

January 2, 2018

The biennial reorganization meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 2, 2018 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Mayor Ormond Bellas presiding.

Members Present: Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, James McDonnell, Judy Hoffer, Terry Murphy, re-elected Matt Smith and newly elected Council Mariah Fisher, Jeff Craig and Jim St. Clair.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Solicitor George Welty, and Police Chief John Berger.

Newly elected Mariah Fisher, Jeff Craig, Jim St. Clair and re-elected Mayor Butch Bellas were all previously sworn in and administered the Oath of Office by District Magistrate Denise Thiel. Re-elected Councilman Matt Smith was sworn in by Mayor Bellas.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, Mayor Bellas conducted an election of Council Officers. Mayor Bellas asked for nominations for President of Council.

Judy Hoffer nominated James McDonnell for Council President while Matt Smith nominated Jim St. Clair for President.

Mayor Bellas called for a show of hands for James McDonnell for President. James McDonnell received 3 votes.

Mayor Bellas called for a show of hands for Jim St. Clair for President. Jim St. Clair received 4 votes. **Jim St. Clair will be the new Council President for 2018.**

Mayor Bellas asked for nominations for Vice President.

Mariah Fisher nominated Matt Smith for Vice President while James McDonnell nominated Judy Hoffer.

Mayor Bellas asked for a show of hands for Matt Smith for Vice President. Matt Smith received 4 votes. With this vote ending in majority voting for Matt Smith no further voting was necessary. The new **Vice President of Council for 2018 is Matt Smith.**

Mayor Bellas turned over the gavel to new Council President Jim St. Clair.

President St. Clair advised that a brief executive session will be called for following the Annual Appointments for litigation purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Re-enact Ordinances:

#262 Real Estate Transfer Tax 1%

#328 Wage Tax .5%

#329 Per Capita Tax \$5.00

#361 Amusement Tax 5%

#368 Occupational Privilege Tax \$5.00

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to re-enact ordinances #262, #328, #329, #361, #368. All of Council was in favor.

B. Depositories for Borough Funds:

BNY Mellon Bank
Citizens Bank
Commercial Bank
First National Bank
PNC Bank
Standard Bank
First Commonwealth Bank
Somerset Trust Co.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to accept the above listed Depositories for Borough Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Financial Services

Berkheimer Tax Administrator – Act 511 Taxes, LST Tax
PNC Advisors –Police Pension Fund
Guyasuta Investment Advisors Town Hall & P&R Funds
Mockenhaupt – Police Pension Fund

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Mariah Fisher to maintain the Financial Services listed in item C. The motion carried 7-0.

D. Appointments for 2018

Auditor – Delisi Keenan and Associates
Solicitor – Welty & Welty LLP (George Welty)
Engineer – EADS Group (Ben Faas)
Chief of Police – (John Berger)
Fire Chief – (Steve Barron)
Secretary-Treasurer / Public Works Director (Paul Fry)
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (Jan Shaw)
Zoning Board Counsel – (David DeRose)
Vacancy Board Chairman – (Robert Bell)
Zoning Officer – (Rick Schwab)
UCC Appeals Board Counsel – (Mark Sorice)
Delegate for State Borough’s Convention (Paul Fry) Alternate (Jan Shaw)
Right To Know Officer (Paul Fry) Alternate (Jan Shaw)
Chief Financial Officer (Pension Plans) (Paul Fry)
Delegates for Act 32 Tax Collection Committee for 2018 (Paul Fry) Alternate (Jan Shaw)
Emergency Management Coordinator (Gene Stouffer)
Code Enforcement Officer (Vacant)
Animal Control Officer (Amber Noel)

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adopt the recommended appointments under Item D. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Bidding Threshold for 2018

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry published the authority and municipal bidding thresholds for 2018. Under Act 90 of 2011, the bidding thresholds provide for an annual inflation adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

The percentage change for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2017, is 2.2%. Beginning on January 1, 2018, the bidding thresholds for municipal authorities will be as follows:

- Purchases and contracts below \$10,900 require no formal bidding or written / telephonic quotations.
- Purchases and contracts between \$10,900 and \$20,100 require three written / telephonic quotations.
- Purchases and contracts over \$20,100 require formal bidding.

LST Tax for 2018

Ordinance #569 becomes effective January 1, 2018 which increases the LST tax to \$52.00. Berkheimer sent notices / instructions to employers of the new increase.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the Bidding Threshold. All were in favor.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Jeff Craig to enter into a brief executive session for litigation @ 7:10 pm. All of Council was in favor. Council returned from executive session @ 7:25 pm.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to adopt a rule effective with this meeting that public comment at each regular or special meeting of Borough Council shall be made only by residents or taxpayers of the Borough in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry welcomed aboard new Council members. Paul Fry commented that prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, January 11, 2018 a new photo session has been arranged for 6:45 pm for which a reminder will be sent.

Solicitor Welty also welcomed new Council members and wished all a Happy New Year.

Chief John Berger welcomed new Council members and thanked them for his re-appointment.

Mayor Bellas also welcomed aboard the new Council and wished them all good luck and Happy New Year to all.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab congratulated new Council and also thanked them for his re-appointment.

Council President Jim St. Clair stated that he hopes for Council to work together and do the best we can for the Borough.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by James McDonnell to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager