

BOROUGH OF WEST MIDDLESEX

REORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2018

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: Cynthia Gilkey, Robert Lark, Ron Preston, Maleia James. Thomas Hartshorn, Cathy Dubrasky and Mayor David George were not present.

Others Present: Judge Daniel P. Wallace, Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary Sandra DeSantis, Street Dept. Senior Laborer William Angott, Fire Chief Don Hoover, Tax Collector Cheryl Babcock, David Babcock, Todd Palmer, Kelly Palmer, Jesse Calvert, Gerry Kazak, Helen Kazak, Ray Lucich and Tom DeSantis.

Mr. Lark addressed all present that the newly elected officials would be presented the Oath of Office by Judge Daniel P. Wallace. Mr. Lark introduced Jerrod Palmer to Judge Wallace as the newly elected Mayor of West Middlesex Borough. Mr. Palmer was sworn in and presented the Oath of Office by Judge Wallace. Mr. Lark presented Mayor Palmer with a gift.

Elected Council Member Ronald Preston was sworn in and presented the Oath of Office by Judge Daniel P. Wallace.

Elected Council Member Cynthia Gilkey was sworn in and presented the Oath of Office by Judge Daniel P. Wallace.

Elected Council Member Melissa Merchant Calvert was sworn in and presented the Oath of Office by Judge Daniel P. Wallace.

Elected Tax Collector Cheryl Babcock was sworn in and presented the Oath of Office by Judge Daniel P. Wallace.

Roll Call: Melissa Merchant Calvert-here, Ronald Preston-here, Robert Lark- here, Maleia James-here, Cynthia Gilkey-here.

Mayor Palmer conducted the election of President of Council. Maleia James nominated Mr. Robert Lark, seconded by Ron Preston. Mayor Palmer questioned if there were any other nominations, there were none. Mayor Palmer requested roll call for said nomination of Mr. Lark as President. Roll Call: Melissa Merchant Calvert-yes, Ron Preston-yes, Robert Lark-yes, Maleia James-yes, Cynthia Gilkey-yes.

Mayor Palmer conducted the election of Vice President of Council. Mr. Preston nominated Cynthia Gilkey, seconded by Mr. Lark. Mayor Palmer questioned if there were any other nominations. Maleia James nominated Ron Preston, Mr. Preston declined. Mayor Palmer moved nomination for Cynthia Gilkey as Vice President, seconded by Melissa Merchant Calvert. Roll Call: Melissa Merchant Calvert-yes, Mr. Preston-yes, Mr. Lark-yes, Maleia James-yes, Cynthia Gilkey-yes.

Mayor Palmer turned the meeting over to newly elected President Robert Lark.

Mr. Lark addressed his appreciation from council member's votes for his elected position as President and stated he would try to do his best as to not disappoint anyone in the next two years.

Mr. Lark addressed the dates and times of the 2018 council meetings and work sessions. He presented council with a schedule which states regular council meetings will be held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. unless a holiday would change that day of the month. Work sessions would be held on Monday at 2:00 p.m. the week prior to the regular council meeting. Correspondence pertaining to the work session would be conveyed to council members that are not present. Mr. Preston made a motion to accept, seconded by Cynthia Gilkey with all in favor. Mrs. DeSantis will advertise dates and times with The Sharon Herald.

Mr. Lark addressed council regarding the designation of bank depository which he stated would be to continue with First National Bank. Cynthia Gilkey made the motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Preston, with all in favor.

Mr. Lark addressed council regarding the authorization of signatures for the borough's bank accounts. Council discussed who would be authorized. Secretary/Treasurer Sandra DeSantis is authorized for signatures. Cynthia Gilkey stated she is willing to stay on as an authorized signer for 2018. Mr. Lark said he would be willing to become an authorized signer and requested a motion to this effect. Mr. Preston made the motion to accept, seconded by Melissa Merchant Calvert, with all in favor.

Mr. Lark presented council with Retentions/Appointments schedule of positions and individuals/companies. Upon reading said list he requested council's approval to retain said individuals and companies. Maleia James made the motion, seconded by Cynthia Gilkey, with all in favor.

Mr. Lark presented council with a Committee Appointments list for council members. He proceeded to read the list for discussion and approval of said list. Maleia James made the motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Preston, with all in favor.

Mr. Lark explained the situation regarding the West Middlesex Borough Sewer Authority Board. He stated that Mrs. Ellison's term expired December 2016. Mr. McConnell's term expires December 2018, but has since resigned. Mr. Webster's term expired December 2016. Former Mayor George's term expires December 2018. Mr. Dubrasky's term expired December 2016, who had resigned. Mr. Lark stated a new committee is needed, wherein the committee appointments list includes Mr. Ron Preston, Mayor Palmer and himself along with an additional two people in the near future. Mr. Lark stated these are five year terms which are ranked by the years. Mr. Lark stated that Attorney Tesone is the solicitor for West Middlesex Sewer Authority Board.

Mr. Lark addressed the Planning Commission stating there is a similar situation with the West Middlesex Borough Planning Commission, Attorney Tesone as solicitor with five members. Mr. Lark explained Maleia James's term expired December 2016, Mrs. LaRouche's expired as did Mayor George's term. Mr. McConnell's term expired 2019, but had resigned as did Mr. Ray Lucich.

Mr. Lark addressed the West Middlesex Borough Zoning Board with four member's terms expired which also needs updated.

Mr. Lark addressed Don Hoover as to whether he will be Fire Chief for 2018. Mr. Hoover said he would and Richard Garrett will still be Assistant Fire Chief for 2018. Mr. Hoover stated he would have a list for the January 16, 2018 meeting to present.

Mr. Lark questioned if any other information need be presented. Mrs. DeSantis presented Mr. Lark with an Act 48-2015 Appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector Form requested from Tax Collector Cheryl Babcock for council's approval. Attorney Tesone reviewed the form and said this was acceptable and advisable. Mr. Preston made a motion to accept, seconded by Maleia James, with all in favor.

Mr. Lucich questioned if the borough should have a Pro Tem since there always was in the past in case those authorized for signatures were indisposed. Attorney Tesone said that Cathy Dubrasky was Pro Tem in 2017 and questioned Mr. Preston if he would accept that position. Mr. Preston said that he would. Council approved.

Mr. Lark stated that he would like to make suggestions as to the operation of the meetings. He would like to make some adjustments in regards to his observation of the past meetings. He addressed the public to be heard segment of the agenda, which he stated is an obligation and also which the public should have. He said once that is complete he feels the business at hand should then be conducted by those people that are part of the governing body. Mr. Lark stated there may be someone who wishes to add something to the discussion, and if so inclined to do that he said they need to speak to the recognition of the person who is presiding. He said they do not need all of the speaking/yelling out on special occasions by certain individuals. Mr. Lark is requesting that come to an end. Mr. Lark said secondly that elimination of discussion groups in the room and also addressed the discussions that take place in the back of the room. He stated a situation/disturbance near an election day wherein a person in the back of the room who did not reside nor pay taxes in the borough was speaking out inappropriately. Mr. Lark did not think that was impertinent nor proper. He feels if a discussion is needed, for those individuals to step outside for their own discussions. He also stated that there have been times when he was unable to hear the issues at hand which needed voted on due to the discussions in other parts of the room. Mr. Lark expressed his thanks.

President Lark adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.