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Dormont Announces Long-Time Manager to Leave for Another Opportunity

Borough of Dormont – The Borough of Dormont Council today announced the resignation of its longtime borough manager/secretary Ben Estell who is leaving after a nine-year tenure for another opportunity in Central Pennsylvania. The council will officially accept his resignation at its July 1, 2024 business meeting.

“This moment is bittersweet. We’ve known that Ben would eventually move on to a new challenge, and I feel really lucky that we’ve kept him here for so long,” said Jennifer Mazzocco, President of Council. “He has seen us through so many big changes and has helped make Dormont an even better place to live. I’m proud of what he has accomplished, and at the same time, excited to find our next leader who will continue the excellent work Ben has done.”

Estell joined the borough in July 2015. During his time at the helm, he helped bring stability to the manager’s position that had historically high turnover. In that leadership role, he oversaw the promotions of several key staff members to leadership positions after internal development and was also responsible for an extended period of labor peace by working closely with union leaders.

"Despite some trials along the way, I have loved every moment I've had the privilege to serve the Borough of Dormont. While we all tend to look at the number and quality of projects completed to determine success, I am most proud of the relationships I built,” said Estell. “Whether it was with an elected official, one of my employees, a resident, or one of the many public servants I had the honor to work with in the region, I became a better manager and a better person because of those around me. I will forever be grateful to the entire community for the incredible experience I have had as the Borough of Dormont manager."

Estell accomplished a great deal during his tenure in Dormont. To highlight just a few:

- Oversaw complete zoning rewrite, moving to a form-based code with transit-oriented development;
- Established regional glass recycling program in Allegheny County;
- Helped craft a Family Leave Policy, delivering compassionate consideration to borough employees;
- Created a publicly accessible budget process that helped the borough plan for its future and track its successful implementation of its strategic plan;
- Oversaw multiple conservatorship projects that transformed dilapidated properties into high quality homes; and

- Developed a strong presence and reputation for Dormont throughout western Pennsylvania.

“Ben is a fantastic leader who has done transformational work for the Borough of Dormont for nearly a decade,” said Brandon Ledford, Vice President of Council. “I know he will continue his track record in his next role. I’m excited for the search for our next borough manager and am confident we will hire one of the best around who will continue to make this community great.”

Following the formal acceptance of Estell’s resignation, the borough intends to work with a search firm to identify and hire the borough’s next manager. The council will also discuss contracting for interim support until the next manager is selected.

Estell was selected as the next Executive Director of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) in State College, PA. His hiring was finalized on Monday, June 24 during the organization’s Coordinating Committee Meeting.

"After nine wonderful years in the Borough of Dormont, I am thrilled to continue my professional journey with the Centre Region Council of Governments,” said Estell. “Partnerships have been a cornerstone of my career, and the COG has been a national leader in cooperative governance. I look forward to becoming a part of the Centre Region team and finding new ways to provide superior service throughout our communities."

Estell’s last day with the borough will be August 23, 2024. As the hiring process is finalized by council, additional information and detail on the position and process will be posted on the borough website and publicly announced.

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