

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 - 10:00 A.M.**

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. City Administrator, Kelsye Hantz, took roll call with the following members present: Councilwoman Brumley, Councilman Mertz, Councilman Zappone, Councilman Finfrock and Mayor Bell. City Treasurer/Fiscal Director, Trisha Hilderhoff, and City Solicitor Zachary Kansler were also present.

*****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*****

*****WELCOME*****

Mayor Bell, "Welcome family members, friends, honored guests, and City employees to this special Council Meeting for the swearing-in to the office of recently elected City Officials. I would like to give you a brief explanation of the swearing-in ceremony: Judge Richard E. McCormick, Jr., who we're privileged to have with us today, will administer the Oath of Office to myself, City Councilwoman-Elect Sheila Brumley, and City Councilman-Elect Randal Finfrock.

We will have the reappointments of Kelsye Hantz as City Administrator; Trisha Hilderhoff as Fiscal Director and City Treasurer/Tax Collector; and Zachary Kansler as City Solicitor. I will be administering their Oaths of Office. I will also administer the Oaths of Office to the Police Chief and Police Captain."

*****ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE*****

Mayor Robert L. Bell: Brad and Brett Bell read the Certificate of Election; Kelly Bell held the Bible; and Judge Richard McCormick administered the Oath of Office.

Councilwoman Sheila Brumley: Sophia Demorest read the Certificate of Election; Coleman Brumley held the Bible; and Judge Richard McCormick administered the Oath of Office.

Councilman Randy Finfrock: Marlene Lucas read the Certificate of Election; Jenna and Kristin Stillitano held the Bible; and Judge Richard McCormick administered the Oath of Office.

Judge Richard E. McCormick, Jr. "If I may? I get a couple of moments of public speaking. As I get up here four years later, I look around, and I know that I am the oldest person in the room. You're younger than me. You graduated from Greensburg Salem with my wife, Kathleen Myers. So, just stay right behind me there. Sometimes in the middle of the night I start thinking, 'Oh, what am I going to say tomorrow?' if I have something I have to speak at, or if I grab the opportunity of the stage to do so. For some reason, Itty Bitty Baseball came into my head. How many played Itty Bitty Baseball in here? Yeah, yeah, those are Greensburgers. You played, too. You broke the gender barrier. Is that about right? I was six years old when I started in Itty Bitty Baseball. Wally Kaylor was the Rec Director, and Jules B was in charge of baseball, and that's my first recollection of ever having come in contact with City Government. And that was because we had beautiful Lynch Field, which back then, if it wasn't flooded for Opening Day for baseball, we were very, very grateful. They had to come in with a whole flood restoration program, and everything, but nevertheless it's a great place, as it Mount Odin, and St. Clair Park. There was also a nice renovation of our playgrounds, Tot Lots. I think, 'Well that

was 68 years ago.' I'm going to be 74 this year. Think about that. Think about what a desirable place that this still is, to live in, and I look back just four years. You guys were reelected two years ago, right? Now I'm not a big crowd person, so I have not brought myself down to the middle of the City on Thursday evenings, but I understand that it's a blast. That its like a high school reunion, one month after the other. You see people you've never seen for years, or neighbors, or cousins, or whatever. I was just talking to Robb the other day when he reminded me of the swearing in that's coming up. He's telling me about all the things that are just bubbling right now, and reminding me, of course, of the things that have bubbled. We keep ahead of the curve here in Greensburg, don't we? One of the things, though, that I think is sort of interesting and amazing, is this guy is starting his fifth term. Now for the Finfrocks, how many terms in a row is that?"

Councilman Finfrock, "It's five for me. My dad did three, and my grandfather did one."

Judge McCormick, "I didn't realize your grandfather was on Council. Were they always in the finance?"

Councilman Finfrock, "My grandfather did Recreation, and my dad was in Finance, and I was in Finance, except one of the terms I did Planning and Development."

Judge McCormick, "Yeah, think about that. Everybody is always screaming, crying 'Mercy' everywhere, but what is our tax base? What is it? Well, ask Randy, and he'll tell you, at length, what it is, because he knows it. I wake up in the middle of the night with silly things like this. He wakes up in the middle of the night, and says, 'Ah, go back to sleep. Everything is okay.' Because it is. And I just wanted to feature him today, because that realization came to me, and I'm thinking, 'If your economy is good, bad or different, your larger economy, it doesn't matter to Greensburg.' Greensburg keeps striving. Greensburg tries to make itself better every day, and it's thanks to these five office holders up here, three of whom I have sworn in again. Just think of that. Think about how hard that is to do. They make it look effortless. So, thank you so much for everything that you do."

APPOINTMENTS AND SWEARING-IN OF OFFICERS

Mayor Bell **MOVED** to reappoint Kelsye A. Hantz as the City Administrator; Trisha Hilderhoff as the City Treasurer/Fiscal Director; and Zachary Kanlser, as the City Solicitor, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. Roll call vote was taken. **Unanimously all voted in favor of the reappointments.**

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER/FISCAL DIRECTOR AND CITY SOLICITOR

Mayor Bell administered the Oaths of Office to Kelsye A. Hantz, Trisha Hilderhoff, and Zachary Kansler.

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR THE POLICE CHIEF, AND POLICE CAPTAIN

Mayor Bell administered the Oaths of Office to Police Chief Charles Irvin and Captain Donald Sarsfield.

*****DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENTS*****

Mayor Bell **MOVED** to designate the City Departments under the directorship of the following Councilpersons:

Department of Accounts and Finances – Councilman Finfrock
Department of Administration, Development and Public Operations – Councilman Mertz
Department of Public Works – Councilman Zappone
Department of Parks and Recreation – Councilwoman Brumley
Department of Public Affairs and Safety – Mayor Bell

Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. Roll call vote was taken. **Unanimously all voted in favor to approve the Designation of Departments.**

*****REMARKS*****

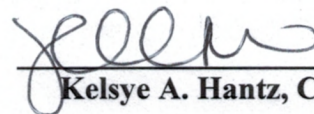
Mayor Robert L. Bell, “Before I adjourn the meeting, on behalf of Randy, Sheila, and myself, I’d like to again thank Judge McCormick for being here with us today, and for swearing us all into office. As many may, or may not know, the Bell and McCormick families go back a long way. Our parents were the very, very best of friends, and in fact, his parents were my Godparents at my Baptism. The Judge and I have known each other since we were small children, and his father swore my father into office four times. So, to have him here with me today, to swear me in, like our fathers did before us, is truly a special moment for me personally, and I can’t thank him enough for being here today to swear us all into office. I know that Sheila and Randy share in those sentiments. I also want to thank the citizens of Greensburg for giving us the opportunity to serve them for another four years, to continue the work that we have all started, to try and continue to move the City in a positive direction. Having said that, its important that everyone is acutely aware, that its not just the efforts of the people sitting at this table that make this City work. There are a boat load of people that work in the background, and behind the scenes that do the actual work. We come up with the ideas, but they actually put in the work to make those ideas a reality. I want to thank Chief Irvin, and the entire Police Department; the Department of Public Works; the Department of Buildings, and Property Maintenance; the Recreation Department; the Department of Planning and Code Enforcement; the Fiscal Department; the Administration Office, and all of the Administrative Assistants for their tireless work to make this City a great place to live, work, and play. They don’t get enough credit, but without them this all falls apart. I also want to thank the countless volunteers, who work on various boards and commissions, to lend their expertise to the development of this City. These are the men and women, who have graciously and voluntarily, given their time for the betterment of this City. So, I thank all of the members of the Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board, and the Civil Service Board for all the work that they do for the City. In addition, I want to extend a huge thank you to the various volunteer groups and non-profit organizations that have bought into our plan, and have put their hand in the pile. They’ve worked so hard to promote the City, and the activities that occur regularly to spotlight our Downtown Business District. They need to be recognized. These are the groups that truly set Greensburg apart from all of the other cities: to our friends at the GCDC, the Greensburg Business Professional Association, friends of Summer Sounds, the Downtown Greensburg Project, the Turkey Trot Committee, the Westmoreland Cultural Trust, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and the Palace Theater, we cannot thank you all enough for what you do to enhance, and promote the City. And finally, I want to thank the Crown Jewel of Greensburg; the men and women of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. Under the direction of Chief Tom Bell, this department has maintained the standard to

which all other Fire Departments aspire to be. I have long maintained that this group of men and women are collectively the most valuable asset of the City, and I don't know anyone who would disagree with me on that statement. These are people that would literally climb over each other to help somebody in need. Without these selfless volunteers, this City would be in a world of trouble. Literally, anything that is good in this City usually will indicate that the Fire Department has somehow been involved. Without them, a lot of the events that happen in the City would cease to exist. So, for all of their efforts, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every single member of the Department for all they do to keep us moving forward. As we move into the days ahead, we feel that the City is only starting to realize its potential. We hit a speed bump when Covid came about, and it set us back quite a bit, but the momentum has reignited recently, and the possibilities are once again endless. We look forward to the challenges of the next four years, and continuing to work hard to make improvements to our hometown, moving it closer to the finished product. The one promise I can make to all of you is that no one will work harder for the City of Greensburg than the people sitting here at this table. We, along with all the City employees, will work as hard as we can to further progress the City down that path to success. To date, we've made a lot of progress. There's still a ton of work to be done, and we look forward to that challenge. I, for one, cannot wait to see what Greensburg looks like in 2028. We collectively believe that the best is yet to come. We thank you again for your confidence in all of us, and we will do everything we can to not let you down. So, with that, I would like to invite everybody to join us for a reception in the conference room downstairs immediately following this Special Meeting of Council, and we would be honored to have your presence."

*****ADJOURNMENT*****

Mayor Bell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, and Councilwoman Brumley **SECONDED**.
Unanimously all voted in favor to adjourn.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Kelsye A. Hantz, City Administrator

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