

2024 98th REORGANIZATION and FIRST COUNCIL MEETING OF 2024 MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2024

The 98th Reorganization of the Borough of Lawnside was called to order by Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow on **January 3, 2024 at 7:00p.m. Via MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

Following a prayer led by Councilwoman Wright-Mcleod and a flag salute by Councilman Lee, The Deputy Borough Clerk called the roll.

Roll Call showed present:

Mary Ann Wardlow	Mayor
Ronald DeAbreu	Councilperson
Robert Lee	Councilperson
Steven Pollard	Councilperson
Rhonda Wardlow Hurley	Councilperson
Eric J. Wilcox, Sr.	Councilperson
Dawn Wright-McLeod	Councilperson

Also present were:

Darryl C. Rhone	Borough O.P.R.A./Conflict Solicitor	
Edward H. Hill	Borough Solicitor	JOINED AT 7:32pm
Sean S. Smith, Sr.	Borough Engineer	
Angelique Rankins	Business Administrator	
Marsharee A. Wright	Deputy Borough Clerk	
Captain Plenty	Public Safety	
Rafiq Golphin	Public Works Assistant Supervisor	
Franklin Harper	Assistant Fire Chief	

Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow welcomed everyone to the 98th Annual Reorganization.

Mayor Wardlow declared the meeting officially open and the Deputy Borough Clerk read that the meeting had been properly publicized as to the time, date, and place, in accordance with P.L. 1985, Chapter 231.

Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley acknowledged Dignitaries, Special Guests and Elected Officials that were present on the call.

- **Al Dyer, Camden County Commissioner** – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated it was great to see young democrats join the political world. Commissioner Dyer also Congratulated Lawnside for all the work and professionalism that happens within the municipality.

Nomination & Election of President of Council – Ronald DeAbreu

A motion was made by Pollard and seconded by Wardlow-Hurley to **Nominate Ronald DeAbreu as President of Council.**

Roll Call: DeAbreu abstain; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. Motion declared carried.

Nomination & Election of Vice President of Council – Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley

A motion was made by Wright-McLeod and seconded by Lee to **Nominate Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley as Vice President of Council.**

Roll Call: DeAbreu abstain; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion declared carried.

Swearing in of President of Council and Vice President of Council by Darryl C. Rhone

- **Dalin Hackley, Outreach Director, Congressman Norcross' Office** – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated all the officials. He stated if Lawnside ever needs anything, The Norcross' office is a call away.

The Deputy Borough Clerk announced that Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley and Councilman Wilcox were sworn in as Councilpersons at a private ceremony held on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

Remarks by President of Council – Ronald DeAbreu – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for the vote as President of Council; “will not take the position lightly”.

Remarks by Vice President of Council – Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley - Thanked Everyone for their votes and stated that her work speaks for itself.

Call to order First Regular Council Meeting in 2024 at 7:21PM

Mary Ann Wardlow	Mayor
Ronald DeAbreu	Councilperson
Robert Lee	Councilperson
Steven Pollard	Councilperson
Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley	Councilperson
Eric J. Wilcox, Sr.	Councilperson
Dawn Wright-McLeod	Councilperson

The Deputy Borough Clerk read that the meeting had been properly published as to the time, date in accordance with P.L. 1985, Chapter 231.

REMARKS BY CITIZENS:

It was moved by Wright-McLeod and seconded by DeAbreu to **Open Public Comments**

Roll Call: DeAbreu y; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion declared carried

Mr. Ervin Mears, 411 E. Charleston Ave – Wished everyone a Happy New Year; then stated, “Councilman Eric Wilcox, Do you live in the Borough of Lawnside? YES or NO”.

There was no response from Councilman Wilcox.

There was discussion between Mr. Mears, Solicitor Rhone, Mayor Wardlow, and Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley.

It was moved by Deabreu and seconded by Wright-McLeod to **Close Public Comments**

Roll Call: DeAbreu y; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion declared carried

NEW BUSINESS STATEMENT READ BY THE ACTING BOROUGH CLERK

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Resolutions:

1. Resolution No. 01-2024 – Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File, Stipulate, Settle both Regular & Added/Omitted Appeals, and Roll Back Tax Complaints for the Borough of Lawnside

B. Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Wright-McLeod and seconded by DeAbreu to **Adopt Resolutions and Payment of Bills**

Roll Call Vote: DeAbreu y; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 6Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion declared carried

REMARKS:

Mayor Wardlow: Congratulated the newly elected officials and the President and Vice President of Council and thanked past President Wright-McLeod for her work during the past two years. Mayor Wardlow Congratulated DPW Supervisor, Rafiq Golphin on his recognition with BOSS Mentoring. She acknowledged Captain Plenty and the police department for the continuous wellness checks. Mayor Wardlow recognized Ms. Rankins and the clerk’s office stating “we all work as team.” She also congratulated Lisa Roberts, “fully certified Court Administrator, who passed all her exams”. Mayor thanked all employees for their efforts made to succeed and hopes that if people are more positive that they will be happy.

Councilman DeAbreu: Thanked Councilwoman Wright-McLeod for her hard work as President of the Council.

Councilman Lee: Congratulated Councilman DeAbreu and Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley and looks forward to what 2024 has set in store for the team.

Councilman Pollard: Congratulated Councilman DeAbreu, Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley, and Councilman Wilcox; thanked Councilwoman Wright-McLeod for her presidential role for the past two years. H stated that the communication must be better between Councilmembers.

Captain Plenty: Thanked all the public officials, Administrator, and community for supporting the police department and wished everyone a Happy New Year

Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley: Thanked the Business Administrator, Clerk's office and DPW for their hard work and support with her projects all year round. She mentioned that she communicates via email and there are "bullying text messages" sent out. She acknowledged Mr. Golphin's BOSS Mentoring award, event sponsors and announced upcoming events schedule throughout the town that will be posted on the website and the marquee.

Councilman Wilcox: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to working with Mayor and Council in 2024. Congratulated Councilman DeAbreu and Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley and he stated "Team Work makes the Dream Work"

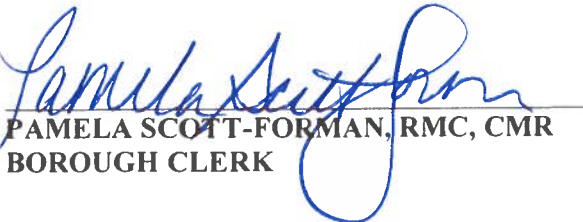
Councilwoman Wright-McLeod: Thanked Mayor and Council for their vote of confidence as President of Council for 2 years and looking forward to the work to be done with the Council. She stated "Be about It! Be with the people! Be out there!"

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

At 7:45pm there was a Motion Made by Wright-McLeod and seconded by DeAbreu to Adjourn the Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: DeAbreu y; Lee y; Pollard y; Wardlow-Hurley y; Wilcox y; Wright-McLeod y; 6Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion declared carried

**Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm
BOROUGH OF LAWNESIDE**


PAMELA SCOTT-FORMAN, RMC, CMR
BOROUGH CLERK


MARY ANN WARDLOW
MAYOR