

Borough of Collegeville
Council Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

ROLL CALL: Council President Marion McKinney, Council Vice President, Mathew McKnight, President Pro Tem Cathy Kernen, Councilmember Hugh Braun, Councilmember Louise Tulio, Councilmember Shannon Spencer, and Mayor Wright-Riggins . Councilmember Terrie Stagliano absent.

Also present were Borough Manager, Geoff Thompson, Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Borough Engineer David Leh and interim Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **MOTION** to approve the April 4, 2018 minutes by Ms. Spencer. Second by Ms. Kernen. *Motion approved 6-0.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance: Mr. Thompson reported that approx. \$400K in Real Estate taxes had been received. **MOTION** to approve Treasure's report by Mr. Braun, second by Ms. Kernen. *Motion approved 6-0*

Consideration of Disbursements:

Mr. Thompson asked the checks 2941 through 3000 be approved. **MOTION** by Mr. Braun to approve checks 2941 through 3000 be approved, second by Ms. Kernen. *Motion approved 6-0*

Business Development – Ms. Kernen gave the report. She stated that the committee is currently working on two projects; she is meeting with current business owners to get feedback on how to recruit more businesses to Collegeville. She is also working with the CEDC to promote new businesses. She stated that three new businesses are opening this month. She is hoping the borough will support them. Flower Garden Yoga, a physical therapy place, and a Vietnamese restaurant that claims to have the world's best pho. It will also serve gelato. Bella Personne ("Nice People") is having a Grand Opening this Sunday and all are welcome. Collegeville Station is opening a full service salon called Follow Your Bliss. The CEDC has invited speaker Steve Barth to discuss more development in Collegeville. Council is invited to a walking tour at 2PM on Thursday, May 31st with Eric Jarrell and Dave Sellers to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Borough for new businesses. Mr. Braun inquired about the status of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel. Ms. Kernen said that the potential new owners are concerned about the proposed Royal Farms projects and the change in traffic pattern. Ms. Kernen said that the potential buyers of the hotel are concerned about the extent of the work to fix the damage to the building. It was said that the owner, Tom Crawford, is unwilling to budge on the price.

Consideration of Resolution No. 2018-07, Ursinus College Student Commons Land Development Plan

Ms. McKinney stated that the Ursinus people cannot stay for the entire meeting, so requested that they be allowed to speak. Robert Brant, attorney for Ursinus College, explained the approval process for the project. The plan has been before the Zoning Hearing Board for Variances, and has received a recommendation for Preliminary/Final land development approval from the Collegeville Planning Commission. Mr. Brant explained that Ursinus College is fine with the conditions set forth in the Gilmore and Associates review letter. Mr. Brant then introduce Tim Woodrow, the engineer for the project. Mr. Woodrow review the proposed use, stormwater and landscaping for the project. The new building is to be a café, bookstore, meeting space and admissions for the College. Mr. Woodrow reviewed a list of requested Waivers.

Section 13-415.b(2) - Sidewalk Widths – Ursinus wishes to defer new sidewalk installation as they are pursuing a grant for new sidewalk and have a capital plan to replace the sidewalks along Main St.

Sections 13-418 & 13-422 – ROW and road shoulder widths – This would require widening of Main St. and Ursinus does not have the room as the proposed patio is close to Main St.

Section 13-432.2.E – Softening Buffers – The proposed landscaping does not fully meet the code but Ursinus is installing buffer planting and is willing to work with the Fire Company to blend the landscaping for both properties.

Section 13-434.3.B – Street Trees – Proposing street trees in the available locations. Ursinus is willing to plant the required street trees (5) in another location on campus

Parking: Dave Leh mentioned parking issue, Ursinus is willing to reserve space for guest and visitors in parking area behind the proposed Student Commons.

Mr. Brant explained that Ursinus is hoping to start the project at the end of May and hopefully complete within 12 months. Mr. Kilkenny brought up the Ethics Act and requested 3 members (Ms. McKinney, Mr. McKnight and Ms. Spencer) recuse themselves from the vote because of their affiliation with Ursinus College. Mr. Brant advised Council that since only three Councilmembers were available to vote due to the recusals that he read the PA Ethics Act several times and found that as long as the members disclose their ties to Ursinus, and everyone agrees to it, they can vote on the motion. Mr. Kilkenny concurred with Mr. Brant.

MOTION by Ms. Kernen to approve Resolution No. 2018-07, approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for the Ursinus College Student Commons; second by Mr. Braun. *Motion approved 6-0*

Communications Committee:

Ms. Spencer said that her committee has been meeting weekly for the last 2 months and have drafted a charter for the Communications Committee to outline their role. The committee has been reviewing the Borough website and will provide a memo of justification to revamp the website and possibly have an RFP for a new website.

Community Engagement & Service:

Ms. McKinney reported that Dr. Heather Lobban-Viravong will be the committee's new community liaison between with Ursinus College.

CPVRPC:

Ms. Kernen stated that the CPVRPC did not meet in April.

CTMA/Public Works:

Mr. Mann gave a detailed report. The groups met on April 24. No update on Glenwood Reserve project. Approved a \$1200 escrow release after maintenance bond was finalized. Sewer line inspection is 50% completed. The quiet title action for Water Works Park is commencing. All residents bordering Waterworks Park have been notified about the legal action.

Parks Committee: No report

Personnel:

Ms. Kernen stated that she owes Council a Secretary Position job description and plans to have it distributed by May 7. She is not worried because Suzanne is doing great ☺ and Linda is also experienced.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Thompson reported that the Student Commons Land Development was approved at the April 19 meeting. The Planning Commission also reviewed the Royal Farms Land Development Plan. Royal Farms was granted preliminary approval but is requesting to come to the May 17 PC meeting to further discuss their Waiver requests which the PC deferred to Borough Council. Royal Farms is planning on being at the June Council meeting with finalized plans. The Mayor Wright-Riggins inquired about the traffic plans for the project and specifically the access road that will be created with moving Route 29. Mr. Thompson said that the traffic plan is not finalized. Ms. Kernen explained that the new access road will be a limited one-way road.

Public Safety Committee: Mr. McKnight said there is no report.

Streets Roads & Lighting:

Ms. McKinney said there had been a committee meeting on Tuesday, May 1 with Chief Bucher, Mr. Mann and a resident on Clamer Avenue to discuss parking on Clamer but that that will be discussed in “other business”

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Engineer: Mr. Leh stated that all his issues had been discussed by Mr. Thompson.

Solicitor: Mr. Kilkenny said it has been a very busy month with Royal Farms. He said it has also been his pleasure to work with Ursinus regarding the Student Commons Center and Borough staff on the Clamer parking issue.

Manager/Zoning Officer: Mr. Thompson talked about the “Anything with a Plug” recycling event at Palmer Park.

Police: Chief Bucher read the in his report. He also mentioned Drug Take Back Day and that it was a huge success. 39 people came in and 154 lbs. of drugs were taken in along with the 91 lbs. that have been dropped off over the last 6 months in the lobby. Another take back day is scheduled for October. Chief Bucher stated that the Road Closure permit for the Ursinus graduation on May 12 had been approved by PennDOT.

Collegeville Fire Dept.: Ms. McKinney congratulated Mr. Frees for the great job at the groundbreaking. Mr. Braun told Mr. Frees that it was impressive seeing the Fire Co at work on a burning car in his neighborhood. He went on to say that the Fire Co had been called 30 times in the month. Two of the calls were to assist with a cardiac arrest patient and one electrical fire. Average time from call to scene is 7.95 minutes. They are up and running at their temporary site and things are going well. Demolition on the new station is set for May 9.

Mayor’s report: The Mayor said one of the great pleasures of his position is working with school kids. One, in particular, has been shadowing him: Erin Quinn. Erin went on to read the Mayor’s report:

- Was a participant in the Perkiomen Valley High School Social Justice Speakers Series. On April 24th he addressed students on the theme, “Race, Policing and the Future of Democracy”. Students engaged in a period of Questions and Answers from the mayor regarding his role as a public servant, and African American leader and his role as Collegeville’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer.

- Entertained about 25 Ursinus Students in his home on Sunday, April 20th utilizing the catering services of one of Collegetown's newest owned woman's and minority owned businesses; S&B Events, Concepts and Catering.
- Supported the County's Prescription Drug Take Back Day welcoming community members as Chief Bart Bucher received drugs that could be hazardous to the health of individuals and our community.
- Participated in and supported the Grange Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser on Saturday, April 28th at their "Meet the Mayors Night". Mayor Wright-Riggins and Mayor Matthew Wismer spent three hours meeting and greeting members of the Collegetown and Trappe communities.
- Attended the Montgomery County Borough Association Dinner on April 26th representing Collegetown Borough along with former Councilman Arnold Mann. Connections were made with the newly appointed Health Administrator Dr. Brenda K. Weis of the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.
- Met with residents on 9th Avenue on April 25th to hear their concerns about traffic safety, especially for pedestrians and joggers on that winding street devoid of sidewalks and bicycle lanes.
- Proclaimed April 29th, 2018 as "Pastor Martha Kriebel" Day in Collegetown. In addition to worshiping with a packed house of church and community members that morning at Trinity Reformed UCC Church, Mayor Wright-Riggins participated in a dinner in her honor that afternoon. Council Members Shannon Spencer and Katherine Kernen were on hand as to celebrate Pastor Martha's thirty-nine years of service at Trinity.
- Was a presence on April 29th on behalf of the borough at the one-year anniversary commemoration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Charles Rice, the late beloved Campus Minister at Ursinus College. Council Member Spencer was present as well, representing her long personal relationship with Rev. Rice and as a representative of the Collegetown community.

MOTION to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Kernen; second by Ms. Spencer. *Motion approved 5-0.*

Public Discussion:

Brian Frees 126 Claymont Dr.: Will park benches be replaced this year? Mr. Thompson said that is in the budget.
 Andrea Baptiste: Will there be concerts in the park this year? Mr. Thompson said there will be 4 concerts this summer.

Robert Botti: In regards to traffic and Royal Farms he wondered that if the project with them does not go forward, will the date collected be used to fix the traffic issues?

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. McKinney requested that an additional item be added to the Council agenda.

MOTION by Ms. Spencer to open the agenda to add the Public Works Labor Agreement Memo of Understanding; Second by Ms. Kernen. *Motion approved 5-0.*

Consideration of Resolution No. 2018-06, Tax Collector Compensation for Tax Bills Copies and Tax Certifications

: Kelly Taylor, Tax Collector explained that the Resolution is now a state requirement for her to charge for tax bill copies and tax certifications. **MOTION** by Ms. Spencer to approve Resolution No. 2018-06; second by Ms. Kernen. *Motion carries 6-0.*

Consideration of the Public Work Labor Agreement Memo of Understanding: **MOTION** by Mr. McKnight to approve the Public Works Labor Agreement Memo of Understanding; second by Ms. Spencer

Mr. Kilkenny noted that public comments need to be made on these issues since they were not on the agenda. Mr. McKnight gave a brief summary is that there has not been a standing contract about these issues for many years and this addresses pay scales, raises and insurance co-pays. *Motion approved 6-0.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion of Clamer Avenue Parking

Ms. McKinney explained that the Streets and Roads Committee met on May 1 discuss the parking issue on Clamer Avenue. Ursinus College students are parking on the street to avoid paying for parking on campus. Joshua Macel, 11 Clamer Avenue explained that there are five residences on Clamer Ave. that don't have driveways and rely on street parking. There is room for approximately 15 cars on the street. Ursinus students continually park there because they don't want to pay for parking passes. The Masons have been great about allowing residents to use their lot for overflow, but it's being abused. Homeowners are requesting "RESIDENTS ONLY" signs be posted on the street. Mr. Kilkenny explained that any ordinance drafted and reviewed for penalties, notifications and restricted locations.

MOTION by Ms. Tulio to authorize the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance which restricts parking on Clamer Avenue to residents only; Second by Ms. Kernen

Arnold Mann asked if there would be signs and car stickers.
Ms. Spencer wanted to know what the penalty will be for abusers.
Ms. McKinney said she will be addressing the issue with Ursinus officials.

Motion approved 6-0.

Ms. Kernen talked about the Memorial Day Parade May 28 inviting all to participate. The parade starts at the Augustus Lutheran and ends at Waterworks Park. There will be a remembrance ceremony, music and food after at the parade at Water Works Park.

Mr. Thompson respectfully requested that the June meeting be the second week of June so that he could attend his daughter's senior award banquet. Ms. Tulio had no objection, but stated she could not do the 13th...neither could Ms. Spencer or the Mayor. It was determined that the meeting will stay on June 6 without Mr. Thompson.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Thompson, Secretary