the Telford Borough Council meeting of January 2, 2024, to order at 7:30 p.m. He also reported that there would be an executive session after the public meeting.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Mayor Jerry Guretse, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Council Members Emiline Weiss, Carolyn Crouthamel, John Taylor, Robert Jacobus, Meredith Torres, and Katherine Farina. Also in attendance were Mayor Jerry Guretse, Manager Kyle Detweiler, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Borough Solicitor Jim Jacquette, Chief of Police Randall Floyd, and Recording Secretary Diane Windfelder. In the audience was Dale Nice, Michelle Kane, Natalie Cimonetti, John Waldenberger, and Wendy Leshinskie. Eric Kratz was absent.

Prior to citizens' comments, Solicitor Jacquette inquired if anyone in attendance would be audio or video recording tonight's meeting, or live streaming. John Waldenberger, resident of 149 N. 4th Street, confirmed he would be live streaming.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Jerry Guretse administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Members Carolyn Crouthamel and Robert Jacobus, as well as newly-elected Council Members Meredith Torres and Katherine Farina. Council assumed their seats at the table.

Nominations were opened for Council President.

John Taylor nominated Emiline Weiss for President, seconded by Carolyn Crouthamel. This motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Emiline Weiss nominated Carolyn Crouthamel for Vice President, seconded by John Taylor. This motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Emiline Weiss nominated Meredith Torres for President Protempore, seconded by Katherine Farina. This motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The Solicitor relinquished the chair to the newly elected Council President, Emiline Weiss.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE:

Council Member Taylor made a motion to designate the depository relationship for Borough funds between the Borough and PLGIT, Univest Bank & Trust Co., and Quakertown National Bank, as well as authorizing the Borough Manager to invest funds as he sees fit in the best interest of the Borough. Council Member Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for the bids of goods and services, as needed, during the calendar year 2024. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Robert Baker to the Vacancy Board, term to expire 1/1/25; Spencer Kulhanjian and Jeff Woertz to the Zoning Hearing Board, terms to expire 1/1/27; Robert Rahn to the Civil Service Commission, term to expire 1/1/27; Jay Stover to the Recreation Board, term to expire 1/1/28; Michelle Kane, Representative for the Indian Valley Public Library, term to expire 1/1/29. Council Member Jacobus seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Before the motion was passed, Natalie Cimonetti, resident of 162 West Broad Street, objected to the reappointment of Jeff Woertz.

Council Member Torres made a motion re-appointing Timoney Knox, LLP as Borough Solicitor for the calendar year 2024. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Vice President Crouthamel made a motion re-appointing CKS Engineers, Inc. as Borough Engineer for the calendar year 2024. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council Member Torres made a motion to enter into the record the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Meeting. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

VI. TREASURERS REPORT

No report was provided at this time.

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Guretse reported that it was a busy month, and he did a ride along with our Police Department on Christmas Eve and New Year Eve.

VIII. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

IX. FIRE REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

X. EMS REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

XI. LIBRARY REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

Michele Kane introduced herself to the Council as the new Telford Borough Representative for the Indian Valley Public Library.

XII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Department- Gary Yoder

Mr. Yoder commented on the written Public Works report he submitted.

Manager's Report- Manager Kyle Detweiler

Mr. Detweiler submitted a written report. Mr. Detweiler reported that we received a grant for the Franklin Alley project in the amount of \$146,000.00.

XIII. PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

Solicitor's Report- James Jacquette, Timoney Knox LLP

Mr. Jacquette stated he would address his concern for the Council during the Executive Session.

Engineer's Report- CKS Engineers

No report was provided at this time.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administrative Committee-

Council Member Taylor made a motion authorizing the reappointment of Kyle Detweiler, as Borough Secretary for the calendar year 2024. Council Member Torres seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion authorizing the reappointment of Blaine Bergey, as Borough Treasurer for the calendar year 2024. Council Member Crouthamel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve bills from December 2023 in the amount of \$618,109.86. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the revised Public Meeting Attendance and Participation Policy. Council Vice President Crouthamel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the revised 2024 Fee Schedule as presented. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Planning and Zoning Committee-

No report was provided at this time.

Environmental Committee-

No report was provided at this time.

Public Works/Buildings & Plant Committee-

Council member Robert Jacobus asked the Solicitor if there was any update on the fowl and small animals zoning ordinance. Mr. Jacquette mentioned that there was no update at this time.

Public Safety Committee-

No report was provided at this time.

Development & Culture Committee-

Council Member Taylor gave a brief update on the Telford Happenings Inc.

Council Vice President Crouthamel made a motion to approve the Dress Code for Borough Council members. Council Member Farina seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Council Member Farina made a motion to accept Resolution #2024-01 for the Junior Council Program. Council Member Torres seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Jerry Guretse administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Junior Councilperson Miss Madison Gulden. She then assumed her seat at the table.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

President Emiline Weiss reported that she received a resignation letter from Council member Eric Kratz on December 29th, 2023. Ms. Weiss announced that if anyone is interested in the position to contact the Borough Manager to arrange an interview with the Vacancy Board.

XVI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comment from the audience.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The council suspended the regular meeting and entered Executive Session at 8:24 PM to discuss matters of real estate. After the matter of real estate was discussed, the Council concluded Executive Session at 8:29 PM.

Council Vice President Crouthamel made a motion to sign the amended agreement of sale of the 122 Penn Avenue Building for \$300,000.00 to Hoff Properties. Council Member Farina seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Taylor motioned for adjournment and Council Member Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.