

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Council President Cathy Kernen.

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, Council Pro Tem Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Marion McKinney, Council Member Craig Farr, Council Member Kathy Costello, Council Member Valarie Beckius and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins. Council Member Shannon Spencer was absent.

Also in attendance: Solicitor Dan Grieser, Engineer Dave Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher and Acting Borough Manager Suzanne Robertson.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2020 meeting by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jen Pradziad 299 W 5th Ave

Ms. Pradziad said she is here to discuss the No Parking signs on W 5th Ave. She noted that she has lived at this address for 11 years and her guests have always parked on the street. She has noticed excessive speeding on her street and around the corner on Clayhor Ave since the No Parking signs went up. She said that she does not feel safe having her son ride his bike on the sidewalk for fear of speeders running up the curb.

Chief Bucher explained that there is an ordinance on the books (he does not know why the No Parking signs were removed) and the Fire Police were complaining that when there are cars on both sides of the street, the Fire trucks cannot pass. Ms. Pradziad said that she is supportive of the safety of first responders, but that she doesn't understand why it has to be on her side of the street as the hydrants are on the other side.

Elaine Petrie 199 W 5th Ave

Ms. Petrie agreed with Ms. Pradziad. She said the parked forced people to slow down on 5th Ave.

Gabe Moliken 293 W 5th Ave

Mr. Moliken said the ban on parking it is a hardship for his family because he has many drivers and only a single driveway. This no parking on his side of the street is causing he and his family members to always be jockeying the cars around. It's very inconvenient. He agreed that the speeding has increased.

Robert Botti

Mr. Botti noted that he worked on traffic committees for years with Ms. Kernen. He highlighted many of the ongoing issues in the borough with regard to speeding.

Ms. Pradziad admitted that she is not an expert on speed calming. She heard of a study in Seattle that stated that if there is an accident at a speed of 25 MPH or less, it will not result in a fatality.

Chief Bucher noted that we have one officer and there are speeding issues on W 9th Ave as well as Clayhor and Park Avenues. Prior to this conversation, he has not heard complaints about any speeding on W 5th. The Chief pointed out that overall in the entire borough, there have only been fourteen reportable accidents this year so far. A "reportable" accident is when a vehicle has to be towed or there

is injury. That is not a very high number especially for this late in the year. We will certainly add your concerns to our list for the Public Safety Committee.

Ms. Petrie asked if speed bumps are a consideration. She also asked if it would be considered to switching the NO PARKING to the other side of the street.

Chief Bucher said this would have to be considered by Council to change the ordinance.

Mr. Hoffmann said he noticed when he drove through; he said it does make sense to him to move the band on parking to the other side because of the hydrants.

Ms. McKinney feels it is time for Council to take a trip to take a look. That is always how we do it!

She did say she noticed that when there are parked cars on a road, it does slow traffic. Thank you to the Chief for enforcing the ordinance and now we will take a look at the best option.

The Mayor said this public comment is a good time for hearing concerns and now this issue will go back to the Public Safety Committee for review.

Ms. Beckius agreed.

Ms. McKinney thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and bringing their concerns.

Ms. Petrie asked what the next steps are.

Ms. Kernan said the issue will go to the committee for review and they will work with the Chief. We are aware of the speeding issues in the Borough. We do realize that any changes made affect everyone.

We want to be careful to not cause another problem for someone else! Please call or email Suzanne for an update.

Mr. Farr noted that all meetings are open and he encourages all to attend for the conversation.

The ZOOM meeting links are on the website calendar.

Ms. Pradziad thanked all for listening.

Ms. Kernan closed the Public Comment session.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Ms. Augustine presented the Treasure's report.

MOTION to approve the Treasure's report and Check #'s 4531-4574 by Mr. Farr with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

Mr. Farr asked for clarification of receiving the taxes on time. Ms. Augustine said we are on track but there are still COVID delays.

Mr. Hoffmann thanked Ms. Augustine and Ms. Robertson for their help preparing the new budget.

He noted that we are making changes this year. We plan to pay as much as possible outright rather than borrowing which will lower our interest paid out. There will be no tax increases this year!

Ms. McKinney asked for clarification about paying CTMA back for the land for the salt shed.

Mr. Hoffmann said we paid outright from our funds by tightening our belts and not borrowing from the Fire Apparatus fund and then having to pay that back with interest.

He explained that this will be the way, going forward, that we are going to handle debt when possible.

MOTION to advertise the 2021 budget by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan said the committee met on Oct 26. Mike Lowrey presented a rough draft of the new Collegeville Revitalization Plan. It would be great if part of the new plan would be to include art and murals on our Main Street. The committee plans to meet with Lisa Hanover and Betsy Witt from the Berman Museum at Ursinus College to help us with that endeavor. The committee had a presentation from artist Michael Adams who did a beautiful mural of the old Collegeville Train Station and Perkiomen Trail. He gave us some ideas for what we could possibly do. The Keenan Law Firm has bought the Key Bank building and we are working with two restaurants concerning opening locations in that space. One of them is Steel City. They owners are also considering a drive thru ice cream shop in a small section of the bank which would use the old bank drive thru. The building will be remodeled and could really perk up our Main Street.

COMMUNICATIONS: No Report

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted there is a meeting on Nov 16. The interactive trail map is still being edited and we are close to the final product. There will be an annual summary at the meeting.

CTMA: Mr. Farr noted the treatment charge at the Authority will not change this year which is good news!

LPVRS: Ms. Robertson reported the Sewer Authority report for Ms. Stagliano:

- During the month of October, three EDU's were approved.
- Methacton School District requested a capacity Rights Transfer but was not approved by the board.
- The 2019 Financial Audit by the Maillie Accounting Firm was submitted and approved with no concerns.
- Flood damage during the August 4/5th storm still being repaired.
- Sewer pipe installation in Collegeville Borough is complete until near end of the project.
- Installation of the bypass pump system near Arcola Road is complete. It will be monitored 24/7.
- Pipe installation near the zone where the eagles nest started the week of October 21st. Construction will stop before January 1, 2021 in anticipation of eagle nesting.
- The interceptor project is approximately 40% complete with a fall 2022 completion date.
- The 2021 sewer authority budget was approved with no rate increase for 2021.

PARKS: Ms. Costello said she and Ms. Beckius attended a workshop about the availability of grants. She also noted that she was contacted by Michelle Evans at Phoenixville Hospital about a new program "Young Lungs at Play". They would like to work with us in an effort to avoid children coming in contact with second hand smoke in our parks and public places. She is not aware if there are NO SMOKING signs at our parks now. Additionally, we have two Eagle Scouts, Naman and Ryan, who have contacted the Borough regarding a Eagle Scout projects. They would like to build a "gaga pit" in our park. The Borough needs to approve the quality of the construction and where exactly it would best be placed. Kathy thinks that near the basketball court would be a good spot.

Mr. Farr asked what a "gaga pit" is. Ms. Costello said it is similar to dodgeball being played in a pit. Ms. McKinney asked if there is any liability to the borough. Ms. Costello said further research is necessary.

Mr. Tweedie noted there is a “gaga pit” at PV Middle School East if anyone wants to see one.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernen announced that Ms. Twardowski will be starting as our new manager on November 16. We are all excited to have her join us!

PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney said they had a conversation about the cell tower money. The funds went from \$80K to \$60K and we had questions about that. Ms. Johnson from Trappe asked for Mr. Hastings to release the funds to the boroughs. There will be more to report next month. Ms. McKinney said they discussed becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. Mr. Grieser explained it is a mutual aid agreement that agencies that provide water join for water resources in an emergency. If Public Works provided water for another municipality, it would be repaid. He recommends joining as does Mr. Hastings.

MOTION to Authorize the CTJPWD to Become a Member of the Pennsylvania Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (PaWARN) by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Kernen

MOTION carries 6-0

STREETS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LIGHTING: Mr. Farr wants to inform everyone that all the photocells in the streetlights have been replaced throughout the Borough. If anyone sees any lights on in the daytime, please contact the Borough office.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh noted that First Ave has been closed from Main Street down to Transfleet. The intention is to have it open by Saturday, the 14th. The contractor is working overnight to make that deadline. Progress is good so far and there is good weather ahead! When the closure ends, the new road will be operational. The Freeland Square developer (WB Homes) is working on a conditional use application to be submitted in a couple of weeks and hopes to go before the Planning Commission in December.

The applicant for the 8th Ave subdivision is heading to the Zoning Hearing Board in hopes to get a special exception for the proposed flag lots.

Glenwood Reserve is getting close to closing the project. The widening of Glenwood Ave is underway and they are finishing up the buffering and clean up.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Grieser participated in meetings with Mr. Leh for the subdivision on 8th Ave. He also noted that WB Homes is pleased with the new name “Freeland Square” and is moving forward.

MANAGER: Ms. Robertson noted that she has been working with the Mayor to make use of the generous funds from the Rotary for the new logo. We are waiting for proofs of posters for our businesses to put in their windows with the phrase “Local is Essential”, car magnets, new letterhead and some fleece vests for Council in anticipation of possibly being at events in the area next year. She said that she has had various meetings with Ms. Kernen, Mr. Leh and Mr. Grieser regarding all the topics discussed at this meeting.

Ms. Kernen took the opportunity to thank the Rotary for their generous donation to rebrand our Borough using our new logo!

POLICE: Chief Bucher's report is available to all that would like to read it. He noted that officers are now going through the Water Works Park 3-4 times per night. The officers are finding mostly people playing "Pokemon Go", but that a few cars were where they should not be. He hopes the word will get out in the area that police are patrolling and that they will find somewhere else to go! The officers have been spending a lot of time on E 9th Ave to deter that residential road being used as part of the temporary detour from First Ave. He noted that officers spent some time down on E First Ave dealing with unhappy residents affected by the road closure.

The Chief wanted to make note of a letter sent by a resident praising our newest officer, Bret Davis, for all of his help with their special needs son. Ms. Kernen said she also saw the letter, and wanted to congratulate Officer Davis on his compassionate handling of the situation for our resident and their son. Ms. Kernen asked the Chief to please let Bret know that we feel lucky to have him on the force! The Chief noted that "Drug Take Back Day" was very successful—over 200 lbs. of drugs were collected.

MAYOR: The Mayor noted that he, the Chief and Judge Rebar participated in a forum on criminal justice that was sponsored by the Rotary Club back in October. He praised the Chief for the great job he did. The Mayor led a program with Leda Peterson on Community Connect on Facebook Live. The subject was "An Immigrant's Journey". He talked about the stream clean up with the Perkiomen Watershed. They found a lot of trash and tires and spent about three hours cleaning up. He feels we need to educate the community about dumping things in the creek.

FIRE: Mr. Freas reported 31 incidents in the month of October. He noted that 8 of those were in the Borough. There were 155 man hours of service to the community that consisted of calls, training and building maintenance.

Ms. Kernen asked the Mayor to extend our thanks to the Rotary Club for their donation of the bike fixit station.

MOTION to approve the Administrative Reports by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann
MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Botti commented that a mailbox being hit on Fifth Ave was directly related to someone cutting the corner from Clayhor Ave.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:39PM

