

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
2022**

A reorganization meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Present were Council Members Barry Kuhns, Julianne Finkbiner, Barbara Stamm, Meghan Shambach, David Wertz, Michael Palermo, and Lynda Frederick. Mayor Scott Benfer; Solicitor Wendy Cole; Chief of Police Joshua Dreisbach; and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Witmer were also present.

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Scott Benfer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS – President and David Farmer Comments – Mayor Scott Benfer opened nominations for President of Council.

Visitor David Farmer inquired if he could speak. Solicitor Wendy Cole made the determination that Mr. Farmer could speak. Mr. Farmer stated that Julianne Finkbiner has been the Council President for many years and he does not feel it a coincidence that the relationship between the public and council is at an all time low. Mr. Farmer feels there are many reasons for this but narrowed it down to several reasons that happened at the December Council Meeting:

*Councilwoman Finkbiner was flagrantly uninterested in what the public had to say about the animal ordinance at last meeting and that type of contempt is poisonous.

*The animal ordinance was not on the agenda at the last meeting despite the Mayor and one member of council requesting it to be on the agenda. Mr. Farmer understands that the Council President makes the agenda but Mr. Farmer feels that her not putting the animal ordinance on the agenda was an abuse of power.

*Councilwoman Finkbiner attempted to deprive Mr. Farmer of his rights to speak at the last council meeting stating that the animal ordinance was not on the agenda and after an extended back and forth, asked Mr. Farmer to cite the area of The Sunshine Law to which

he was referring. If Mr. Farmer did not have a good knowledge of The Sunshine Law, he would not have been able to do so.

*Councilwoman Finkbiner has had the power for a long time and uses it to suppress others.

Mr. Farmer asked that council elect a new Council President who will not use their power to suppress others and who will heal the rift created in the community.

First Nomination - President- Councilwoman Lynda Frederick nominated Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner for President of Council. Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a 2nd to the nomination. Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner accepted the nomination. Vote was taken with Lynda Frederick, Julianne Finkbiner, and Meghan Shambach in favor of the nomination.

Second Nomination – Councilman Michael Palermo nominated Councilwoman Meghan Shambach for President of Council. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the nomination. Councilwoman Meghan Shambach accepted the nomination. Vote was taken with Councilwoman Barbara Stamm, Councilman David Wertz, Councilman Michael Palermo, and Councilman Barry Kuhns in favor of the nomination.

Mayor Scott Benfer turned the meeting over to President Meghan Shambach.

Vice- President – President Meghan Shambach opened nominations for Vice-President of Council. Councilman David Wertz nominated Councilman Barry Kuhns for Vice-President of Council. Councilman Michael Palermo made a 2nd to the nomination. Councilman Barry Kuhns accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Nomination affirmed.

President Pro-Tem – President Meghan Shambach opened nominations for President Pro-Tem of Council. Councilman David Wertz nominated Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner for President Pro-Tem of Council. Councilman Michael Palermo made a 2nd to the nomination. No other

nominations were made. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Nomination affirmed.

Council collectively discussed and President Meghan Shambach appointed the listed committees and representatives as needed. Those committees are listed for the record.

BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Meghan Shambach
Vice-President Barry Kuhns
Pro-Tem Julianne Finkbiner

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Julianne Finkbiner
Barry Kuhns
Lynda Frederick

POLICE COMMITTEE

Barbara Stamm
Michael Palermo
Barry Kuhns
Mayor Scott Benfer

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Lynda Frederick
David Wertz
Barbara Stamm

CK COG REPRESENTATIVE

Julianne Finkbiner until 1-3-23
(CK COG resolution 3 year appointment)

BORO. REP. TO EARNED
INCOME TAX COMM.

Lynda Frederick
Alternate: Mayor Scott Benfer

STREET DEPT. SUPERVISOR

Curt Keister

CHIEF OF POLICE

Joshua Dreisbach

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rebecca Witmer

BOARD OF VACANCY

John Smith

ZONING OFFICER

David Mull

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Ken Martin
Jeremy Shambach
Bonnie Hamilton
Alt: David Farmer

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sally Farmer, President
Diane Lengle, Secretary
Elaine Hopkins
Barry Kuhns
Betty Kratzer

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Jared Stumpff
Responsibility defaults to Borough President
in absence of EMC

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Kurt Zimmerman, Chair 12/31/25
Michael Palermo 12/31/23
Brian Smith 12/31/24
Vacancy
William Stackhouse – 12/31/22
Crystal Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Lemon, Solicitor

LIASON TO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Michael Palermo

Alt:

MAYOR

Scott Benfer

BOARD OF AUDITORS – ELECTED

Matthew Hamilton

RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Cub Snook, President

Duane Gessner, Vice President

Barbara Stamm, Secretary

Nelson Longacre, Treasurer

Linda Walter

James Sheakley

Matt Johnson

DJ Mapes

Darren Mensch

Chelsea Mensch

MIFF/NB LITTLE LEAGUE AUX.

Mike Diehl, President

Chris Weikle, Vice President

Linda Johnson, Sec./Treas.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Joshua Dreisbach, Chief of Police

David Wertz, Council Rep.

Meghan Shambach, Council Rep.

Brandon Resseguie, Fire Department

Brian Smith, NBMA

Jarred Stumpff – New Berlin EMC

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Shirl Hummel, Treasurer

Barbara Stamm

Kelly Roush

Logan Roush

Steve Cusick

Sherry Cusick

Kay Trick

Betty Hollenbach

John Showers

Bonnie Hamilton

Meghan Shambach

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Tim Shaffer – Chief 401

Steve Resseguie – Chief 402

Brandon Resseguie – Chief 403

Brad Benfer – Captain 405

Eric Wetzel – Lieutenant 410

Jerry Johnson – Lieutenant 411

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jared Stumpff – EMS Captain 420

Corey Wenrick - EMS Lieutenant 421

Donna Wenrick– EMS Lieutenant 422

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN

Dallas Brinninger

FIRE POLICE LIEUTENANT

Tom Hackenberg

FIRE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

David Wertz

**Fire Company Meetings are the first Tuesday of the Month at 7pm

Pertinent discussions and motions regarding the appointments and representatives to committees were as follows:

Zoning Hearing Board - Ken Martin, Jeremy Shambach and Bonnie Hamilton were appointed to the New Berlin Zoning Hearing Board and David Farmer was appointed an alternate member of the New Berlin Zoning via Resolution 2022-2.

Motion – Resolution 2022-2 – Councilman Michael Palermo made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-2 appointing New Berlin Zoning Hearing Board Members. Vice-President Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and Julianne Finkbiner opposed. Motion carried.

New Berlin Municipal Authority – Board Vacancy – There is still a vacancy on the New Berlin Municipal Authority Board for the term expiring 12-31-26. Anyone appointed will be fulfilling that term.

Auditor – There are two auditor seats that need to be filled. Matthew Hamilton is the only current auditor. At least one other auditor will be needed to audit the 2021 General Fund Account.

Workers Compensation Resolution – The workers compensation resolution discussed last year must be passed every year. The resolution is regarding Act 108 of 2020 impacting workers compensation for the fire company. The act adds classifications of members of fire companies to the Workers Compensation Act and states under what circumstances each type of member is eligible for workers compensation coverage. The Operational Support activities as designated by the act were modified as follows:

Operational Support Activities

1. Maintaining the Station and Equipment
2. Acting as a Trustee
3. Organizing Fundraisers
4. Providing Information Technology Support
5. Assisting with Recruitment and other Administrative Tasks

Motion – Workers Compensation Resolution 2022-3 – Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a motion to pass Resolution 2022-3. Councilman David Wertz made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

CK-COG- Rate Increase – Central Keystone COG’s rate is increasing to \$70.00 per hour. Permit fees are as reflected on Central Keystone COG’s 2022 Residential Permit Fee Schedule.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice-President Barry Kuhns made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a 2nd to the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca A. Witmer,
Secretary/Treasurer

MAYOR