

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH REORGINIZATION MEETING
January 3, 2022

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The reorganization meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held January 3, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Laing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Rudzki swore in Brittany Reno as the Mayor.

Reno swore in the new members of council:

Karen Pastor
Kayla Portis
Carrie Tongarm
Sarah Ishman

Laing asked Rossey what do we do with the vacant seat? Rossey explained that Brian Kozera was supposed to fill that seat. By borough code and law, he must submit an affidavit of residency prior to him being sworn in. Rossey sent him two notices and never heard back. Rossey talked to the solicitor and was told that Kozera has 10 days from today to submit that affidavit of residency. If Kozera fails to submit then at the regular council meeting on January 27th, council will take a vote to vacate the seat and advertise for the open seat. At the February meeting, you will interview the applicants and appoint someone to fill that vacant seat for the next two years.

Laing said we have the swearing in next of Patricia Hyatt – Excused (exposed to Covid)

Roll Call found the following members present; A. Laing, K. Portis, J. Jaso, K. Pastor, C. Tongarm, S. Ishman, B. Reno, Chief Stelitano – Absent (Covid)

First Order of Business:

Laing asked for nominations for the Council President:

Tongarm made a motion to nominate Adrienne Laing
2nd by Ishman
All in Favor - Yes

Laing asked for nominations for the Council Vice President

Jaso made a motion to nominate Karen Pastor
2nd by Laing
All in favor - No

Laing asked for a Roll Call:

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Tongarm – No

Ishman – Yes

5 yay's motion carried

Motion to approve general business by Roll Call:

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills through January 27, 2022.
- b. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2021, meeting. (Not in the packet)
- c. Motion to pass Ordinance 22-01 setting the 2022 tax millage rate at 7.50 mills.
- d. Motion to pass Resolution 22-01 establishing fees for Applications, Permits, Licenses and Services for 2022 for the Borough of Sharpsburg.
- e. Motion to approve employment contract for William Rossey, Borough Manager effective January 1, 2022, thru December 31, 2023.
- f. Motion to approve employment contract for Thomas Stelitano, Chief of Police effective January 1, 2022, thru December 31, 2023.
- g. Motion to appoint Witherel and Associates as Borough Solicitor for 2022.
- h. Motion to appoint Mark Turnley, PC as Borough Auditor for 2022.
- i. Motion to appoint Senate Engineering as Borough Engineer for 2022.
- j. Motion to appoint Larry Stelitano to the Vacancy Board for 2022.

Motion by Jaso

Motion lost.

Motion by Ishman to remove e, f, g, h, i, and j from the consent agenda with the exception of the Chief of Police and move it to the January meeting.

2nd by Tongarm

Laing said it is open for discussion. Laing asked Ishman if she would like to discuss further. Ishman said she would like a minute to get familiar with all these contractual things and have an executive session before the next meeting. Ishman and Tongram repeatedly said they want to do their due diligence. Rossey explained what it means to appoint a business. Rossey explained what the engineers know about the town, he also said when he started here in the borough, we were paying \$20,000 for an auditor, we now pay roughly \$6,000, as for Witherel he has been here a long time and when Rossey started here we paid him a retainer and paid him \$2,500 a month, now we bill an hourly rate. His last bill was for \$600. Witherel has been doing this for many years and he is one of the best solicitors around for what we pay which is not that much for what he does. Rossey said as for my contract, I am telling you now I am done in two years. In November of 2023, I will 70 and I plan to retire. To you guys, you do what you want. Rossey said this is something you just do not change overnight. If it is something you want to look at next year, we certainly can do that. Ishman said this throw a wrench in the works. Rossey responded and said, he will not be able to work with any of them unless we renew their contracts. A discussion ensued.

Motion by Ishman to add back into the consent agenda g, h, i, and j.

2nd by Tongarm

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – No

Laing – No

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Portis – Yes

4 yay's motion carried

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- g. Motion to appoint Witherel and Associates as Borough Solicitor for 2022.
- h. Motion to appoint Mark Turnley, PC as Borough Auditor for 2022.
- i. Motion to appoint Senate Engineering as Borough Engineer for 2022.
- j. Motion to appoint Larry Stelitano to the Vacancy Board for 2022.

Motion by Jaso

2nd By Ishman

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Portis – Yes

6 yay's carried

Tongarm abstained from Resolution 22-01 Fee Schedule regarding public electric utilities because she is an employee of a public utility.

Laing asked for a motion to adjourn.
Motion by Pastor
2nd by Jaso

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck