

**City Council Reorganizational Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 @ 11 a.m.**

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 @ 11 a.m.; Council convened at their regular Reorganizational Meeting with Mayor elect Reasinger in the Chair. Other members present were as follows: James Aughenbaugh, Jennifer Jackson, Elliot Gelfand, Shane Dietz and City Controller, David Volpe. Also present were: Interim City Manager and Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Deputy Treasurer, Tom Nowak; Redevelopment Authority Director, Joe Mitchell; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; Public Works Superintendent Scott Farrell; Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd; IT Director, Matt Johnson; Detective Corporal Matt Robertson; Corporal Lanny Prosper; Police Secretary, Carrie Gladysiewski; and City Secretary, Korbi Slocum.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor elect Reasinger.

Public Comments

Debbie Mechling – Monroe Street

Mechling congratulated the incoming members of Council and thanked them for leading the City into 2024. "I applaud your ability to step forward. Thank you."

Swearing in of Elected Officials

Mayor elect, Pat Reasinger; Councilwoman elect Jennifer Jackson; Councilmen elect, Elliot Gelfand; and City Controller re-elect, David Volpe having received a majority of votes cast for their respective offices, were duly elected as Mayor, Members of City Council, and City Controller of the City of DuBois for (2) year and (4) year terms, beginning January 2, 2024.

In accordance with Article VII, Section 701, of the Third-Class City Code, Mayor Reasinger, Councilwoman Jackson and Councilman Gelfand presented their "Certificate of Election" to be filed with the Administrative Secretary. Mayor Reasinger was sworn in by Notary Public Thomas M. Nowak, Jr. Councilman Gelfand and Councilwoman Jackson were sworn in by Mayor Reasinger. All were duly certified as Mayor and Members of City Council. City Controller David Volpe was sworn in earlier in the morning by Judge Frederic J. Ammerman.

The new Council convened with Mayor Pat Reasinger in the Chair.

Selection of Vice President of Council

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council appoint Councilman Gelfand as Vice President of Council. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, abstain; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 4-0.

Selection of Consolidation Committee (10-person committee) Co-Chair

Nasuti explained that the committee is made up of the 5 City of DuBois Council members and 5 members of the Sandy Township Supervisors. Sandy Township elects a Chair and the City of DuBois elects a Co-Chair and they run every other meeting.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to elect Pat Reasinger as the Consolidation Committee Co-Chair. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Determination of day and time of 2024 Council Meetings

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson that Council continue to hold the City Council Meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Council Reorganizational Meeting (continued)

Authorize Request for Proposals for 2024 Solicitor

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson that we advertise a Request for Proposals for City Solicitor services with RFPs to be received no later than April 1, 2024, and review the scope of the RFPs at the April 8, 2024, Council meeting and make them available to the public. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Solicitor Position

Reasinger explained that Council received a resignation from Gleason, Cherry & Cherry as Solicitor for the City of DuBois. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to accept the resignation of Gleason, Cherry & Cherry as City Solicitor. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, nay; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, nay; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 3-2.

Appoint Interim Solicitor

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson to appoint Thomas Breth of Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham, LLP of Butler at the rate of \$3,200.00 per month. Aughenbaugh raised several questions. "First, under the Third Class City Code optional form of government isn't the Solicitor required to have an office in the City of DuBois? I want to make sure we are doing this the right way. Second, the letter says the Solicitor must attend all Council meetings, either in person or virtually. Are we set up to do that virtually? If that's the case, is this allowed?"

"Mr. Mayor, I'd be happy to comment on behalf of the firm. I am unaware of the requirement the Councilman speaks to, but we're obviously happy to establish an office in DuBois if that's required by the optional Third Class City Code. With respect to the virtual, that's only at the direction of Council. We fully intend to attend in person all Council meetings. There are, from time to time, occasions when Council indicates it will be a short meeting and wants to do it virtually. If Council gives direction for us to participate virtually we're happy to do that; otherwise, we will be here in person." Because the firm's offices are in Butler and Cranberry..." Breth clarified, "We have three offices." Aughenbaugh asked, "Will there be any fees for travel to the City and back?" Breth replied, "Not within the retainer. Travel time is included in the retainer. There's also provision for, if asked by Council to do special projects we've provided an hourly rate for those special projects. Just so we're clear, if those special projects necessitate travel, that travel time will be billed."

Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Manager Position

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson to authorize the Interim Solicitor to assist City Council with the immediate termination of John Suplizio's employment with the City. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, nay; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, nay; Reasinger, yea. The motion passed 3-2.

Adjourn

There being no further business to transact; the motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand that Council adjourn.

Reasinger announced that Council would be going into an Executive Session following adjournment. A member of the audience asked, "What is the reason for the Executive Session?" Reasinger replied, "Personnel/legal information. We've got some new Council members."

Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:

Kerbi Slocum

APPROVED:

