



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### New Town Council Meets – Talhelm Elected President –Elia Vice President

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – At the Biennial Reorganization Meeting of Town Council, required to be held on January 2, 2018 by State Law, five members of Town Council received the oath of office from Magisterial District Judge Glenn K. Manns, and one returning Member, Heath Talhelm, was elected President of Town Council.

Every two years, following a municipal election, Town Council must meet on the First Monday of January to elect their officers from among their members. In 2018, the First Monday of January was a holiday, New Year's Day, and therefore all Borough Councils across Pennsylvania had to meet on Tuesday, January 2.

The first order of business was the oath of office for newly elected and re-elected Members of Council. Receiving the oath of office were: Barbara Beattie, Amer Chaudhry, Allen Coffman, Michael Herbert, and Heath Talhelm.

Mayor Walter Bietsch received the oath of office at an event earlier in the day.

In Chambersburg, there are five wards or designated neighborhoods. Each ward elects two Members of Council for a Town Council of ten members. Every two years, five members receive the oath of office.

After each Member of Town Council was seated, Mayor Bietsch chaired the election of the President of Town Council. Having received 6 votes, Heath Talhelm was elected President.

President Talhelm represents the Fifth Ward in Chambersburg. In past years he served as Vice-President of Town Council and Chair of the Parking, Traffic, and Street Lights Committee. He also served on the search committee for Police Chief Ron Camacho. President Talhelm served his nation in the U.S. Army and is active at both his church and the Chambersburg Ballet Theatre Company.

Council Member Alice Elia was elected as Vice-President of Town Council. She serves the First Ward of Chambersburg. Council Member Herb Dolaway, representing the Fifth Ward, was re-elected as Council Personnel Liaison. Council Member Samantha Bietsch, representing the Second Ward, was elected as Finance Chair of Town Council, and Council Member Mike Herbert, also representing the Second Ward, was elected as Assistant Finance Chair of Town Council.

Key positions on staff were re-appointed including Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill and Solicitor G. Bryan Salzmann.

Town Council acted to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Butch Leonhard, who is retiring later this month.

Town Council also acted to support the nomination of John Leary, Gas Superintendent, as the upcoming National Second Vice-President of the American Public Gas Association, to which Chambersburg is a member.

Town Council next meets on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Please send any questions to Jamia Wright, Borough Secretary, at [jwright@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jwright@chambersburgpa.gov)

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)