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OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: SWEARING IN OF OFFICIALS AND REORGANIZATION
OF COUNCIL

JANUARY 2, 2024

5:00 P.M.

OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

314 SOUTH MAIN STREET

OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- RUSSELL RINALDI, PRESIDENT
- JAMES HOOVER, VICE-PRESIDENT
- RICK NOTARI
- MICHELLE AVVISATO
- ANDREW BUTLER
- JENNA JONES-SHOTWELL
- MICHAEL KOMENSKI
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, BOROUGH MANAGER
- ROBERT LEGG, MAYOR

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter

1 MAYOR LEGG: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. Welcome to the Old Forge
3 Borough Council reorganization meeting. At
4 this time the Honorable George Seig will
5 swear in our two new members.

6 MAGISTRATE SEIG: Mayor, I want to
7 thank you very much for giving me the
8 opportunity, as always.

9 I'm going to swear everybody in
10 individually because I believe they deserve
11 the respect and honor that they have coming
12 from the citizens of Old Forge. That's one
13 thing about my job as a judge, having the
14 honor to swear the elected officials in.
15 People that I respect tremendously. It
16 truly is an honor. Thank you for asking me
17 to do this for you. Ms. Shotwell?

18 (The oath of office was administered
19 to Ms. Shotwell.)

20 MAGISTRATE SEIG: Congratulations.
21 Michael?

22 (The oath of office was administered
23 to Mr. Komenski.)

24 MAGISTRATE SEIG: Congratulations.
25 Rick?

1 (The oath of office was administered
2 to Mr. Notari.)

3 MAGISTRATE SEIG: Congratulations.

4 (The oath of office was administered
5 to Mr. Rinaldi.)

6 MAGISTRATE SEIG: Congratulations.

7 Again, I want to thank everyone. It truly
8 is a pleasure and it is great to be among
9 the constituents of Old Forge Borough and
10 serve with these members and solicitor, your
11 office staff. We're going to run smoothly
12 in the near future and I want to thank you
13 all for giving me this opportunity.

14 MAYOR LEGG: This meeting is called
15 to order. We'll have roll call at this
16 time.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

18 MS. AVVISATO: Here.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

20 MR. BUTLER: Here.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

22 MR. HOOVER: Here.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Jones?

24 MS. SHOTWELL: Here.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

1 MR. KOMENSKY: Here.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

3 MR. NOTARI: Present.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Here.

6 MAYOR LEGG: At this time, will
7 everyone one rise and join me in the Pledge
8 of Allegiance, please.

9 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
10 recited.)

11 MAYOR LEGG: At this time, we would
12 like to begin by having nomination for the
13 office of president of council.

14 MS. AVVISATO: Mayor, I'd like to
15 nominate Russell Rinaldi for president.

16 MAYOR LEGG: Any others? Someone
17 make a motion to close the nominations.

18 MS. AVVISATO: I'll make the motion
19 to close the nominations.

20 MAYOR LEGG: All those in favor?

21 MR. BUTLER: Aye.

22 MS. AVVISATO: Aye.

23 MR. HOOVER: Aye.

24 MR. NOTARI: Aye.

25 MR. KOMENSKI: Aye.

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MS. SHOTWELL: Aye.

MAYOR LEGG: Opposed? So be it.

Call for a vote.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

MR. BUTLER: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

MR. HOOVER: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

MR. NOTARI: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I abstain.

MAYOR LEGG: Congratulations.

MR. RUSSEL RINALDI: Thank you very
much. Thank you real quick to my
colleagues. I'll have a few words to say.
We'll carry right through with the meeting
until then. Thank very much for electing me
as president. I appreciate your support.

At this time, the chair is going to

1 call for a nomination for the election of
2 vice-president to the Old Forge Borough
3 Council.

4 MR. KOMENSKI: Mr. President, at
5 this time I'd make the nomination for Jim
6 Hoover.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Nomination for
8 Jim Hoover for vice-president of the Old
9 Forge Borough Council. Do I have any other
10 nominations? The chair will entertain a
11 motion to close the nominations. All in
12 favor?

13 MR. BUTLER: Aye.

14 MS. AVVISATO: Aye.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Aye.

16 MR. NOTARI: Aye.

17 MR. KOMENSKI: Aye.

18 MS. SHOTWELL: Aye.

19 MR. HOOVER: Abstain.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: At this time,
21 the chair would call for a motion to elect
22 Councilman Hoover as vice-president of Old
23 Forge Borough Council.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

25 MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

2 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

4 MR. HOOVER: Abstain.

5 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

6 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

7 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

8 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

9 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

10 MR. NOTARI: Yes.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. At this
13 time, the chair would open any nominations
14 and election for treasurer and secretary for
15 the Old Forge Borough.

16 MR. HOOVER: I'll make that motion
17 for Marylynn Bartoletti.

18 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Any other
19 nominations? At this time, the chair would
20 ask for a motion to close the nominations.
21 All in favor?

22 MR. BUTLER: Aye.

23 MS. AVVISATO: Aye.

24 MR. HOOVER: Aye.

25 MR. RINALDI: Aye.

1 MR. NOTARI: Aye.

2 MR. KOMENSKI: Aye.

3 MS. SHOTWELL: Aye.

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: The chair
5 would entertain a motion to appoint Marylynn
6 Bartoletti and elect her as the treasurer
7 and secretary of Old Forge Borough. Roll
8 call, please.

9 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

10 MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

12 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

14 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

16 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

18 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

20 MR. NOTARI: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. At this
23 time, the chair would make a motion to table
24 item seven, which would be a nomination for
25 the vacancy for the board chair.

1 MS. AVVISATO: I'll make that
2 motion.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: All in favor?

4 MR. BUTLER: Aye.

5 MS. AVVISATO: Aye.

6 MR. HOOVER: Aye.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Aye.

8 MR. NOTARI: Aye.

9 MR. KOMENSKI: Aye.

10 MS. SHOTWELL: Aye.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: The chair is
12 open now for any other nominations for any
13 other appointments, if someone would like to
14 make them. At this time, I would make a
15 motion to close any nominations for any
16 other departments. All in favor?

17 MR. BUTLER: Aye.

18 MS. AVVISATO: Aye.

19 MR. HOOVER: Aye.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Aye.

21 MR. NOTARI: Aye.

22 MR. KOMENSKI: Aye.

23 MS. SHOTWELL: Aye.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Before we
25 adopt two motions on the agenda, does

1 anybody have any new business that they
2 would like to discuss? Any members? At
3 this time, the chair would entertain a
4 motion to adopt the resolution of Roberts
5 Rules of Order for the conduct of the
6 meeting.

7 MR. HOOVER: I'll make that motion.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
9 Hoover.

10 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
12 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
13 Public input? Roll call, please.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

15 MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

17 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

19 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

21 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

23 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

25 MR. NOTARI: Yes.

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ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item B will be a motion to select and advertise the upcoming year's regular meeting date and work session. At this time, the chair would entertain a motion to make it the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman Butler.

MS. AVVISATO: I'll second that motion.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by Councilwoman Avvisato. On the question? Public input? Roll call, please.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

MR. BUTLER: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

MR. HOOVER: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

2 MR. NOTARI: Yes.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. At this
5 time, the chair would ask the public, before
6 we go down the table for the members,
7 anybody from the public have anything they
8 would like to ask or add before we go down
9 the table? Thank you.

10 Before we adjourn, Mayor Legg, any
11 comments?

12 MAYOR LEGG: I'd just like to
13 congratulate my former student, Jenna
14 Jones-Shotwell. Congratulations. My former
15 student, Mike Komensky. Mr. President,
16 congratulations to you and,
17 Mr. Vice-president, congratulations to you.
18 Let's hope we have a good year and we work
19 together and see if we can get some things
20 done. That's all I have. Thank you.

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilwoman
22 Shotwell?

23 MS. SHOTWELL: I'm looking forward
24 to working with everyone. Congratulations
25 to Russ, Rick and Mike. Have a good year.

1 Get some things done. Thank you.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mike Komensky.

3 MR. KOMENSKY: Tough act to follow.

4 I'd just like to thank everybody for coming
5 today. It's truly an honor to serve on this
6 board. I was here in 2021, it was an honor
7 then. It's a bigger honor today.

8 Congratulate Russ, Rick and Jenna. I hope
9 you have a good year. Thank you very much
10 from the bottom of my heart.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilman
12 Notari?

13 MR. NOTARI: Kind of reiterate
14 everybody, but I'd just like to thank the
15 people of Old Forge for putting me in this
16 seat for another four years. I will do my
17 best to serve the entire borough and do
18 what's best for the entire borough. We've
19 worked well as a council in the past. I
20 know we're going to work well together
21 again. We don't always see eye to eye, but
22 we're very civil about it. I enjoyed
23 working with everybody here and look forward
24 to working with the new council persons as
25 well.

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MR. BUTLER: Same thing.

Congratulations to the new members, Mr. Komenski, Ms. Shotwell, and congratulations to Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Notari. Welcome back.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilwoman Avvisato?

MS. AVVISATO: Congratulations, Jenn. Congratulations, Mike. Congratulations, Ricky. Congratulations, Russell. Congratulations, Jimmy, for the vice-presidency, and I'm looking forward to working with them to get things done. I wish everyone a happy new year.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

MR. HOOVER: I just want to reiterate to the new members good luck. It's a nice journey. You'll enjoy it. I do. That's really about it. I want to thank everybody for your help in getting me vice-president. Last council did a really good job, and I know this council is going to be better. We have a lot of work to do in Old Forge and we're up to task. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Just a few
3 things. First of all, I'd like to wish
4 everybody a happy new year. I hope everyone
5 had a good holiday with their family and
6 friends. I would like to congratulate
7 Mrs. Shotwell on her election to the board,
8 Mike Komenski on his election, and
9 Mr. Notari's re-election. Thank you once
10 again to the board members for electing me
11 president.

12 As you heard me say last time I was
13 nominated and voted as president, this seat
14 holds -- I feel it holds no more power than
15 any other seat at the table. I simply just
16 chair the meetings. I simply just call for
17 motions and votes. We all have equal power.
18 I hope you all feel that way to me as well.

19 I'm looking forward to working with
20 everybody and continue with the current
21 members and the new members. I have no
22 doubt in mind that everybody that sits at
23 this table, our best interest is for the
24 people in the audience and the people within
25 the borough.

1 I'd also like to thank the people of
2 the borough for voting me in and also for
3 voting the other members and our current
4 members. We do have a good team up here and
5 I look forward to working with everybody,
6 once again, and I'd just like to thank
7 everybody. I appreciate it.

8 If there's nothing else from any of
9 the members, the chair would entertain a
10 motion to adjourn.

11 MR. NOTARI: I'll make that motion.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
13 Notari.

14 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
16 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
17 input? Roll call, please.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato?

19 MS. AVVISATO: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

21 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

23 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

25 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

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ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komenski?

MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Notari?

MR. NOTARI: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Before
we adjourn, I would like to congratulate
Councilman Hoover on the vice-presidency. I
apologize. Thank you, everyone. Have a
good evening.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I attended the foregoing proceeding, took stenographic notes of the same, that the foregoing, consisting of 17 pages, is a true and correct copy, done to the best of my ability, of same and the whole thereof.


Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter