

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2019 7:00PM

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Marion McKinney, Council Vice President Mat McKnight, Council Member Shannon Spencer, Council Member Louise Tulio, Council Member Hugh Braun, Council Member Cathy Kern. Also in attendance was Borough Manager Geoff Thompson, Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Mayor Wright-Riggins, Police Chief Bart Bucher and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **MOTION** to approve the Minutes from February 6, 2019 by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Tulio, **MOTION** carries 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson asked for approval for the Finance Report and check numbers 3488 – 3541. **MOTION** to approve by Ms. Spencer, second by Ms. Kern, **MOTION** carries 6-0

Business Development: Ms. Kern said she will be doing a presentation and will be asking for funding at the April 3rd meeting.

Communications: Ms. Spencer said the new website is moving forward.

Community Engagement & Service: Ms. McKinney said she has no report. Heather from Ursinus said she is working on community engagement.

CPVRPC: Ms. Kern said that Ryan Beltz from the Perkiomen Watershed gave a presentation regarding his plans to have a water trail for canoers and kayakers. He would like to put “way signs” in the water at bridge points to let people know how to go and feature pull off places that will help people access restaurants. He hopes to, one day, have boat launches. One by the old dam on 29 and the other potential spot is across from the Collegeville Shopping Center.

CTMA and Public Works: Mr. McKnight said he could not make the meeting. Mr. Thompson said that Mr. Mann gave him the report. CTMA met on February 26. The I & I project is completed.

Parks: No report

Mr. Thompson noted that Ursinus has offered to help renovate the ball fields, the stucco and roofs of the dugouts. Their assistance is very much appreciated.

Personnel: No report

Planning Commission: No report

Public Safety: No report

Streets, Roads & Lighting: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Thompson gave the report for Mr. Leh. Requested approval of the Consideration of Escrow Release No. 2 – Santangelo. **MOTION** by Ms. Kernen, second by Mr. Braun, **MOTION** carries 6-0

Ms. Spencer asked if this is the same people that have an issue with the water flowing to neighbors on 5th Ave? And, if so, should we not release? Mr. Thompson said this is not the final release and there is still a maintenance bond in place.

Consideration of Escrow Release No. 2 – Collegeville Fire Company, **MOTION** by Ms. Tulio, Second by Ms. Kernen, **MOTION** carries 6-0

Consideration of the Paving Bids: Mr. Thompson said that the budget for this was \$130K and we received 14 bids. The lowest bid came in at \$125K. That was from Innovative Construction Services. This company has done work in the Borough before and has a good reputation. **MOTION** to approve the Paving Bid by Ms. Spencer, Second by Ms. Kernen, **MOTION** carries 6-0

Solicitor: Ms. Geiser said that her office had received the resignation of Mr. McKnight. She went on to explain the procedure that needs to take place to fill the seat. The Borough will accept applications for the next 30 days. At the April meeting, there will be brief interviews and then public action will be taken. Council will vote on the applicants and the Mayor will swear him/her in right then and they will take their place at the table. There will then be a special election in November for the remaining 2 years of the term. The Mayor asked if this is always the way it is done. Ms. McKinney said that it is. Ms. McKinney asked all in the room to please have applications in to Mr. Thompson by March 29. Ms. Geiser said there are two ordinances up for consideration this evening and one resolution.

Manager/Zoning Officer: Mr. Thompson met with the Trappe manager and their engineers regarding the salt storage facility. They discussed what they need. It needs to hold 500 tons of salt, be wood framed with an epoxied cement floor, and be fenced and landscaped. There must also be a storm water plan. The engineers are now working on plans to meet those specifications and will have numbers at the Public Works meeting on March 26. Ms. McKinney stated that she will be taking Mr. McKnight's place on the Public Works committee going forward. Ms. McKinney asked if it has been decided who will pay for this facility. Mr. Thompson suggests that both boroughs shop for grant money to get as much covered as possible.

Police: Chief Bucher met with our new Senator, Katie Muth. He spent about 2 hours with her and her staff discussing issues. Mr. Botti asked about speed traps. Chief Bucher said there were 55 stops, 8 citations and 1 DUI for the month.

Collegeville Fire Company: Mr. Freas said there were 33 incidents for the month and there were just less than 300 hours. They officially moved to the new station on March 9, but are still bringing things over. They have a dedication ceremony planned for Saturday, June 1. They plan to invite the neighboring Fire Companies, our Council members, the community and Borough business owners to give tours and answer questions.

Mayor: The Mayor said he continues to be a good will ambassador representing the Borough at a variety of events. He is serving as an advisor at Perkiomen Valley High School. He judged XXX at North Penn High School. He and Ms. Kernen attended the installation of Pastor Suzanne at Trinity Church. He has been asked to be the Commencement speaker at Ursinus College in May.

MOTION to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Tulio
MOTION carries 6-0
PUBLIC DISCUSSION (*Items not on the agenda*)

Eileen Johnson from the PV Library came with her Quarterly Newsletter. She said she has available some free passes for museums, the Zoo and Morris Arboretum. They have many great programs and are starting a writer's workshop. She thanked the Borough for its continued support.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Ordinance No. 593, Animal Waste Ordinance: **MOTION** to approve Ordinance NO. 593 by Ms. Spencer with a second by Mr. Braun, **MOTION** carries 6-0

Consideration of Ordinance No. 594, Water Service Tapping Fees: **MOTION** to approve Ordinance NO. 594 by Ms. Kernan with a second by Ms. Spencer (*of note this fee will now be allowed to be adjusted by Resolution)

Consideration of Resolution No. 2019-04, Authorizing a CDBG Application: Mr. Thompson explained that each year we are eligible to apply for a Community Development Block Grant through Montgomery County. Last year we were awarded \$55K for ADA ramps around the park. This year, staff is proposing to apply to replace the curb and sidewalk from E 4th to up toward Borough Hall. Ursinus has agreed to add \$20K to the project which looks good to the grant committee. We are requesting \$207K. He stated that we may not get it all, but it is worth a try.

MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2019-04 by Mr. Braun with a second by Ms. Spencer, **MOTION** carries 6-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of a Commercial/Industrial Use Property Fire/Safety Inspection Program: Mr. Thompson proposes that we start a commercial and industrial property fire safety program. Our inspector would visit all commercial and industrial use properties and make sure they are complying with all fire-safety codes. Staff has been discussing this program for a few years, but the fire at McDonald's brought it to the forefront. The fireman on site saw many fire-safety violations and called the building inspector to look and found many additional violations. If they had been inspected yearly, the fire may have been avoided. It is important to keep the employees and patrons safe. The fee would be based on the square footage of the business unit. Mr. Thompson spoke with Mr. Kilkenny and was told there needs to be an Ordinance and the Borough would need to adopt all of the most current fire safety codes. The Public Safety committee agreed that this is a good idea. Mr. Penuel asked if at some point Council would consider bringing these inspections in house. He said he has heard that other townships use their own people to do this kind of program.

MOTION to authorize the solicitor to prepare the Ordinance by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Kernan. **MOTION** carries 6-0

Discussion of the 5th & Main St Signage Concept: Ms. McKinney said that she spoke with Mr. Kilkenny and was told that anyone on Council that has an affiliation with Ursinus College must recuse themselves from the conversation and voting on this topic. Mr. McKnight said there is not enough for a quorum. Ms.

McKinney said this is just a discussion and not a vote. Ms. Spencer asked if Ms. Stagliano would need to hear the discussion before she would be able to vote. The Mayor asked questions in order to more understand what why something that engages the good of the community is considered a conflict. Ms. Geiser said this issue is taken on a case by case basis and that anything that benefits the college also benefits the borough. The Mayor asked how that benefits the council member's spouses. Mr. Penuel said the approval process could be perceived as leaning in favor of Ursinus since college employees have spouses on council. Ms. Geiser said her office contacted the Ethics Committee and are working with them to decide how to handle these situations. Ms. McKinney suggested this conversation be tabled until everyone is present including Mr. Kilkenny. Mr. Mahon asked if the slides could be shown. Mr. Thompson said that will wait until the next meeting. Mr. Botti said that most people in the community do not even realize this will be discussed. Ms. Spencer asked if the agenda can be on the website. Mr. Thompson said that it can. Ms. Ruth Mitman asked the purpose of the sign. She said that she likes the idea of a very visible sign that can put community information out. She feels that is better than all the banners that are put there.

Consideration of Accepting the Letter of Resignation of Mr. Mathew McKnight: Ms. McKinney thanked Mr. McKnight for his service and support.

MOTION to accept Mr. McKnight's resignation by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Kernen. **MOTION** carries 6-0

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Thompson, Secretary