

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
Organizational Meeting January 3, 2022
7:00 P.M**

Mr. Gratz, the Borough Manager, opened the meeting and asked Judge Amy Zanelli to perform the Swearing-In Ceremonies.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES

- Mayor Michael Johnson provided the Affidavit of Residency and took the Oath of Office from Magisterial District Judge Amy Zanelli.
- Newly elected borough officials submitted sworn/signed copies of residency affidavit and Judge Zanelli administered the Oath of Office to:

Councilperson Elect Norman Blatt
Councilperson Elect Wilbert Rufe
Councilperson Elect Philip Trabel
Councilperson Elect Erica Graham

Tax Collector Elect Thomas Redding

ORGANIZATION MEETING (Mayor Johnson)

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trotter, Ms. Graham, Mr. Trabel, and Mayor Johnson. Mr. Rufe was absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), Dave Boehrer (Fire Chief), Mr. Lehr (Solicitor) and guests.

Mayor Johnson asked for everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

• **ELECTION OF OFFICERS –**

Mayor Johnson asked for a Council President nomination. Mr. Trabel nominated Mr. Blatt, seconded by Ms. Jordan. Mayor Johnson asked for a vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

Council President Blatt continued the organizational meeting. He asked for a Council Vice President nomination. Mr. Trotter nominated Ms. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Johnson. Council President Blatt asked for a final vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson		x				
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

Then Council President Blatts asked for a Council Chairman Pro Tempore nomination. The Council Chairman Pro Tempore serves in the absence of both the Council President and the Council Vice President. Ms. Johnson nominated Mr. Trotter, seconded by Ms. Jordan. Council President Blatt asked for a final vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson	x					
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

• **COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Council President noted the vacancies on the House & Ordinance, Fire, and Health & Sanitation committees after Ms. Halleman’s retirement. Ms. Graham accepted Mr. Blatt’s appointment for these committees. No other committee changes were suggested.

Council President asked for a motion to keep the existing committee assignments as they were.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson	x					
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **MINUTES**

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2021 as amended.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson					x	
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham					x	
Norman E. Blatt Jr. Mayor Johnson			x			

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Graham abstained because they did not attend the December 6, 2021 Council Meeting.

- **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – None.**

- **NEW BUSINESS – None.**

- **RESOLUTIONS**

Council President asked for motions to adopt each of the below resolutions.

- **Resolution 2022-01: Establishing Holiday Schedule for 2022**

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr. Mayor Johnson			x			

- **Resolution 2022-02: Establishing Northampton Tax Collection Committee (for 1% Wage Tax) Delegates: Ms. Voges and Mr. Gratz as alternate.**

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			

Philip Trabel	x		x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-03:** Appointment of MECAB Representative: Mr. Trabel

MECAB (Mid-Eastern County Association of Boroughs) generally discussed common issues and how to resolve them. The location of the meeting rotates around.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-04:** Appointment of Professional Service Firms for 2022 as provided in a list to Council

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-05:** 2022 Fee Schedule (No Change from 2021)

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson	x					
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-06:** Sewer Enforcement Officers as provided in a list to Council

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-07:** Police Pension Administrator: Mr. Gratz

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-08:** Admin/Non-Uniformed Pension Administrator: Mr. Gratz

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-09:** HIPAA Officers: Mr. Gratz plus the Administrative Assistants

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

- **Resolution 2022-10:** Committee/Board Reappointments for: Shade Tree, Planning, and Stormwater Commissions for the respective terms

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson	x					
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

This concluded the re-organization.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve hiring Brian Lean as a full-time Public Works employee as recommended by the Public Works Committee (Start Date 1/4/2022).

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson						
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

• **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Moravia Street School Traffic – December Trial**

Chief Bachert reported that there have not been any complaints during the December trial period; traffic went smoothly.

Council consented to continue as is.

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

All December bills had been approved in advance on the December 6 Council Meeting. However, the Check Detail and Financial Reports will be presented at the upcoming January 19, 2022 Council Meeting.

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Mr. Quarry (Public Works Supervisor) stated that Public Works is prepared for a new snow removal season and reminded that public parking is prohibited on Warren Street during snow emergencies.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Chief Bachert reported that several police officers are out sick with COVID.

D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, , Jordan)

Council President Blatt was inquiring about lighting ordinance. It is on hold because of Mr. Rufe's absence and will be revisited in the future.

E. Fire (Trabel, , Rufe)

Mr. Trabel presented the December 2021 fire report and reported that the fire truck is soon to be completed in Florida.

Ms. Jordan suggested and Council as a whole and Fire Chief Dave Boehrer agreed that a dedication event will be planned when the fire truck will be placed in service.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Beginning in February, the recreation committee will start planning for summer activities to determine any necessary repairs before the summer season.

Mr. Gratz suggested to set up a Community meeting in February after the completion of the pool survey.

G. Health & Sanitation (Johnson, Trabel) – None.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None.

- **SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

2021 inspections exceeded the previous year's inspections.

The Christmas tree sale (150) went well; the trees sold within in 2 weeks.

Ms. Jordan reminded that Books on the Hill provides new books all the time! Opening hours change and are set to serve all members of the public.

- **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items – None.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (as needed) – None.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:34 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By:

Norman E Blatt - President of Council

SUBMITTED:

BY: _____

Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____

Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 865

Next Resolution – 2022-11

APPROVED