

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA  
September 2, 2020 @ 7PM via ZOOM

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

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

Ms. Kernen noted that there was an Executive Session on August 12 to discuss a personnel matter. She also stated that Governor Wolfe has extended his executive order that public meetings can continue to be held via ZOOM until the end of November.

MOTION to approve the 8-05-2020 meeting minutes by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer  
MOTION carries 7-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Budget & Finance:** Ms. Kernen introduced Linda Augustine, Borough Treasurer, to everyone and noted that she will be presenting the Finance Reports going forward.

Consideration of the Treasurer's Report: Ms. Augustine explained the budget vs. actual amounts in the report. She noted that the Earned Income Tax is coming in on track. She explained the two large expenditures were for the salt shed repayment. \$100K was paid out of the savings account and the other \$17K was written from the general fund. She noted that with the insurance bills, pension fund and police holiday plan there may be a shortage toward the end of the year and that it will be borrowed from the fire apparatus fund and paid back early 2021. Ms. Kernen clarified that this will be coming from the fire apparatus fund, not the fire departments general fund. Mr. Hoffmann noted that the loan will be paid back with interest. She also requested approval for checks #4424-4478.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and check # 4424-4478 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer.  
MOTION carries 7-0

Mr. Hoffmann had some questions for Ms. Augustine about the end of the year budget expenditures and it was decided they would meet to discuss in a few days for clarification.

**Business Development:** Ms. Kernen said the committee met on August 24. Chris Canavan from WB Homes was a guest speaker and had great ideas on how to attract developers and businesses to our Main Street. Ms. Kernen announced that Ursinus College has plans to paint the smoke stack black and has hired Brooklyn artist Katie Mertz to do a white grease pencil mural depicting the struggles of the class of 2020. Ms. Kernen noted that at last month's meeting Mark Polignano, the owner of Rascals Fitness, told the committee that it has been hard to get people to come back to the gym. He said they have cleaning protocols in place, but that people are still afraid and it's been a struggle. They discussed starting a "Local is Essential" campaign.

Communications: Ms. Spencer said that she and Ms. Robertson met to work on the Newsletter. Going forward there will be a more firm schedule for when the newsletter goes out. There is a content deadline on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. There will be an open meeting at noon on that day to discuss the topics. Anyone can email ideas (no ads or politics) to [info@council.collegeville-pa.gov](mailto:info@council.collegeville-pa.gov), [sspencer@council.collegeville-pa.gov](mailto:sspencer@council.collegeville-pa.gov) or [srobertson@borough.collegeville-pa.gov](mailto:srobertson@borough.collegeville-pa.gov)

CPVRPC: Ms. Stagliano was not present, but her report was read by Ms. Robertson:

The interceptor project is proceeding well after the flooding from the last storm. The area along First Ave and behind Collegeville Crossing will be finished soon. They will return in 2022 to connect across the Perkiomen Creek at the old Collegeville Inn. Power was lost once again for a few days at the plant. We will be looking at a generator system, however it may be cost prohibitive and due to the fact that power loss is rare, we may not decide to do it. I have

asked the LPVRS manager to contact PECO to discuss anything that they can do to help with power outages in the future. The normal maintenance and repairs are always being done.

CTMA: Mr. Farr said there was not much to report. They are concerned about the overruns for the sewer project.

PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney brought up the added insurance amount needed to insure Trappe on our plan for the Police patrolling Public Works, the Annex and Water Works Park. She said she likes the idea that Ms. Beckius had about having Public Works pay the additional fee. Ms. McKinney asked why that is even in the agreement. Mr. Grieser said that that language was always in there. He said he would include it if the situation were reversed. He noted that if something did happen there, Trapped would be named in any potential lawsuit. This would protect them.

Mr. Farr stated that since both Collegeville and Trappe own the properties, he doesn't understand why we should hold all the liability. Mr. Grieser said it is because we have asked for the police patrolling, which involves our police. Mr. Farr agrees about charging Public Works and does not think that Mr. Hastings will argue.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Ms. Beckius said there have been some software issues but she thinks the map will be finished for the September meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No meeting

PARKS: Ms. Costello said that she met with Suzanne and Valerie at the park along with the owner of Eagleville Fence and ordered the fence to further safely close in the playground. The fence will cost \$5K. She asked if it would be possible to use the funds left over from the summer concerts (\$7200) to pay for that and the proposed new ADA swing. These funds had been previously frozen in March due to COVID 19 concerns about EIT contributions. She also requested to use the funds collected from Royal Farms and the contractor on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave for more trees along Third Ave at the park. She asked Council to approve \$500 to pay for "bagsters" to aid cleanup for residents that incurred damage from the storm August 4. She noted that the Rotary has agreed to help pay. Ms. McKinney asked about the procedure for the committee in making financial decisions. She thought all purchases had to be approved by Council. Ms. Costello said that she thought she only had to go to the manager for approval. Ms. Spencer said that her understanding was that once a committee has an approved amount in the budget, it is their discretion to use them. Mr. Grieser agreed.

MOTION to approve \$500 for bagsters by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Kern asked that Council hold off on deciding about the frozen funds until Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Augustine have a closer look at the budget.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kern stated that she and the Personnel committee (she, Mr. Hoffmann, and Mr. Farr) have been reviewing the more than 60 resumes and plan to begin preliminary interviews next week. They will then bring the top candidates along with Ms. Robertson before all of Council to be interviewed for the Borough Manager position. Ms. Spencer asked how many that would be. Ms. Kern said she was not sure, but believes it will be 5. She said they have some great applicants and thinks Council will have good options with different skill sets to choose from.

STREETS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LIGHTING: Mr. Farr said they discussed speeding issues on Park Ave and proposed that Council looks into speed pillows for traffic calming. He explained they are lower than the usual speed "bumps" and allows for clearance by emergency vehicles. He said Chief Bucher sent out requests to neighboring towns and found that they are not widely used. He noted that Lower Providence tried them and were not pleased. He has seen them used in Upper Providence near Gumbes Rd and felt they were effective in slowing traffic. Chief Bucher said they are not "pillows" in Upper Providence, they are bumps. Mr. Farr said that he thinks the signage and the repainting of the crosswalks has been effective, but that homeowners do not feel it is enough. The Chief said there have been fewer trucks on the road and that has helped. He noted that he does not live on the street and can understand that the residents want more done. Ms. Spencer asked if speed "cushions" are the same as "pillows". Mr. Farr said they are. Mr. Farr said regarding Public Safety, they discussed the blowout of the culvert on Stratford Ave. He also noted the great cleanup job provided by Public Works on Russell Circle. It was also noted that 9<sup>th</sup> Ave had a tree down during the storm that damaged wires and affected electricity and cable. Mr. Farr is waiting for the photo cells to be replaced.

He asked Ms. Robertson if there was any update as to when the lights would be fixed. Ms. Robertson said that she is aware of a conversation between Mr. Thompson and Mr. Fuller regarding the lights. Mr. Fuller was requesting the final payment and Mr. Thompson refused until the work started. Mr. Fuller told Mr. Thompson it should start in a few weeks.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Engineer: Mr. Leh reported that construction on site, work on utilities and site grading for Royal Farms continues. The installation of the storm sewer and curbing for the relocated Second Avenue is substantially complete. The 2020 Paving Project has been completed and we have received a payment request from the contractor. We have issued a recommendation for payment. A staff meeting was held with a potential applicant looking to create a four-lot subdivision on this property. The applicant will come before the Planning Commission at their September meeting to discuss the various options they are considering. Mr. Leh said the drainage bump for a 10<sup>th</sup> Ave driveway was completed and asked Mr. Hoffmann if he had seen it. Mr. Hoffmann said he went to see it right after the storm and it seemed to be working fine. He contacted Mr. Korenkiewicz to let him know and hasn't heard back from him. He feels confident that Mr. Korenkiewicz has seen it. Mr. Leh asked Mr. Freas if he approved of the repaving of the damage done to the Firehouse parking lot. Mr. Freas said yes.

MOTION to pay Innovative Construction \$111,037.30 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Farr. MOTION carries 7-0  
MOTION to pay final payment Breezecon Construction \$10,315.00 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Farr  
MOTION carries 7-0

SOLICITOR: Mr. Grieser told Mr. Farr that he has seen speed pillows in his neighborhood of Doylestown and that he would take pictures and send them over. His office worked on an emergency declaration after the hurricane. He also noted that he worked with Ms. Robertson in her role as Acting Manager. Additionally, he also worked on a storm water agreement for a bleacher project at Ursinus College.

MANAGER: Ms. Robertson asked for approval for the 2021 MMO Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Plan. MOTION to approve the 2021 MMO Uniform Pension Plan by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer MOTION carries 7-0  
MOTION to approve the 2021 MMO Non Uniform Pension Plan by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Beckius  
MOTION carries 7-0

Mr. Grieser noted that the amounts should be recorded in the minutes even though Council is in possession of the reports.

**\*\*FOR THE RECORD:** Uniform amount is \$94,267.00 / Non-Uniform amount is \$119,480.00

POLICE: Chief Bucher referenced his report and asked if anyone had any questions. He told Mr. Farr that he will reach out to the Chief in Doylestown to request information about the speed pillows. Mr. Farr noted with praise that Chief Bucher's report shows that illegal events are down and patrolling is up. He thanked the Chief for his efforts. Ms. McKinney asked the Chief about one of the line items in his report. She is confused that there shows zero listed for "Drug Violations" but two for "Narcotics". The Chief explained that in the Uniform Crime Report that using and selling are in different categories.

COLLEGEVILLE FIRE COMPANY: Mr. Freas reported that there were 45 calls in the month and 182 man hours for the Fire Company. He said those hours consist of action calls, meetings and training. He noted that the annual 5K run this year will be virtual. Participants will have a two week window to finish the event and then submit their times online. Mr. Freas said there has been a formation of a long range planning committee to begin to make decisions about apparatus replacement. Some of their equipment dates back to 1993. They continue to have staffing issues. He noted that they only have 20 people they consider active and available. He is hoping that with the new homes they may get some new people involved.

TRAPPE AMBULANCE: No report

MAYOR: The Mayor noted that COVID 19 and the concerns surrounding it remain the big issue for the Borough, the county and the country. He is pleased with the transparency of Ursinus College now that students are back on

campus and the dashboard available on their website that maintains reports of all positive COVID-19 cases. The Mayor also praised the good relationship between Council, himself and the Police Chief. He continues to collaborate with the Chief on the relationship with law enforcement and the black community. He spoke about his work with the Rotary and the forums on race he has been producing with them.

Ms. McKinney thanked the Mayor for his forum and said how much she enjoyed the program. Mr. Farr agreed they were thought provoking. Mr. Farr reiterated his idea about the car magnet ovals depicting Collegeville Borough.

MOTION to approve the Committee & Administrative Reports by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer  
MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Aileen Johnson Schwenksville Public Library—Ms. Johnson said their long construction project is finally over. It went \$500K over budget. She thanked Council for their support again this year. She said they are open for limited hours for curbside pickup and inside. There is no in person programming yet. They are hosting the Red Cross Blood Drives and said there will be two per month through December.

Rich Wallace 92 6<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Wallace noted he was not speaking for Ursinus College but as an employee and resident. He wanted to note that through the second week of testing on campus (about 430 students) there were no positive cases. Recently 800 more students came onto campus and once again no positives. He wanted to share that there is good news in higher education!

Ms. Kernan noted that she thinks the campus might be the safest place in Collegeville due to the amount of testing and the way the students are following the rules!

Henry Vlanco 915 Chestnut – Mr. Vlanco noted that in the last newsletter, in the COVID area, it was stated that face masks should be worn anytime one is outside and cannot be socially distant. He noticed that when he clicked the link for more info, it was stated that if you are outside and six feet away from someone not in your family, that a mask is not needed. He feels that these statements are contradictory. He said there are many discrepancies on the state website. Ms. Spencer thanked him and said she will look for the correct link.

ACTION ITEMS: Ms. Kernan said the following action items are all related to Mr. Thompson leaving the Borough

MOTION to Ratify Suzanne Robertson as the Acting Borough Manager, Right-to-Know Officer and Zoning Officer for a period of 90 days, effective immediately by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to Ratify an increase in pay of \$1500 per month to Suzanne Robertson while she is serving as Acting Borough Manager by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Farr  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to Ratify Geoff Thompson as a professional consultant at \$75 per hour for up to 20 hours a week to assist the Acting Manager, Suzanne Robertson Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to Ratify Bart Bucher and Suzanne Robertson, if Bart has a conflict, as a second signatory with TD Bank (the Borough's general account) and Phoenixville Federal (liquid fuels account) as the co-signer for the borough's checks by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve an increase in pay of \$5 per hour to Linda Augustine for additional work assigned to her while we are without a permanent Borough Manager by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer  
MOTION carries 7-0

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Robertson asked the committee chairs to please start working on their budget wish lists and submit them by the end of September so that the new 2021 budget can be put together, presented to Council, advertised and passed by the December meeting.

The Mayor noted that he enjoyed having Ms. Augustine at the meeting. He found it refreshing to have the person who prepares the financial reports be the one to present it. All agreed.

Ms. Kernan asked Council if they had any objections to adding a second public comment section to the beginning of the meeting. That way someone could state their business/issue without having to wait two hours for the end of the meeting. She explained there will still be time at the end if something comes up during the reports for comment at the end. All agreed.

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:00 PM