

BOROUGH OF LEWISTOWN  
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 6, 2020 AT 5:30 PM  
LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with Mayor Deborah Bargo presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Campbell, Larry Searer, Mr. Terry, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. B. Wilson, and Ms. Shade were present.

Mayor Bargo took the opportunity to introduce new Council Members Mr. Marc Terry and Mr. Aaron Wilson. Mayor Bargo thanked them for the commitment to the Borough. She also congratulated Ms. Venus Shade for her second term and thanked her for her commitment.

**Nomination and Election of President and Vice President**

Mayor Bargo asked for nominations of President of Borough Council. Mr. Bill Wilson nominated Larry Searer for Council President and Mr. Aaron Wilson nominated Ms. Shade for Council President.

Mr. Remy stated the Mayor Bargo had asked if a Council Member could vote for themselves. Mr. Remy stated that State Ethics Commission had addressed the issue in 2000 in the Novajasky Opinion. It states that they cannot vote for themselves. Larry Searer said that it was always done before. Mr. Remy stated he was informed of that, but it is a conflict of interest under the ethics act. Ms. Shade stated it would be like voting yourself a raise. Larry Searer stated that if you don't think you're good enough to vote for yourself why do you think someone else would? Mr. Remy stated that it's an ethics issue and up to the individual office holder on whether they will recuse themselves.

**Mayor Bargo asked for votes for Larry Searer for Borough Council President:**

**Roll Call**

<b>Dave Campbell</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Larry Searer</b>	<b>Yea</b>
<b>Venus Shade</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Marc Terry</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Aaron Wilson</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Bill Wilson</b>	<b>Yea</b>

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**Mayor Bargo asked for votes for Ms. Shade for Borough Council President:**

**Roll Call**

Dave Campbell	Yea
Larry Searer	Nay
Venus Shade	Abstained
Marc Terry	Yea
Aaron Wilson	Yea
Bill Wilson	Nay

***By a majority vote of Council (Ms. Shade abstaining), Ms. Shade was appointed as Borough Council President.***

The President of Council, Ms. Shade then presided over the following topics of the meeting:

Ms. Shade asked for nominations of Vice-President of Borough Council. Mr. Bill Wilson nominated Larry Searer for Vice-Council President and Mr. Aaron Wilson nominated Mr. Campbell for Vice-President. Roll calls were as follows:

**Ms. Shade asked for votes for Larry Searer for Borough Council Vice - President:**

**Roll Call**

Dave Campbell	Nay
Larry Searer	Yea
Venus Shade	Nay
Marc Terry	Nay
Aaron Wilson	Nay
Bill Wilson	Yea

**Ms. Shade asked for votes for Mr. Campbell for Borough Council Vice - President:**

**Roll Call**

Dave Campbell	Yea
Larry Searer	Nay
Venus Shade	Yea
Marc Terry	Yea
Aaron Wilson	Yea
Bill Wilson	Nay

***By a majority vote of Council, Mr. Campbell was appointed as Borough Council Vice - President.***

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Ms. Shade discussed the Committee appointments and noted everyone had a copy. Ms. Shade stated that the appointments are not written in stone and if there are issues, they can be changed at any time. The list is for advertising purposes so they know when meetings will be held. Ms. Shade confirmed that the Utilities, Cable, and Public Works Committee could be eliminated, Mr. Remy concurring, because in the two years that she has been in term the Committee had yet to meet. Mr. Campbell questioned if he could be replaced on the Planning Committee with an individual that was on the Utilities, Cable, and Public Works Committee. He stated he will already be serving on four committees and chair two of the committees. Ms. Shade asked if there was anyone interested in being on the Planning Committee. Mr. Terry questioned what the committee entailed? Ms. Shade said they would discuss when new businesses such as the Dollar Store moving into the Borough. Ms. Walter stated they do not meet often, only when in need. Ms. Shade stated that Mr. Campbell's request was noted, and they will work on getting someone to replace him. Council does have a vacancy open and the new member may want to take that seat on the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Shade stated that Laura Hendricks, Community Center Coordinator, had submitted her resignation and approval is needed to advertise the position. It is a part-time position with 10 hours a week. Larry Searer stated he thought the hours were increased to 15 hours. Ms. Shade said that could be the case and they will look at the budget to make sure it is advertised correctly.

***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Larry Searer, Council by unanimous vote approved to advertise the Community Center Coordinator position.***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Brandon Basom stated he had heard there was a vacancy on the Water Authority Board and wanted to express his interest in sitting on the board. He's been in the Borough for 20 plus years and with the fire company for 15 plus years. He'd like to broaden his horizons and help where he can.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council went into executive session at 5:44 p.m.  
Council came out of executive session at 6:05 p.m.


***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council by a 5-1 vote (Searer) approved to authorize a letter to be written to the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown explaining the Boroughs of Lewistown's position on the resolution adopted.***

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Ms. Shade stated that Council would like to appoint someone for the open council position at the January 13, 2020 meeting. Ms. Shade has had two people reach out to her to express interest. It is a two-year term and if anyone is interested and lives in the Borough, they should get their information to Council so it can be reviewed, and a decision made. If council fails to appoint the court will appoint someone. Nelson Rieffannacht asked when the information needed submitted by. Ms. Shade stated he would like to have them by Thursday to give everyone an opportunity to review all information that is sent. Mr. Reiffannacht stated he felt everyone around the table except Mr. Terry knows him well, but he will submit a letter. Ms. Shade stated to submit to Ms. Walter, and she will disperse it to all the Council. She stated she didn't feel comfortable giving the information she had received and felt that all information about the applicants come directly from them.

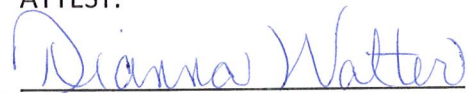
**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
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(Assistant) Borough Secretary