

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2019 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Council President, Marion McKinney.

Ms. McKinney asked for a moment of silence in memory of Nevin Scholl, former Trappe Borough Council President

ROLL CALL: Council President Marion McKinney, Council Vice-President Mat McKnight, Council Member Shannon Spencer, Council Member Terri Stagliano, Council Member Louise Tulio, Council Member Cathy Kernan and Mayor Wright-Riggins. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Geoff Thompson, Engineer Dave Leh, Solicitor Sean Kilkenny, Police Chief Bart Bucher and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2019 meeting by Ms. Stagliano, second by Ms. Spencer *MOTION carries 6-0*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson asked for approval for the Finance Report and check numbers 3429-3486. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Tulio, second by Ms. Kernan, *MOTION carries 6-0*

Business Development: Ms. Kernan stated that surveys were sent out to residents in January and there were 400 responses. Mr. Botti is compiling the results of the survey in which residents were asked what kinds of businesses they would like to see come to the Borough. She feels the business district should be handled like a mall in which different types of establishments are brought in so as not to have so many of the same types. Right now there are several salons and she would like owners to consider this when renting. She requested that the results, when provided, be added to the website.

Communications: Ms. Spencer stated she has been in meetings for the new website. She said the one concern is keeping the ".gov". She has been told there may be a fee to keep that of about \$400. Mr. Thompson said that to his knowledge, there should not be a charge to keep it.

Community Engagement & Service: Ms. McKinney said that she has continued to be in touch with Heather at Ursinus College and that a lot of great changes are coming! They are working together for the Borough and as colleagues and educators.

CPVRPC: Ms. Kernan said she is working on two issues. The first is the Sierra Club renewable and clean energy program. The second is the expansion of the Frederick Living campus. They are working to add more walking trails for the residents.

CTMA and Public Works: Mr. Thompson gave the report. The Public Works Committee did not meet because they did not have a quorum. CTMA met and elected officers; Rowan Keenan – Chairman, Cathy Johnson – Vice Chairman, Arnold Mann – Treasurer, Stu Strauss – Secretary, James Traupman – Assistant Secretary. CTMA adopted two Resolutions; 2019-01, Adopting the 2019 Budget and 2019-02 increasing the Tapping Fee to \$5,020 per EDU.

Parks: Ms. Stagliano stated that she and Mr. Thompson are scheduled to meet with people at Ursinus College to look at them helping the Borough redo the dugouts at the park. She also said the Summer Concerts are all scheduled.

Personnel: No report

Planning Commission: No report

Public Safety: Mr. McKnight said they discussed the annual fire/safety inspections for the businesses in the borough and that it would be finalized at the next meeting.

Streets, Roads & Lighting: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Leh said that we applied for a CDBG grant for ADA ramps on 3rd Ave., 4th Ave., & Park Ave. He requested approval prepare the bid specifications. There will also be a paving project on Locust & 3rd and E 5th Ave. for this year's paving project. Mr. requested approval to advertise the bid for road work. **MOTION** by Ms. Tulio, second by Ms. Spencer, *MOTION carries 6-0*

Solicitor: Mr. Kilkenny introduced Dan Grieser who is a new associate with Mr. Kilkenny's firm that will fill in for him on occasion. Mr. Greaser served 17 years with JAG corp.

Manager/Zoning Officer: No report

Police: Chief Bucher thanked Mr. Thompson and Ms. Robertson for their help with Sgt. Penuel's retirement party. It was a nice send-off! The Chief explained a new law that will impact Ursinus students. The new law in PA, in part due to the incident at Penn State, is that if an underage person reports another underage person that has been drinking alcohol and is in distress neither will have any legal steps taken for arrest or fines for underage drinking. He said that in the past, Judge Rebar would have the kids take part in an alcohol education class with community service.

Collegetown Fire Company: Mr. Freas read his monthly statistics. He stated that the firefighters had 3 training sessions in January. The firehouse is almost finished and they are working on their punch list with the builder. They hope to have their next meeting in the building. Ms. Kernan asked when the building opening will be? Mr. Freas said the "housing ceremony" is planned for June.

Mayor's Report:

- Engaged regularly in the Borough Council Business Development Committee. The Mayor believes strongly that Collegetown must take strategic steps to reinvest in itself if we are to remain a desirable destination community.
- Welcomed Mayor Wilson Goode at community book signing event
- Participated in the Perkiomen Valley School District Day of Service in celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. where over 400 people were present.
- Was a panelist at Ursinus College's King Week commemoration outlining the role of religious communities in march for civil and human rights.
- Celebrated the retirement of Sergeant Penuel as he made his "Last Ride" on February 1, 2019.
- Brought borough greetings to Cub Scout Pack 707 of St. Eleanor Church during their annual Pinewood Derby.

MOTION to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Spencer, second by Ms. Tulio.

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (*Items not on the agenda*)

Chuck Drexler 484 Shakespeare Dr.

Mr. Drexler brought a handout for Council to read about the negative effects of LED lights. He asked everyone to read the findings of the AMA before making a final decision on changing over to LEDs. He claims that some municipalities have removed them. He has concerns about the levels of brightness and the effect of that on sleep and eye strain when driving.

Dave Viola 305 R Glad Way

Mr. Viola also has concerns about the LED lights. He asked if the reason for this change is financial. Mr. Thompson said yes. Mr. Viola asked how much it will cost to change over and how long it will take to make back those expenses. Mr. Thompson said it is projected to break even at 10 years. He also stated that tonight we are not making a final decision, he is just asking for approval to move to Phase 2 of the plan in which the company will come out and do an audit of the lights in the borough and be able to give us hard numbers. He stated that he will put the initial study on the website for residents to read. Mr. Troutman read from the minutes of last meeting and noted that we decide how bright the lights will be. The residential streets will not be as bright as the business district.

Ralph Eichelberger 125 Carmen Dr.

Mr. Eichelberger stated that he is still having excessive water running down the street and pooling in his yard. He feels it is due to the new home being built. He wants to know what is being done to fix the problem. He claims he gets a different answer every time he asks about it. Mr. Thompson stated that he has not gotten different answers, he is just not happy with the answer. Mr. D'Arcangelo is allowed to build the house. Mr. Eichelberger doesn't feel that a Variance from the 70's should still be valid. Mr. Thompson acknowledged that Mr. Eichelberger feels that way, but said that it doesn't change the fact that the paperwork is in order.

Ron Cerino 127 Carmen Dr.

Mr. Cerino stated that he cannot use his yard for all the water there since the Claymont development was built. Mr. Leh said there is actually less water because of the two retention basins built for the Claymont Development. Mr. Cerino invited Mr. Leh to come and look after any rain. Ms. Kernan said she has been there and has seen the amount of water in the yards and is sympathetic to their plight. She stated that as more and more gets built and paved, it makes standing water with nowhere for it to go. She understands why they are upset. Mr. Kilkenny stated that they have been heard, and if they want to put something in writing, they are welcome to do so.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Resolution No. 2019-02 Authorizing Participation in the Cooperative Purchasing and in the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program. Mr. Thompson explained that this Resolution will authorize Collegeville Borough to be part of the group buying of the LED light materials. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Spencer, second by Mr. McKnight, *MOTION carries 6-0*

Consideration of Resolution No. 2019-03 Authorizing the Submission of a 2019 Montco 2040 Grant Application. Mr. Thompson is recommending that Collegeville Borough submit an application for building a sidewalk on W. Third Ave. where there is currently no sidewalk. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Stagliano, second by Ms. Tulio, *MOTION carries 6-0*

Consideration of Advertising Ordinance No. 593, Animal Waste Ordinance: Mr. Leh explained that the ordinance is required for the Borough to be compliant with the MS4 Stormwater permit. **MOTION** to authorize advertising of the ordinance by Ms. Stagliano, second by Ms. Tulio, *MOTION carries 6-0*

Consideration of Ordinance No. 594, Water Service Tapping Fees: Mr. Thompson explained that Public Works Committee is recommending that the Water Tapping Fee be increased to \$5,020 per EDU. A study was conducted by the Public Works Committee's engineer to determine the appropriate fee. Mr. Thompson explained that Ord. 594 authorizes the increased tapping fee and also allows Borough Council to increase water related rates by a Resolution in the future. Ms. Spencer had an issue with section #659-9, it states that within 10 days of notice of non-payment of the water bill, Public works can turn off a resident's water. She feels that timeline is very short and requested it be changed to more days. Mr. Kilkenny said this wording is consistent with other municipalities. Mr. Thompson said that every attempt is made to avoid turning off someone's service. This is more for frequent non-payers. Ms. Stagliano said this process really can take much longer in practice. Ms. Spencer said she realizes that, but that it *could* happen in that 10 day time frame if it is stated that way officially in the Ordinance. She asked if it could be changed to include the notice steps. Mr. Kilkenny said that it could and there would need a **MOTION** for the change. Ms. Spencer made a **MOTION** to change the days allowed and it was seconded by Ms. Kernan. Mr. Kilkenny called for a roll call vote. *MOTION failed 4-2*

Ms. Spencer asked for the words "posted on house" after "in writing." Mayor Wright-Riggins said that he understands that Ms. Spencer wants to be sure that people are treated fairly, but that he feels that most people that find they are falling on hard financial times will reach out for help either to their church or the boro. This law is for perpetual slow or non-payers. Ms. Spencer said she is only asking for a small change in the wording. Ms. Stagliano asked if it can still be passed with the wording change. Mr. Thompson said this is only a request to advertise the Ordinance, not pass it. **MOTION** to advertise Ordinance 593 by Ms. Stagliano, second by Ms. Tulio, *MOTION carries 6-0*

OTHER BUSINESS :

Ms. Kernan said there are two interesting plays coming up at Ursinus College. The first is GOD OF CARNAGE which is billed as an examination of our current polarized society. The second is AGNES OF GOD which is about a nun who gives birth under mysterious circumstances. Please take advantage of the Dinner & a Show in which local restaurants give 10% off on show nights.

Ms. McKinney wanted to make a public statement about something that occurred at last month's meeting. A resident, Carol Ewing, brought up a letter that she sent to Ms. McKinney and made statements that Ms. McKinney had said she would investigate her complaint. Ms. McKinney was caught off guard because she said she never saw the letter and didn't know about the situation. She wanted to make a statement on the record that, in the future, if someone has a complaint that they want her to know about, to please put it in writing and MAIL it as a formal letter or contact her via email. She was not present at either the October or November meetings due to an illness and conflict. She stated that she is only one person in a group of 7 and that she would never make any decisions strictly on her own. She went on to say that she feels it is unfair for residents to continually compare us to other municipalities. \$1.5 million of our budget goes to our Public Safety for our Police and Fire departments. That is a huge portion of our entire budget. Many of the neighboring municipalities are double our size with fewer expenses! She is empathetic to the residents that have water in their yards, but feels everyone needs to stay calm and discuss issues with respect and kindness.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Thompson, Secretary