

FREEPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
Reorganization Meeting | January 2, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

- A. Mayor Zack Gent called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- B. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
- C. A moment of silence was requested for Angelo Werace for service to the community.

II. Roll Call

- A. Roll call of council members was taken by Borough Manager Zach Filous:
 - 1. **Stephanie VanTine- present**
 - 2. **Josh James- present**
 - 3. **Rick Fennell- present**
 - 4. **Sally Riley- present**
 - 5. **Lori Miller- present**

III. Nomination and Election of Officers

- A. *Nomination and Election of President*
 - 1. **Josh James nominated Stephanie VanTine. Lori Miller nominated Rick Fennell.**
 - 2. **Mayor Gent asked for a roll call vote to be taken for the nomination of Stephanie VanTine.**
 - a) Stephanie VanTine- yes
 - b) Josh James- yes
 - c) Sally Riley- no
 - d) Rick Fennell- no
 - e) Lori Miller- no
 - 3. **Mayor Gent asked for a roll call to be taken for the nomination of Rick Fennell.**
 - a) Stephane VanTine- no
 - b) Josh James- no
 - c) Sally Riley- yes
 - d) Rick Fennell- yes
 - e) Lori Miller- yes
 - 4. **Rick Fennell was declared the President of Council.**
- B. *Nomination and Election of Vice President*
 - 1. **Sally Riley nominated Lori Miller. Stephanie VanTine nominated Josh James.**
 - 2. **Mayor Gent asked for a roll call vote to be taken for the nomination of Lori Miller.**
 - a) Stephanie VanTine- no
 - b) Josh James- no
 - c) Sally Riley- yes
 - d) Rick Fennell- yes
 - e) Lori Miller- yes

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3. **Lori Miller was declared the Vice-President of Council.**
 - C. *Nomination and Election of President Pro Temp*
 1. **Lori Miller nominated Sally Riley.**
 2. **Mayor Gent asked for a roll call vote to be taken for the nomination of Sally Riley.**
 - a) Stephanie VanTine- yes
 - b) Josh James- yes
 - c) Sally Riley- yes
 - d) Rick Fennell- yes
 - e) Lori Miller- yes
 3. **Sally Riley was declared the President Pro Temp of Council.**
 4. **Rick Fennell now leads the Meeting as President moving forward.**
- IV. Motioned to Appoint New Council Members**
- A. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to amend the agenda to include holding a special meeting on January 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm, and to advertise the meeting for candidates to fill vacant council seats. Seconded by Lori Miller. **Motion carried 5/0.**
 - B. Letters of interest for the vacant council seats are due by close of business on January 16, 2024.
- V. Swearing in of New Council Members**
- A. Not applicable due to the item IV-A above.
- VI. Appointment of Borough Positions**
- A. *Borough Secretary*
 1. **Motion** by Stephanie VanTine to appoint Mariah Jones as Borough Secretary. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 5/0.**
 - B. *Borough Manager*
 1. **Motion** by Lori Miller to appoint Zachary Filous as Borough Manager. Seconded by Rick Fennell. **Motion carried 5/0.**
 - C. *Zoning Officer*
 1. **Motion** by Stephanie VanTine to appoint Zachary Filous as Zoning Officer. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 5/0.**
 2. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to reappoint all borough appointments with the knowledge that the appointments of Treasurer, Director of Public Safety, Chief Deputy Fire Marshal, Solicitor and Engineer will be reviewed during the January 22, 2024 special meeting. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 5/0.**
 - D. *Treasurer – Dennis Montgomery*
 - E. *Director of Public Safety – Mike Greiser*
 - F. *Chief Deputy Fire Marshal – Josh James*
 - G. *Solicitor – Witherel Kalina Law Group*

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H. *Engineer – KLH Engineering*

VII. Appointment of Borough Committees

A. *Vacancy Board*

1. **Motion** by Josh James to appoint Bob Schreckengost to the vacancy board. Seconded by Stephanie VanTine. **Motion carried 5/0.**

B. *Auditors*

1. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to appoint auditors at the January 22 special meeting. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 5/0.**

C. *Planning Commission Board*

1. **Motion** by Lori Miller to reappoint Tom Binz, Bill Zema, Cheyenne Filous, and Paul Dudek to the planning commission board. Seconded by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 5/0.**
2. **Motion** by Josh James to amend the agenda to include advertising for a vacant planning commission seat. Seconded by Rick Fennell. **Motion carried 5/0.**

D. *Zoning Hearing Board*

1. **Motion** by Josh James to reappoint Sherry Martinetti, Chuck Sarver, Ray Straughn, and Charles Clark (solicitor) to the zoning hearing board. Seconded by Stephanie VanTine. **Motion carried 5/0.**

E. *UCC Appeals Board*

1. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to appoint a representative to the UCC appeals board on the January 22 special meeting. Seconded by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 5/0.**

F. *Representative to Butler County Tax Collection Committee*

1. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to table the appointment of the representative to the Butler County tax collection committee until the January 22 special meeting. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 5/0.**

G. *Representative to Southern Armstrong Regional Police Department Committee*

1. **Motion** by Rick Fennell to appoint Zack Gent as a full member and Rick Fennell as an alternate member. Seconded by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 5/0.**

VIII. Other Business

A. *Robert's Rules*

1. **President Rick Fennell reminds this council that we will adhere to Robert's Rules during all council proceedings.**

B. *2024 Meeting Dates*

1. **Motion** by Stephanie VanTine to approve the 2024 Council meeting dates on the first Monday of each month at 6PM excluding holidays. Seconded by Rick Fennell. **Motion carried 5/0.**

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2. 2024 regular meeting dates are as follows:

January 2	May 6	September 9
February 5	June 3	October 7
March 4	July 1	November 4
April 8	August 5	December 2

IX. Adjournment

- A. **Motion** by Josh James to adjourn the reorganization meeting at 6:28 pm. Seconded by Stephanie VanTine. **Motion carried** 5/0.