

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2021

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Council President Cathy Kernen, PPT Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Marion McKinney (via ZOOM), Council Member Craig Farr, Council Member Kathy Costello (via ZOOM), Council Member Valarie Beckius and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins. Spencer absent.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Dan Grieser, Engineer Dave Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the September meeting by Ms. Beckius with a second by Mr. Farr
MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Kernen announced that there had been an executive session before this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Ms. Twardowski directed the attendees to the front table for handouts that outline the newest information from Montgomery County and FEMA. She also gave a short overview of the procedures the borough has to follow to ensure its enrollment in National Flood Insurance Plan. There was a short video played that is available on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Penny Balzereit 232 Freeland Drive: Ms. Balzereit brought a letter to the meeting that she received in the mail. She believes the letter is from the Republican Committee and mentions items that she claims are untrue.

She wondered if there is a way to stop this type of (false, in her opinion) information from being sent to people. Ms. Kernen thanked her for bringing this to everyone's attention and responded briefly.

Jean Tewell 145 Glenwood Avenue – Ms. Tewell said that he is concerned about three street lights that are not working on Glenwood Ave. Halloween is coming and a lot of people walk on the block and it's very dark. Ms. Twardowski explained that there has been trouble with getting parts, but she will try to get it taken care of soon!

Richard Cossentino 185 Glenwood Avenue - pointed out that Ms. Twardowski has been attentive to their complaint and they appreciate her help with this matter.

Joanne Miller 3 W First Avenue – Ms. Miller said that she has been homeless since the storm and wants to know what needs to be done to have her property bought out by any of the agencies that handle that. She noted that her neighbor Mary Rapp is also ready to move on.

Albert Angelucci 192 Park Avenue – Mr. Angelucci praised the new speed pillows and also asked if Larkin Lane could have the potholes addressed.

James DeVries 137 Russell Circle – Mr. DeVries asked for an update on the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel. It has sustained more damage during the storm and he thinks it should be demolished. Ms. Twardowski explained that a notice of violation has been sent requiring the owner, at the least, put up fencing all

around the building. The violation also noted that porches and additions to the original structure will need to be removed.

Craig Penuel asked if there is a timeline for the additions to be removed.

Mr. Grieser said that the deadline for the fence was Monday, but that he has more time to remove the additions.

Chuck Draksler 484 Shakespeare Drive – Mr. Draksler asked how “non-compliance” is explained in the Floodplain Ordinance. Ms. Twardowski explained that properties located in the floodway are not to be rebuilt. She is not sure we have any with that status. Homes in the floodplain can be fixed as long as they are raised 1.5 feet over base flood elevation as per FEMA guidelines. So far, no one has applied for permits so she is not sure if improvements/modifications have begun. The floodplain ordinance require permits for more items than normally required under the UCC, for example, removal and replacement of drywall, replacement of HVAC systems, etc.

Aileen from the PV Library gave an update. The library is back open 46 hours per week. They had many outdoor activities during the summer and now are moving everything back indoors. Masks must be worn in the library.

Ms. Kernan asked Ms. Costello for an update on the flood cleanup. Ms. Costello noted that most of the area on W First Avenue is cleaned up. She has been working with about twenty volunteers over the last two weeks. Transfleet handled the demolition and removal of two destroyed homes. The County debris pick up will continue until October 17.

MOTION to approve waiving permit fees (not permits) for those properties damaged by Hurricane Ida by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve letters of intent to apply for grants for the acquisition of properties and for repairing culverts by Ms. Beckius with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve advertising our new Rental Inspection Ordinance by Mr. Farr with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

Brian Freas of Claymont Drive expressed his concerns about the fire trucks having trouble with passing over the speed pillows if there is a car in the oncoming lane. Mr. Hoffmann asked him to please keep council advised if this turns out to be a problem.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

Mayor’s presentation of the STATE OF THE BOROUGH (available on website)

BUDGET & FINANCE: Ms. Twardowski asked for approval of checks 5097-5131 along with payroll and ACH transfers of \$221,915.08

MOTION to approve checks 5097—5131 and the Treasurer’s report by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski requested that since we are ending this year under budget, to pay off the street light loan in full for an interest savings of \$900

MOTION to approve paying off the street light loan in full for \$49,972.00 (approx.) by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan noted that the last meeting was on September 27 and most of the discussion was about the planned Main St overlay Ordinance. This pertains to the corner of 5th & Main Streets and would allow for mixed use of the properties. This would allow for retail, commercial or restaurants on the first floor and apartments above. The hope is to maintain the small town character we all love.

MOTION to approve the College Gateway Main Street overlay moving on to the Planning Commission by Ms. Beckius with a second by Ms. McKinney

MOTION carries 6-0

COMMUNICATIONS: No report

REGIONAL PLANNING: Ms. Beckius reported that at the September meeting, most of the discussion was about the trail map and how it will be promoted. They discuss their priority goal for 2022 which is a private landowner stewardship guidebook. Everyone reported the damage from Hurricane Ida in their respective municipalities. The next meeting is November 15 at 7PM.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. Beckius reported that the sanitary sewer for Freeland Square has been installed. There was a sewer clog on Main Street that has been cleared. Public Works discussed two wells that were damaged during the storm and that one that was submerged will need new instrumentation. The water quality was tested and found to be safe, but there was an issue at the lab that caused a delay in our results.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano said that she felt it necessary to defend prior Councils in light of the comments made during the Mayor's report. She expressed her disappointment at some of the comments made. In October, there were 330 EDU's. There was major damage from Ida that caused delays. They had to redesign the elevation. The middle creek interceptor is 75% complete. The new target completion date is October of 2022.

PARKS: Ms. Costello said she got an estimate from American Paving to resurface the basketball and hockey courts for \$35K. She plans to work with Ms. Twardowski to see if there are any grants available. The new fencing has been installed and the backstop expanded at the ball field in the hope that foul balls will not escape the field. Ms. Costello requested to use money from the Memorial Fund to install steps next to the memorial. The hill is a little steep and will make access to the memorial and the playground safer. Mr. Penuel is concerned that those funds would be used for what he considers a park issue. Ms. Stagliano said that she would have appreciated a phone call about this matter as she is the one that raised all of the funds for the Memorial and she agrees that those funds are to only be used for the repair, maintenance and landscaping of the memorial. Mr. Hoffmann asked Ms. Twardowski to find the money elsewhere for the steps. It was discussed that the borough would take over the maintenance of the memorial and then the funds can be used for any project needed.

MOTION to approve \$8K from the general fund to install steps from 4th Avenue into the park by Ms. Beckius with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LIGHTING: Mr. Farr said that he has received mostly positive feedback regarding the speed pillows. There was another discussion regarding the intersection of Freeland Drive and Route 29. Mr. Farr noted that there close to one hundred storm drains in the borough and they cost \$1200 each to replace. He is budgeting for twenty next year to get started. The committee discussed using a paving technique known as “seal & chip” for some of the roads that have spider cracks. As opposed to a complete repave that costs \$12 per square foot, this process only costs \$4 per square foot. Mr. Farr thinks this is something to consider for some of the roads that need attention, but are not in the worst shape. Mr. Penuel asked how it would hold up with plowing. Mr. Leh explained that it is usually done in the summer months and is completely set by the time winter comes. In his experience, it holds up fine to plowing. Mr. Farr said there are three culverts that are in need of replacement and has discussed a full assessment from Gilmore & Associates (our engineering firm) to explore which one or ones are most in need, the time frame and urgency and also if there is any financial benefit of doing them at the same time.

MOTION to approve an engineering study that will cost \$4600 to assess the culverts on 5th, 6th, & 8th Avenues by Mr. Farr with a second by Mr. Hoffmann.

MOTION carries 6-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that construction at Freeland Square continues. The first townhouse block has been framed. The 2021 paving project, including the Park Ave speed pillows, has been completed. Our permit application for the First Avenue boat launch project has been submitted to the PA-DEP for review.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Grieser said he has been working on various issues with the manager and engineer, most of which was already discussed tonight.

MANAGER:

MOTION to appoint the members of the Streets, Public Safety & Lighting committee as the appeals board for the property maintenance code by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski announced that there will be a Boat Launch Park cleanup day on October 17 from 9AM – 4PM. The park is located at the end of West First Avenue. Wear boots and bring gloves! We are grateful for any and all help!

POLICE:

MOTION to approve the revised Uniformed Police Pension MMO for 2022 in the amount of \$97,955.00 by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve our Fire Police to assist in Lower Providence on October 9th and in West Norriton on November 6 by Ms. Beckius with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2021-21 authorizing the Main Street road closure on Wednesday, October 27 from 6PM – 8PM for the Halloween Parade by Mr. Farr with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

FIRE: Mr. Penuel said the responded to thirty calls in twenty-four hours during the hurricane and he has not had time to finish his reports. There will be a full report next month.

AMBULANCE: No report

MAYOR: The Mayor thanked Ms. Stagliano for her comments and apologized if he offended anyone. He noted that he is thankful all prior councils and their work in the borough. He appreciates the long term vision put forth by this current group of council members.

MOTION to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Beckius with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:05PM