

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2020 @ 7:00PM
VIA ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by Council President Cathy Kernen at 7:11PM

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, President Pro Tem Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Kathy Costello, Council Member Craig Farr, Council Member Marion McKinney, Council Member Valerie Beckius and Mayor Wright-Riggins. Council Vice President Shannon Spencer did not attend.

Also in attendance were Solicitor Dan Grieser, Engineer Dave Leh, Borough Manager Geoff Thompson, Police Chief Bart Bucher and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2020 meeting by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION carries 6-0**

Ms. Kernen read a statement regarding the death of George Floyd:

Collegeville extends its sincere condolences to the family, friends, and supporters of Mr. George Floyd. The unlawful killing of Mr. Floyd while he was in police custody has acted as a touchstone for the frustration and anger about the daily insults and violence of racism in our nation, and the reality that not all persons are afforded equal protection under the law. We stand in solidarity against police brutality and against racism. Racism is a plague on our nation, and it is one that we must fight to overcome in politics, in the workplace, in our schools and universities, on our streets, and in our homes.

We are all created equal - every one of us. We may not have the same beliefs, the same access to resources or the same values, but we are all equally important as humans.

This country is comprised of people from every corner of our Earth; this mixture of culture and experience is what makes us so vibrant, eclectic, and innovative as a nation. But racism has plagued us from our very beginnings. The United States has suffered because of racism at every step along our path; and we have suffered because of it for long enough. It is time to put this scourge behind us and come together to work on healing our wounds and ensuring liberty and justice for all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson noted that 95% of taxes have been collected and that the EIT numbers should be available mid-July. He asked for approval for checks 4279-4336. **MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report and checks by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann, **MOTION carries 6-0**

Mr. Thompson recommended that the payment due to Public Works this year for the salt shed be borrowed from the Fire Apparatus Fund that now has a balance of \$547K. Ms. McKinney agreed that due to the fact that Public Works is persistently pressing for this payment, she would rather borrow from ourselves and be done with them and repay our own fund. Mr. Farr agreed that Public Works is being difficult.

MOTION to borrow funds from Fire Apparatus Fund to repay Public Works in full by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Beckius. **MOTION carries 6-0**

Business Development: Ms. Kernan noted that Gov. Wolf has moved Montgomery County from Red to Yellow as of June 5. That allows for socially distant outdoor dining. She proposed that we help our local businesses by allowing more outdoor space for them to serve people. She asked that a guideline be drafted and a no fee outdoor seating permit be designed.

Communications: No report

LPVRS: No report

CTMA: Mr. Farr noted that there have been some environmental animal issues during the sewer project. There are turtle nests near Arcola Rd that are being addressed. Mr. Farr also mentioned that there have been security complaints from Borough residents who back up to Waterworks Park. They discussed options for cameras. Mr. Hoffmann asked if there would be a financial impact on us even though that park is in Trappe.

Public Works: No Report

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius said the meeting took place on May 18. She said they are working on a regional map that will have two parts. The "story" is the guideline for the trail. The "web" will have locations, descriptions and photos of trail heads, fountains etc. There are plans for a Creekside park and boat ramp. Mr. Thompson said the 2040 Grant will be announced tomorrow. Ms. Beckius said the next meeting is set for June 15.

Planning Commission: Mr. Thompson asked for a Consideration of Scheduling a Public Hearing to Solicit Public Comments Regarding the Main Street Commercial Residential Zoning District. This would take place on July 1 at 6PM. Mr. Thompson noted that Chris Canavan is willing to take any Council Members who are interested to see the development in Lansdale that the Rees project will closely resemble.

MOTION to advertise the hearing by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION carries 6-0**

Parks: Ms. Costello noted that the ball field looks good since the drainage issues were addressed. They are waiting for a fence estimate as well as estimate for trees. Ms. Costello noted that the parks are reopening. The Mayor noted that he has been in touch with surrounding Mayors regarding this issue and that he feels it's important to post that large groups are not permitted and that the equipment is not being sanitized. That is up to the user. He suggests that every other swing be removed to keep up with social distancing.

Personnel: No Report

Streets, Public Safety & Lighting: Mr. Farr noted that the last meeting was cancelled. The “no trucks” signs have been put up on Park Ave.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Engineer: Mr. Leh reported that the Royal Farms project will begin shortly and paving may commence in June.

Solicitor: Mr. Grieser brought up the Borough considering a Human Relations Commission. He noted that several communities have such a commission. He said that usually there are five people on the board and that it sends a strong message to the community. **MOTION** to advertise the Human Relations Ordinance by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Farr. **MOTION carries 6-0**

Mr. Grieser asked also for Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing to Solicit Public Comments Regarding the Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License No. R-3261 from Chrismarc, Inc. to the Premises Located at 207 E Main Street, Collegeville, PA (Royal Farms) **MOTION** to schedule by the Public Hearing July 1, 2020 at 7:00PM by Ms. McKinney, second by Mr. Hoffman. **Motion carries 6-0**

Manager: No report

Police: Please see the following statement from the Montgomery County Police Chiefs Association regarding the murder of George Floyd. The Collegeville Police Department stands in unity with all law enforcement officers across the country in our disgust with what happened in Minneapolis, MN. We must be better as a profession.

The Police Chiefs' Association of Montgomery County would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Mr. George Floyd. Just like each of you, we witnessed the video of Mr. Floyd's death and were appalled by what we saw. Police brutality, callousness, and failure to render aid are unacceptable in Montgomery County Law Enforcement. As an organization, we are committed to providing our members with the guidance to help establish rigorous officer selection processes, on-going use of force and de-escalation training, state and/or international accreditation, strict professional standards and citizens' complaint processes. This guidance is provided to help all of our departments to achieve the highest level of professionalism.

While some may look at this video and believe that nothing has changed in policing, much has changed in Montgomery County. Over the past several years our police departments have gone to great lengths to engage with the communities we serve. These engagements are not merely public relations events, but meaningful and productive dialog with community members, community leaders, clergy and groups dealing with different forms of racial injustice. Many of our Chiefs are board members in these groups and work diligently to reduce inequality in any form in our county. In February of this year, our Executive Board met with the leaders of the Montgomery County Chapters of the NAACP to continue to improve the relationships between the police and the communities we serve. We have also taken a strong stand against inappropriate conduct committed by officers and have made the sanctity of human life a guiding principle in our agencies.

As an association we join with you in your disgust of what you saw in that video, but we ask you to not let this incident destroy the progress that we have made here in Montgomery County. We ask you to keep working with us to keep injustice and violence from our county. As we all mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd, let us come together and continue to communicate so that we can keep fighting against racial injustice and make Montgomery County safe for all persons. The police officers in Montgomery County take an oath to

serve and protect all of our citizens and to never discriminate based on a person's race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Our officers have continuously shown that they are compassionate and caring individuals who are willing to sacrifice their safety for their fellow citizens.

Police Chiefs' Association of Montgomery County

Collegeville Fire Company: No Report

Trappe Ambulance: No Report

Mayor: The Mayor noted that he met with 8 other area borough mayors about moving from red to yellow on Wednesday. Although mayors are not the initial decision makers on this in the boroughs, our group is urging communities to move cautiously. As you can see, for Royersford, that means that while the playgrounds will be open, the equipment will be cleaned every day. For other boroughs, we are recommending that fields be open but that playground equipment that is not be cleaned daily. In practically all cases, the restrooms will not be open at all, and people are notified of that. The mayors want to encourage walking and jogging but not congregating. For that reason, pavilion areas are suggested remaining closed. Some mayors are discussing encouraging their studio like businesses (like yoga and Pilates) to move to outdoor space in parks and parking lots to keep their business alive.

MOTION to Approval of the Committee and Administrative Reports by Ms. McKinney, second by Mr. Farr, **Motion carries 6-0**

Public Comments: no comments

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration of Keystone Municipal Services Inspections Proposal: Mr. Thompson noted billing and efficiency issues with current Inspection Company, LTL Consultants. He is recommending changing to Keystone Inspection Services. **MOTION** to approve the change by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION carries 6-0**

Consideration of Resolution No. 2020-07, Establishing Guidelines for Outdoor Dining: **MOTION** to approve Outdoor Dining guidelines by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann, **MOTION carries 6-0**

Consideration of Resolution No. 2020-08, Appointing a Zoning Hearing Board Alternate: Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Botti has stepped down as an Alternate from the Zoning Hearing Board and needs to be replaced. Ms. Kernan requested a voice vote for the candidates. Five votes for Penny Balzareit and Ms. McKinney voted for Dante. **MOTION** to appoint Penny Balzareit as an alternate for the ZHB by Mr. Farr with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION carries 5-1**

The Mayor took a moment to thank Chief Bucher and the Police Department for their dedication. Mr. Hoffmann said how much everyone appreciates the Chief. Ms. Kernan agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55PM

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