

BOROUGH OF JEFFERSON HILLS
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McCaffrey began with the swearing in of the newly elected officials by the Honorable Michael Thatcher, 5th Judicial District of Pennsylvania. All newly elected officials presented their notarized Affidavits of Residence, Election Certificates and Oaths of Office to the Secretary.

Judge Thatcher stated, I'm your District Judge, it's an honor to be here tonight to swear in a new mayor and new members of Council. I just want to say on behalf of the Thatcher family, we wish everybody the best in this new term in this new Council session. I think local government is something that is a very thankless thing at times, it's very personal for everybody. You're certainly not always going to make everybody happy, and I just wish everybody here the best moving forward into the new year and bless this Council with wisdom, moving forward and doing the best thing here for our community. Another thing I just want to say to everybody here, it's always very nice for me, with all the interactions that I have with the Borough Jefferson Hills staff, everybody from the Police Chief to the Borough Manager. I just wanted to pass that along to you guys. You have a good team here and it's very nice to be so with that.

It's an honor to represent our community here and I wish the best of this Council as they move forward in 2022.

The mayor instructed the Secretary to record the roll call of Council. Council Members Bucy, Budd, Montgomery, Polick, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Steffey and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call.

Finance Officer Drager, Borough Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Dziezgowski, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present.

Following the roll call, the Mayor asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor McCaffrey stated that Council, being duly sworn, was required to elect or appoint presiding and administrative offices, and declared nominations were in order for President of Council. Mrs. Ruscitto nominated Mr. Montgomery seconded by Mr. Reynolds to be appointed President of Council. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

Mrs. Bucy	NO
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Montgomery	NO

Mr. Polick	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO

Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Bucy, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto to be appointed President of Council. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

Mrs. Bucy	NO
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Montgomery	NO
Mr. Polick	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO

Mrs. Steffey nominated Mr. Polick, seconded by Mrs. Budd to be appointed President of Council and the motion was carried unanimously. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Polick	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Mayor McCaffrey congratulated President Polick and invited President Polick to act as Chairman.

President Polick declared nominations were in order for Vice President of Council. Mrs. Bucy nominated Mr. Montgomery, to be appointed Vice President of Council seconded by Mrs. Budd, and the motion was carried unanimously.

President Polick asked if there was any new business.

President Polick declared nominations were in order for President Pro Tempore of Council. Mr. Montgomery nominated Mrs. Bucy to be appointed President Pro Tempore of Council, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated President Pro Temp, just so that the audience knows what that is. that is

usually the president who held the position prior and he or she stays on in a capacity to be able to mentor or to assist the President and the Vice President in their duties.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'd like to make a motion that we reopen the budget so that the incoming Council members have an opportunity to review what in my eyes, is a fatally flawed budget process. Give the new members an opportunity to review the budget and see if they want to make some changes, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, not because I believe it's fatally flawed, but I do think that the new members should have the opportunity to look and see what's ahead of them coming in. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Polick	NO
Vice President Montgomery	NO
Mrs. Bucy	NO
Mrs. Budd	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	NO

Mrs. Steffey asked if that could be revisited at a later date?

Mr. Montgomery stated no.

Solicitor Gabriel stated they have 30 days, so it can be reopened in the January meeting.

Mr. Reynolds stated that they have 30 days, so we might as well open it up now and give them an opportunity to review it.

Mrs. Steffey stated perhaps the new Council members would like to take a look at the budget and if they feel that it needs to be reopened, they can make that motion.

Mrs. Bucy stated the budget has been posted on the website and made available to any new council member to review prior to them being sworn in after their election. So, I feel that they have already had the opportunity to look at it.

President Polick adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner
Secretary/Borough Manager