

MINUTES
BROOKHAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016

At 7:00 PM, Mayor Hess called the Reorganization Meeting of Brookhaven Borough Council to order. He led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and welcomed all present.

INVOCATION – James Skulski

James Skulski from Faith Community Church gave the Invocation. In his prayer he said God is a God of all wisdom. He said that Council was elected to do good for the people and he asked God to give them wisdom, strength and power to do what is best for the community.

GREETINGS – Mayor Hess

Mayor Hess wished everyone a happy and safe New Year. He said this may be the only time in the next two years that he will be able to run a Council Meeting. He welcomed Messrs. LaPera and Donaway on Council and congratulated Mrs. Fooks on her re-election. Mayor Hess mentioned the name of everyone on Council and told them they were elected for the people and by the people. He said they need to “put all personal and political agendas aside” and work together.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Hess called Mrs. Fooks and her family present—her husband John, her son Evan and her daughter Danielle as well as her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hatton. Mayor Hess administered the Oath of Office. Her husband held the Bible for her. Congratulations! Mrs. Fooks took a seat at the Council Table.

Mayor Hess called Mr. Donaway and his wife, Stephanie, forward. Stephanie held Mr. Donaway’s Bible while Mayor Hess administered the Oath of Office. Congratulations. Mr. Donaway took a seat at the Council Table.

Mayor Hess called Mr. LaPera and his daughter Leah and son Jim forward. They held the Bible for him while Mayor Hess administered the Oath of Office. Congratulations. Mrs. LaPera is in the hospital and could not be present this evening. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. LaPera took a seat at the Council Table.

NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. LaPera nominated John Wilwert for Council President. There were no more nominations and nominations were closed. Mr. Wilwert was elected by the six other Council Members. Mr. Wilwert abstained from the vote so as not to vote himself an increase in compensation.

Mayor Hess asked for nominations for Vice President of Council. Mr. LaPera nominated Ms. Leslie. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. Ms. Leslie was elected by the six other Council Members. Ms. Leslie abstained from the vote so as not to vote for herself.

Ms. Leslie nominated Ms. Sawicki for President Pro-Tem. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. By unanimous vote of Council, Ms. Sawicki was elected President Pro-Tem of Council.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL

Ms. Sawicki nominated Mary Ellen McKinley as Full-Time Borough Secretary. No other nominations and they

Minutes January 4, 2016 Brookhaven Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mrs. Fooks nominated Dawn Jones Full-Time Assistant Borough Secretary. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Natalie Pino Part-Time Borough Clerk. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated Mary Jo Ruth Part-Time Borough Clerk. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated Christina Hayter Part-Time Borough Clerk. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Sawicki nominated Cathy Warfield Board of Health Inspector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms Leslie nominated Cathy Warfield Foreclosure Coordinator. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated Dr. Robert Crowell Board of Health Officer. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Sawicki nominated Helen Raport Commercial Food Related Health Inspector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Sawicki nominated Helen Elmer Board of Health Secretary. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Delilah McDade Full-Time Borough Treasurer. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mrs. Fooks nominated Robert Grant Building Inspector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Robert Grant Plumbing Inspector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Jon Grant Code Enforcement Officer. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Jon Grant Electrical Inspector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Kristin Kugleman Deputy Tax Collector. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Charles J. Catania, Jr., Borough Engineer in accordance with proposal provided. Ms. Sawicki nominated NDI Engineering. No other nominations and they were closed. Mr. Wilwert asked

Minutes January 4, 2016 Brookhaven Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

Mrs. McKinley to call the roll. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. LaPera – NDI Engineering; Ms. Sawicki – NDI Engineering; Mrs. Fooks – Catania Engineering; Mr. Linowski – Catania Engineering; Ms. Leslie – Catania Engineering; Mr. Donaway – NDI Engineering and Mr. Wilwert – Catania Engineering will be the Borough Engineer by a 4-3 roll call vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated Steven Schultz Emergency Management Coordinator. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated John Wilwert, Jr. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mrs. Fooks nominated Charles Leslie Fire Marshal. No other nominations and they were closed. 6 of the 7 Councilmen and Councilwomen voted Aye. Ms. Leslie abstained because Charles Leslie is her brother.

Ms. Sawicki nominated Joan Boyle Part-Time Planning Commission Secretary. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Michael Maddren for Borough Solicitor in accordance with proposal provided. Mr. Donaway nominated Robert Scott. There were no more nominations and they were closed. Mr. Wilwert asked Mrs. McKinley to call the roll. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. LaPera – Mr. Scott; Ms. Sawicki – Mr. Scott; Mrs. Fooks – Mr. Maddren; Mr. Linowski – Mr. Maddren; Ms. Leslie – Mr. Maddren; Mr. Donaway – Mr. Scott and Mr. Wilwert – Mr. Maddren. Mr. Maddren will be the Borough Solicitor by a 4-3 roll call vote of Council.

Mr. Linowski nominated Cynthia Leitzell for Borough Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Sawicki nominated Barbacane Thornton. No other nominations and they were closed. Mr. Wilwert asked Mrs. McKinley to call the roll. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. LaPera – Barbacane Thornton; Ms. Sawicki – Barbacane Thornton; Mrs. Fooks – Cynthia Leitzell; Mr. Linowski – Cynthia Leitzell; Ms. Leslie – Cynthia Leitzell; Mr. Donaway – Barbacane Thornton and Mr. Wilwert – Cynthia Leitzell. Cynthia Leitzell will be the Borough Certified Public Accountant by a 4-3 roll call vote of Council.

Mr. LaPera nominated Harold Hampton Zoning Officer. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Leslie nominated Adrienne Hallinan Part-Time Zoning Secretary. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Ms. Sawicki nominated Robert W. Scott, Esq. Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. No other nominations and they were closed. Nomination approved by unanimous vote of Council.

Mr. Donaway made the motion to appoint Helen Sawicki to a 1 year term on the Vacancy Board, said term to expire the first Monday in January, 2017. Mr. LaPera made the second. All of Council voted Aye except Ms. Sawicki who abstained because Helen Sawicki is her mother.

Mrs. Fooks made the motion and Mr. LaPera the second to appoint Ms. Leslie or Ms. Sawicki Voting Delegate to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fooks made the motion and Ms. Sawicki the second to appoint Stephanie Donaway to the Ordinance Committee. No term of office given for Ordinance Committee Members. All on Council voted Aye except

Minutes January 4, 2016 Brookhaven Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

Mr. Donaway who abstained because Stephanie Donaway is his wife.

Ms. Sawicki made the motion and Ms. Leslie the second to appoint Jason Smith to another 4 year term on the Planning Commission, term to expire the first Monday in January 2019. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Linowski made the motion and Mr. LaPera the second to appoint Lynn McMonagle to another 5 year term on the Recreation Committee, term to expire the first Monday in January, 2021. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fooks made the motion and Mr. Linowski the second to appoint Walter Kempczynski to the Recreation Committee to fill the vacancy created by James LaPara's election to Council, term to expire the first Monday in January, 2017. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fooks made the motion and Mr. Linowski the second to appoint William Kraft to the Trash/Recycling Performance Committee. No Term given for Trash/Recycling Performance Committee Members. All on Council voted Aye except Ms. Leslie who abstained for family reasons.

Mr. Linowski made the motion and Ms. Leslie the second to appoint Joseph W. Kurman, Jr. to another 5 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire the first Monday in January, 2021. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Linowski made the motion and Ms. Leslie the second to appoint Paul Marra to another 5 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire the first Monday in January, 2021. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Linowski made the motion and Mrs. Fooks the second to appoint Amy Karman to another 2 year term as an Alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire the first Monday in January 2018. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Linowski made the motion and Ms. Leslie the second to appoint Hector Vazquez to another 2 year term as an Alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire the first Monday in January 2018. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

In December, with regret, Council accepted Anthony Pino's resignation from the Civil Service Commission. After speaking with some of the Council Members, Mr. Pino said he would like to rescind his resignation and be considered for reappointment to the Civil Service Commission. His term would have expired today. Council agreed to accept Mr. Pino's decision to rescind his resignation. Mr. Donaway made the motion and Mr. Linowski the second to reappoint Anthony Pino to another 6 year term on the Civil Service Commission. His new term will expire the first Monday in January 2022. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMENTS – COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND/OR MAYOR

Council President Wilwert announced that he would be giving out the committee assignments at the end of the meeting tonight. He said that Mayor Hess had stolen when he wanted to say. Mr. Wilwert said this is the first time in a long time we have had a four to three representation on Council who will be working together to do what is best for the community and its residents. Some people are not going to like the decisions we make but when we walk out the door we are all still neighbors. Do not take anything personally. Mr. Wilwert continued saying there are a lot of comments on social media. He said one of the things is that Shop-Rite is "pulling out" because of asbestos. This is untrue. If you hear a rumor, hear an accusation or have a question, please contact someone on Council or call the Borough Office to get the truth out there. There are over 8,000 residents in our

Minutes January 4, 2016 Brookhaven Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

and they find out things from surrounding communities too.

Mr. Linowski said Council works for the good of the Borough. He thanked Mr. Wilwert for taking over as President of Council and he said “God bless you”. Mr. Wilwert said he thanks “those sitting here” and he is glad to serve as President.

Mr. Donaway said that he knows that the last few years have been a little rough but he has always considered Brookhaven a well-kept secret. Brookhaven has homes that are well maintained. Lately contractors have purchased and are revitalizing distressed properties and selling them. That helps increase everyone’s property values. Neighbors come together in times of distress and help each other as evidenced from the storm that blew through the Borough last summer. Mr. Donaway continued saying he has watched his neighbors reach out to each other all his life. We have”tons of community spirit”. Council has talked about that at this table many times. Whether it’s block parties, neighbors coordinating lit candles at Christmas time or getting together to sing Christmas Carols, the folks know how to come together and have fun. Improvements have been seen in the business district. We are fortunate to have Shop-Rite come in and take over Pathmark who were in bankruptcy and closed. Then there’s Lowes who are retrofitting the closed K-Mart in the same shopping center. It is Mr. Donaway’s understanding that there is interest in other pieces of real estate along Edgmont Avenue and this could lead the Borough to facilitate positive changes. To facilitate change is the best elected officials can do. He believes the economy is turning around for the first time in the last 8 years. Brookhaven provides lots of services in this town including excellent police and fire protection. No one wants to cut services or raise taxes. While out campaigning here are some of the things the residents and taxpayers said they want from the Borough. A council that is honest with their constituents, even if they don’t really want to hear the truth. A council that actually hears them when they speak. A council that includes them in the process. We are still a government “of and by the people” and Mr. Donaway said he still believes in that. They want a council that deliberates no matter how long it takes before determining the outcome of any given decision under consideration. They don’t want a decision that was already made before determining all of the facts that leads to the best decision. Even when some may disagree with the final decision, Brookhaven residents need to know that they at least they can still have faith in the process and believe in the integrity of the people making those decisions. Everything Council does must be played out right in the store-front window. Mr. Donaway said he definitely heard the message loud and clear and he is here to do his part to make sure that this council does just that. He extended an invitation for this to Council and said he will work with anyone who wants the same thing. He ended by saying “I’m glad to be back and ready to go to work.”

Mayor Hess said he hopes both parties will be working together. There is a lot of experience at the Council Table. He welcomed Messrs. LaPera and Donaway as well as Mrs. Fooks. He asked all to put personal agendas aside.

Mrs. Fooks said Council has “an open door policy”. She said Council and the staff is glad to get answers for people. She said keep the lines of communication open.

BENEDICTION – Mr. James Skulski – Faith Community Church

Before he gave the Benediction, Mr. Skulski said he is a life-time resident of the Borough and he “appreciates all you folks”. His father served on Borough Council.

In the Benediction, Mr. Skulski asked God to lift up Council and Borough Officials as they uphold the laws. Give them wisdom and knowledge. He prayed that they would seek God out and benefit from what God has to offer them. Give them courage to follow their heart to do what is in the best interest of the Borough. Give them tender hearts that comes from deep inside. He asked God to protect and guard the home of Mr. Wilwert’s family

Minutes January 4, 2016 Brookhaven Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

that was damaged and declared uninhabitable in the summer storm. He asked God to guide the insurance company and other entities involved to resolve the situation and bring it to an end so the Mr. Wilwert and his family can come back to their Brookhaven home. Mr. Skulski thanked God and said Amen.

The record shows that by the end of the meeting, everyone on Council and Mayor Hess were seated at the Council Table. Also seated at the Council Table were Solicitor Maddren, Engineer Catania and Secretary McKinley.

With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Linowski made the motion and Ms. Leslie the second to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ellen McKinley
Borough Secretary