

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 7, 2018 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Council Vice President, Mat McKnight

ROLL CALL: Council Vice President Mat McKnight, Council Member Terri Stagliano, Council Member Shannon Spencer, Council Member Cathy Kernan, Council Member Hugh Braun and Mayor Wright-Riggins. Also in attendance were Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Borough Manager Geoff Thompson, Chief Bart Bucher, Engineer Dave Leh and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson

SWEARING IN CEREMONY NEW POLICE OFFICER BRET DAVIS: Mayor Wright-Riggins swore in Officer Bret Davis. Police Chief Bucher and Bret Davis' family were present for the ceremony.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **MOTION** to approve October 3, 2018 meeting by Ms. Stagliano, Second by Ms. Spencer, *MOTION approved 5-0.*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson requested approval of checks 3250-3296 and noted the budget report. He also noted that salt has been ordered to be ready for the upcoming winter. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Stagliano, Second by Ms. Kernan *MOTION approved 5-0.*

Business Development: Ms. Kernan stated that for the October meeting she had invited Jean Krack, Borough Manager of Phoenixville, to come and tell them in detail how they attracted businesses and developers to their business district. He gave a lot of great tips and information and we didn't want to let him go! He lives in Collegeville Borough and would also like to see a more vibrant business district here. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us for our next meeting on Monday, November 26 at 7PM here at the Borough. We are going to review the highlights of all the work we have done this year with two Business Development specialists from Barth Consulting Group. They will offer their advice and help us with the next steps in planning what we should focus on in 2019 to keep moving ahead. Our November meeting will be the last meeting of the year for us, since our fourth Monday meeting date falls on December 26.

Communications: Ms. Spencer said they are still working on the website...color choices and designs. She said there will be another newsletter going out next week.

Community Engagement & Service: No report

CPVRPC: No report

### CTMA and Public Works:

Public Works: Arnold Mann reported that Leslen Lane water main project was out for bid. The committee reviewed options for repayment of the salt storage facility. The committee approved the purchase of a 2019 F350 truck with a plow for \$38,350. The purchase will be split with CTMA. The 2019 meeting schedule was passed unanimously.

CTMA: An application for payment completed work was approved \$38K for dredging and piping repair. The Regional Sewer authority is raising rates 30% but CTMA will not have to raise rates this year. Mr. Thompson asked about where the salt storage information is being sent. Mr. McKnight stated that no action will be taken on the survey as we did not get the information in time for the meeting.

Parks: Ms. Stagliano stated that she and Mr. Thompson met with a mason about replacing the dugouts. That is the big project next year. The roof is also going to be addressed. Public Works will do some of the work. She also said the Regional Sewer Authority will be increasing the treatment charges about \$24 per year to each resident. She stated that there has not been an increase in 6 years. The new interceptor work will be going out to bid in April. June is the projected start date for that project. She explained that due to growth in the area, the pipe needs to be larger.

Personnel: No report

Planning Commission: No report

Public Safety: No report. Mr. McKnight said there will be no meeting until January.

Streets, Roads & Lighting : No report

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Engineer: Mr. Leh stated that the College Walk development is almost finished. He submitted a punch list to the builder and expects the project to be finalized in December at which time there will be an escrow release. Royal Farms has submitted revised plans to address our comments and once reviewed, will go back to the Planning Commission for approval. He and Mr. Mann went out together to determine a paving schedule for next year. Locust at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and E 3<sup>rd</sup> and E 5<sup>th</sup> will be the focus of work for 2019. He stated that they will also review the road conditions after the winter to assess pot holes.

Solicitor: Ms. Geiser stated that it has been a quiet month. The Ursinus Commons revised project will be presented next month. Royal Farms is moving forward. Mr. McKnight is working on the salt shed. The Mayor asked what the next steps are with Royal Farms. Mr. Leh said that Royal Farms still has outside agency permits they need to get. He said it will be a good amount of time for that project.

Manager/Zoning Officer: Mr. Thompson reported that he is on the steering committee for the streetlight program. They have hired a consultant to do a feasibility study for the 28 communities involved in the program. They will work with each community to discuss the lights, the ones to be replaced and the cost. The study will take 4-5 months to complete and at that point he will come back to Council with the figures. At that time, Council can decide if they want to take the next step. He will be attending a meeting tomorrow and then we are hosting a meeting at the borough next week. Ms. Stagliano asked what the criteria are to decide if a light needs to be replaced. Mr. Thompson said they will audit all the lights and decide if they can be used or need to be replaced. He said we have approximately 375 lights and they will be purchasing in bulk which will help with cost. We have some that are very old. Mr. Mann said he has a list of all the lights if Mr. Thompson needs it. Mr. Thompson thanked him but said he believes he has the same list.

Police: Chief Bucher submitted his report to Council. He thanked the Fire Companies that assisted at the Halloween Parade. He noted the exceptional help he received from Craig Penuel and Jeff Wentworth.

Collegeville Fire Company: Brian Freas reported that the fire company provided 318 man hours to the community. They recently attended training in Skippack. They also helped Deb Feirheller from Ursinus College in making a video for the FIC conference regarding health related fitness programs. She received grants from FEMA to make this video. Mr. Freas said the firehouse is coming along nicely. Realistically, they expect to be in the new facility in January. He thanked Mr. Thompson for fixing the street light outside the firehouse. He stated that the whole process has been a learning experience and that he is thankful to the volunteers for noticing things that need to be changed in the plans to make the new facility work best for them.

Mayor: The Mayor met with local Collegeville Ministers and listened to their perspectives on the needs and opportunities in Collegeville. He represented the Borough by participating in and speaking at the Commissioning Service for Rev. Terri Ofori, the new Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Ursinus College. The Mayor served as Grand Marshal in the Annual Collegeville Halloween Parade. He completed training with the Eastern States Student Exchange as he serves as a Counselor for a Paraguayan international student. He participated in the grand opening of the Ursinus College Innovation Discovery Center. He also met regularly with Chief Bucher.

**MOTION** to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Stagliano, Second by Ms. Kernen, *MOTION approved 5-0*

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Robert Botti, 713 Clahor Ave He read in the news that Aqua water is purchasing other water companies. He wondered if that is something we can expect here? Mr. Mann emphatically said NO!

Gary Sassaman, 11<sup>th</sup> Ave stated that he was approached by the realtor that just brokered the deal for the sale of the Rees property to the bank. The realtor told him that the Fire Co is welcome to stay as long as necessary until their new facility is ready. Mr. Sassaman asked the realtor about the development that had been proposed at the last council meeting and the realtor was unaware of that. Mr. Sassaman said that it had been his impression after the last meeting, that the townhouse development was a “done deal” and that it seems that is not the case. Mr. McKnight said the builder had come in just to see about interest in such a plan, but that he agreed that he would not go before council if there was nothing actually in the works.

Sam Mancuso resident of Trappe 156 Harvard Drive, Mr. Mancuso started out thanking the borough for always having open meetings that are informative and that move along smoothly. He went on to say that he came to the meeting to bring up a safety problem he noticed last year. He said that the lights on the Perkiomen Bridge are out. He said that he has contacted Senator Rafferty’s office as well as Senator Mensch’s office and hasn’t gotten satisfaction. He came to request the help of the borough. Mr. Thompson explained to him that the bridge is owned by PennDOT and that it is not the borough’s responsibility to fix the lights. That being said, he has had our lighting people fix them several times and they just end up going out again. He was told by Lenni Electric (lighting contractor for the Borough) that the wiring on the bridge is ancient and that to keep attempting to fix them is throwing money down the drain. The wiring needs to be updated. Mr. Thompson said he will try to work on a solution. Mr. Mancuso thanked him.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

Consideration of the 2019 Preliminary Budget: Mr. Thompson said the preliminary budget for 2019 is very similar to 2018. There are projections for Real Estate taxes as well as Fire taxes. Earned Income tax will increase slightly this year. Franchise fees and permits will remain the same. There is a block grant for next year. There is a Collegeville Borough grant for \$50K. State aid is up a bit. Liquid Fuels tax is projected to be flat. We are still trying to figure out the cell tower rental. Everything is pretty much the same as last year. There are police expenditures this year and medical expenses went up, but only 1.6% which is good! Trash Pick Up is the same as last year. He stated that this is a “no frills” budget. Mr. Thompson requested a motion to approve the advertising of the 2019 budget. Once advertise, he said final approval will be at the meeting next month. **MOTION** by Ms. Stagliano, second by Mr. Braun, *MOTION approved 5-0*

Consideration of Advertising Ordinance No. 2018-592, Setting the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2019: Ms. Stagliano stated that the tax rate for 2019 is 3.9 mills and the Fire tax is 1.0. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Spencer, Second by Mr. Braun *MOTION approved 5-0*

Consideration of Resolution No. 2018-11 Authorizing Submitting the Keystone Communities Grant Application: Mr. Thompson said this is the final piece to apply for the \$50K grant from Senator Rafferty’s office. **MOTION** by Ms. Stagliano, Second by Ms. Spencer *MOTION approved 5-0*

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ms. Kern mentioned 3 nice events coming up:

- 1) Dinner and a show at Ursinus College. Hood Nation Dance company out of Philadelphia will be joining the dance team at Ursinus. November 15-17 at the Lenfest Theater tickets are \$8. Everyone gets 10% off at dinner before the show.
- 2) 5K Turkey Trot starts at Collegeville Station on Nov 17 run by the Rotary benefits the Daily Bread Food Pantry
- 3) Tree Lighting at the trail head across from the diner on December 1, 4:30-7:00PM Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there. Happy Hour at DaVinci’s after

## **MEETING ADJOURNED 7:50PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Geoffrey Thompson, Secretary