

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
1:00 P.M.**

President C. Williams opened the Special Meeting at 1:00 P.M. with the following members present: Vice-President F. O'Boyle; Councilmembers S. Stewart-Keeler; P. Bucco; R. Emilie; and T. Neville. Mayor M. Penn was also present.

Councilmember A. Montanez was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President C. Williams stated that the purpose of this Special Meeting is to discuss a new hire, the budget, and a small sanitation issue.

The Budget Meeting

President C. Williams stated that a budget meeting was scheduled for today, but we are unable to have it due to not receiving the paperwork needed to complete the budget. She noted that we will have to push the budget meeting to possibly Monday, November 23rd to start working on it. She proposed to have the following budget meetings on November 23rd, December 9th, December 11th, and December 17th all at 1 P.M. Also, if needed December 21st at 1 P.M.

Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler moved to schedule the budget meetings to be held on Monday, November 23rd, Wednesday, December 9th, Friday, December 11th and Thursday, December 17th and if needed Monday, December 21st all at 1:00 P.M. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Vice President F. O'Boyle opposed due to unable to attend the November 23rd meeting. Motion carried.

Personnel

President C. Williams stated that we interviewed someone for the Treasurer position last Saturday and is asking for a motion to hire her and obtain a \$200,000.00 bond as recommended by our auditors.

Councilmember P. Bucco moved to hire Danielle Hewitt as the Borough Treasurer immediately at \$25.00 per hour and to obtain a bond in the amount of \$200,000.00. Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler seconded. Councilmember P. Bucco amended her motion to add that Ms. Hewitt be hired as fulltime immediately and after January 4, 2021, she will go down to part time with a minimum of two (2) days a week. Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler seconded the amended addition to the original motion.

Ann Marie Harris of 236 Winona Road questioned why the Borough is hiring while people are having their hours reduced.

President C. Williams responded that due to illness the budget has not been addressed on a timely basis and with this hire would help with this issue. She clarified that this person had two (2) positions and L Noonan will still be the Borough Secretary and Ms. Hewitt would be the Borough Treasurer.

Motion went to a roll call vote: Councilmember R. Emilie, "Yes"; Councilmember P. Bucco, "Yes"; Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler, "Yes"; Councilmember T. Neville, "Yes", Vice President F. O'Boyle, "No" and President C. Williams, "Yes". Motion carried 5 – 1.

President C. Williams stated that as we currently have L. Noonan as Borough Secretary, D. Hewitt as Borough Treasurer and D. Jackowski as Administrative Assistant the need for J. Simchak is not necessary any longer even though we appreciate a job well done in the temporary position she held.

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Councilmember P. Bucco moved to end the temporary position of Assistant Treasurer that Ms. Jean Simchak held is not needed any longer effective this Friday, November 20, 2020, at closed of business day. Councilmember T. Neville seconded and thanked Ms. Simchak for her assistance when the Borough needed her. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember P. Bucco moved to an audit to the reconcile all Borough accounts by Kirk Summa & Co. at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. Councilmember T. Neville seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember T. Neville moved to remove Lori Noonan as Borough Treasurer. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Vice President F. O'Boyle questioned if Mrs. Hewitt is bonded. President C. Williams responded that Mrs. Hewitt will not be handling any money until she is bonded. However, she added that she applied to be bonded and her application was witnessed today.

Motion went to a roll call vote: Councilmember R. Emilie, "Yes"; Councilmember P. Bucco, "Yes"; Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler, "Yes"; Councilmember T. Neville, "Yes", Vice President F. O'Boyle, "No" and President C. Williams, "Yes". Motion carried 5 – 1.

Sanitation

President C. Williams stated that we have decided to retain our current trash hauler noting that there are some questions with the current contract, and we will have an update at a later date. It was noted that the communication between the trash hauler and the Borough residents needs to improve.

Community Feeding Program

President C. Williams stated that there will be a community project to feed the public. She explained that there will be twenty-four (24) pallets of food that will include: meat, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, eggs, dairy products including a gallon of milk available in the boxes that will be distributed. She added that "Wink and a Prayer" will have cookies for each of the boxes and a local chef will be taking a couple of those boxes to show what meals can be made. She noted that the date for this project is November 24th from 11:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. right before Thanksgiving at 4 Fork Street. She explained that social distancing will be observed by having the drivers of the cars drive around and the boxes would be loaded in their vehicles. All the food are already in boxes. She also noted that we can always use more volunteers. She stated that the name of the program is "Everybody Eats".

President C. Williams noted that she has contributed her time to the Borough however, there are unkind words said about her on social media.

There was discussion regarding raises and health benefits for Borough Council at which time Councilmember R. Emilie stated that per state statute Councilmembers could receive up to \$1,985.00 per year plus health benefits. He noted that we have saved Borough residents a lot of money.

Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler moved to be part of the "Everybody Eats" program on November 24, 2020 and to use Borough supplies and manpower if needed. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

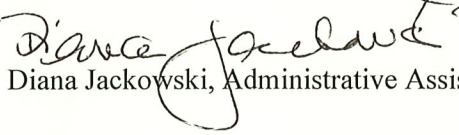
Public Participation

None

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There being no further business or public participation, the Special Meeting adjourned. Borough Council went in an Executive Session after this meeting no action was expected.

Respectfully submitted and transcribed by,



Diana Jackowski, Administrative Assistant

