

May 21, 2020

Derry Borough Council met in special session Monday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. electronically via zoom due to the guidelines developed by the CDC during the Covid-19 epidemic with the following members present: Grant Nicely, Al Checca, Matthew Clever, Sara Cowan, Allen Hixson, and Jim Ritenour. Mayor Alanna Gaudiello was present. Solicitor Lee Demosky was present. No reporter attended the meeting.

VISITORS

1. Jeremy Stein – Leo Street, Derry – Letter of Interest for Council vacancy.
2. Bridget Wyant – Park Street, Derry – Letter of Interest for Council vacancy.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. **MOTION** to approve outdoor Zumba classes to be held at the Derry Community Park on Mondays beginning Monday, May 18, 2020 with access to the bathroom facilities for a fee of \$20 per month. Motion **SECONDED** by Al Checca. Six members of council voted “aye” in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

2. Position of Vacancy Board Chairman

Council President Nicely requested a motion to appoint Lori Latta, Secretary as the Vacancy Board Chairman. **MOTION** by Al Checca to appoint Lori Latta as the Vacancy Board Chairman. Motion **SECONDED** by Sara Cowan. Six members of council voted “aye” in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Nicely turned over the meeting to Ms. Latta.

Ms. Latta requested council to submit any questions to the candidates prior to moving forward with the meeting.

Ms. Latta requested to have the vacancy filled at this time by requesting a motion to accept nominations to fill the council vacancy. There were no questions provided by council.

Mr. Nicely asked if either candidate would like to speak on their behalf.

Bridget Wyant spoke first to express why she would like to fill the vacancy. In summary she would like to help the Borough grow, bring new young families to our community, create reasons for them to stay, create a better sense of community and togetherness. She would like to see jobs available for our residents and businesses for our consumers. She would like to stand for the people of this town and do what is right by them as one of the people of this town.

Jeremy Stein spoke to express why he would like to fill the vacancy. In summary he would like to bring more ideas to the table and get more involved with the community.

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Chairman Latta then asked both applicants the question of can you give council a couple priorities that you would like to focus on for the borough residents of Derry?

Jeremy Stein responded to bring in more revenue and new ideas.

Bridget Wyant responded to help our town be more of a community and neighborly. Talk with people at events such as Railroad days attracting more people to town.

After the question and answer phase of the meeting, Chairman Latta requested a motion to accept nominations to fill the vacant council seat.

A **MOTION** was made by Al Checca to accept nominations to fill the vacant council seat. Motion was **SECONDED** by Grant Nicely. All members present voted “aye” in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

A **MOTION** was made by Al Checca to nominate Jeremy Stein.
A **MOTION** was made by Sara Cowan to nominate Bridget Wyant.

Chairman Latta requested a motion to close nominations. **MOTION** by Matt Clever to close nominations. Motion **SECONDED** by Jim Ritenour. All members present voted “aye” in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Latta requested a roll call vote from council including the name of their chosen nominee.

The roll call vote was as follows: Grant Nicely – Abstained, Lori Latta voted for Jeremy Stein, Al Checca voted for Jeremy Stein, Sara Cowan voted for Bridget Wyant, Jim Ritenour voted for Bridget Wyant, Allen Hixson voted for Bridget Wyant, and Matthew Clever voted for Jeremy Stein resulting in a tie vote.

Due to the time constraints of filling the vacancy Chairman Latta requested a second roll call vote. The roll call vote was as follows: Grant Nicely – Abstained, Al Checca voted for Jeremy Stein, Sara Cowan voted for Bridget Wyant, Allen Hixson voted for Bridget Wyant, Matthew Clever voted for Jeremy Stein, Lori Latta voted for Jeremy Stein, and Jim Ritenour voted for Bridget Wyant, resulting in a second tie vote.

In attempt to resolve a tie vote and by recommendation of Solicitor Demosky due to time constraints a third roll call vote was taken in hopes to resolve the tie vote.
The roll call vote was as follows: Grant Nicely - Abstained, Lori Latta voted for Jeremy Stein, Al Checca voted for Jeremy Stein, Sara Cowan voted for Bridget Wyant, Jim Ritenour voted for Bridget Wyant, Matt Clever voted for Jeremy Stein, and Allen Hixson voted for Bridget Wyant, resulting in a third tie vote.

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Solicitor Lee Demosky explained the procedures of filling the vacancy and stated that the vacancy board still has jurisdiction to fill the vacant position. The vacancy board's jurisdiction expires on the 28th of May 2020. If the vacancy is not filled by this time frame the solicitor will file a petition to have the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas make the appointment.

Lori Latta as Vacancy Board Chairman requested another special meeting to possibly resolve the tie vote prior to the vacancy board losing jurisdiction to appoint a council member. She requested a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7pm.

Solicitor Lee Demosky explained for the record the meeting must be advertised since council is part of the vacancy board and more than three members may be present constituting a quorum.

The meeting was then turned back over to Grant Nicely, President.

Mr. Nicely requested a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Al Checca to adjourn meeting. Motion **SECONDED** by Sara Cowan. All members present voiced "aye" in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. Latta
Secretary