

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Council President Marion McKinney.

ROLL CALL: Council President Marion McKinney, Council Vice President Terrie Stagliano, Council Pro Tem Cathy Kernen, Council Member Louise Tulio, Council Member Hugh Braun, Council Member Shannon Spencer, Council Member Gary Hoffmann and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **MOTION** by Ms. Stagliano to approve the w November 6, 2-019 meeting minutes, second by Ms. Kernen. **MOTION carries 7-0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson requested approval for the Treasure's Report and check numbers 3955-4003. **MOTION** by Ms. Spencer with a second by Mr. Braun. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Business Development: Mr. Steve Barth gave an update to Council of his activities since being hired:

- Weekly meetings with the Borough Manager
- Review of new land development projects, recommendations
- Assisted in the planning of the Borough's dinner to be held at the Ursinus College new Commons building February 27, 2020
- Provided alignment and guidance with the grant applications for the Multi-Modal Grant obtained by Ursinus College
- Assisted with the Multi-Modal Grant from PennDOT
- Explored connecting SEPTA bus lines 99 & 93 to provide service from the Providence Town Center to Main Street in the Borough
- Worked with Montgomery County Planning Commission
- Presented slide show to the Business Development Committee
- Presented to the Collegeville Community Club
- Continued work and analysis of parking solutions on Main St
- Weekly meetings with Ursinus College
- Assisted with owners of Trouble's End Brewing with liquor license
- Ongoing work with Marketplace Shopping Center to acquire tenants
- Pursued property maintenance issues at Perkiomen Hotel
- Weekly meetings with U-Imagine Center

Communications: Ms. Spencer said the new Borough website is up and running and she is in the process of adding photos and information. She said they are also looking for a young community member to help with voting on the new logo.

Community Engagement & Service: Ms. Kernen noted that they decorated the tree on Black Friday to be ready for the Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held this Saturday Dec 7 at the trail head near DaVinci's. Santa will arrive on the Firetruck at 5:15 and everyone is invited inside DaVinci's for a free drink and hot chocolate for kids.

CPVRPC: Ms. Kernen said that Andy Besold from Montco Transportation Planners did a presentation on bike lanes and traffic calming. She noted that every Regional Planning Meeting has great speakers about making towns better. Ms. McKinney asked if they would consider coming to our meeting to present. Ms. Kernen said she would try to make that happen.

CTMA and Public Works: Mr. Thompson requested approval of Resolution No. 2019-18 that would increase water rates by to \$.15 per 1000 gallons. Ms. Stagliano said it has been a very long time since rates have been increased. This will amount to approximately \$9.00 per resident per quarter. **MOTION** to approve Resolution No. 2019-18, 2020 Water Rates by Ms. Stagliano with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Discussion of the Public Works Salt Shed: Paul Schmoll from Barry Isett & Associates, the engineer for the salt shed project, gave an overview of the design for the salt shed. Ms. McKinney noted that at last month's meeting she gave the wrong date for the Public Works meeting, but that she did send an email to Council to correct it. Ms. Kernen asked why we need a salt shed. She wondered why we have been doing fine without one for years and now have to spend a half million dollars on one. Ms. McKinney said that we purchased a piece of property for this purpose. Mr. Thompson said the hope is that we will receive more bids to handle the plowing if we don't have to have someone that can also store our salt. Many contractors do not have a storage capability for salt. He noted that they looked into renting storage space but did not have luck with a facility that is close enough to make it a viable choice. Ms. Stagliano noted that this conversation has been happening for years. She asked Mr. Thompson how much the current company charges for the storage. Mr. Thompson answered that it is about \$2000 per year. Mr. Hoffmann said that at his first meeting it was said that the estimate was \$400K and now it is over \$500K. He questioned why we need such an elaborate shed. He suggested that we consider renting 2 sheds so there would not be a worry of running out. Ms. Tulio said that we have been held hostage by the current contractor since we cannot store our own salt. She said she has heard many complaints about them over the years. Mr. Hoffman asked if we could have several contractors doing the plowing and possible use the Public Works people as well. Mr. Thompson said they have looked into renting and have not had luck finding something suitable. He believes that the salt shed is possibly a step further toward having our plowing done by Public Works, but that is a possible long range consideration. Ms. Spencer asked if we had looked into doing a basic arch like B&M has. Mr. Hoffman said he did some research online and that they seem to be about \$20,000.00. Mr. Schmoll said that the drawing he is showing is the result of consultations with Trappe and Collegeville. Mr. Schmoll said we are coming to the end of the bid acceptance timeframe. Aesthetics were a big issue for Trappe. Mr. DeVries (137 Russell Circle) asked if there will be public discussion before anything is decided. Mr. DeVries said that he thinks we should remove the storage part from the bid and get more bids and then rent a space for the salt. Ms. Spencer asked if we had ever separated the two aspects; storage and plowing. Mr. Thompson said not to his knowledge.

Ms. Stagliano made a **MOTION** to approve moving forward with the salt shed and epoxy coating with a second by Mr. Braun.

Mr. Korenkiewicz (43 W 9th Ave) asked if it was considered to buy a front end loader. Ms. McKinney said that would have to be discussed with Public Works. Mr. Louten (39 E 4th Ave) feels that climate change will make this unnecessary. He wants to know how long it will take to pay off the salt shed. Mr. Thompson said approximately 15 years. Mr. Hoffman asked if would could speak with other boroughs to see how they handle this issue. Mr. Thompson said that we are one of the only ones in the county that contract out the entire job of plowing. Ms. Kernen said that is another conversation. She asked if the ultimate result is that we do it ourselves. Ms. McKinney said that is not what she is hearing from Public Works. Mr. Penuel (208 5th Ave) said he is for moving forward. He thinks it should be handled by the

Collegeville Borough Council Minutes

December 4, 2019

Page 2 of 4

boroughs. It is their job to make the roads safe. We have our own fire and police and should do our own plowing. Mr. Thompson said that with a contract, we only pay when we need them. Valarie Beckius (229 11th Ave) said she is concerned there is a motion when it seems we don't have all the information. We don't know how long it will take for this investment to pay off.

Roll Call Vote;

Braun-Tulio-Stagliano-McKinney YES

Kernen-Spencer-Hoffmann NO

MOTION carries 4-3

LPVRSA: Ms. Stagliano said the first pipe went into the ground and the contractor is doing about 60 feet per day. They expect to be in the Borough late January and will work here for about 60 days. Things are moving ahead.

Parks: Ms. Stagliano said they have been discussing adding a handicapped swing to the playground and ADA ramps.

Personnel: No report

Planning Commission: No report

Public Safety: No report

Streets, Roads & Lighting: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Leh said that Gilmore has received the subdivision/land development application for the 32, 36 & 40 8th Ave project. The project plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at their December 19th meeting. He noted that the initial design work for the Third Ave 2040 Grant project has commenced. Mr. Leh said he met with Mr. Thompson on various issues and corresponded and had site visits with residents regarding matters.

Solicitor: Mr. Kilkeny said that his office is working on the advertising for the 2020 Budget and worked with WB Homes on drafting an ordinance for zoning modifications for their upcoming project in the Borough.

Manager/Zoning Officer: Mr. Thompson reported that we are hosting the Montgomery County Boroughs Association dinner next February and is thrilled to say that Ursinus College has agreed to host it at the new Student Commons Building. It is open to all Council & Committee members. The reorganization meeting will be the first Monday in January (6th). That will take the place of the normal first Wednesday meeting.

Police: Chief Bucher reported 1453.5 police hours this month. 129 Police calls were received.

Collegeville Fire Company: Mr. Freas reported 41 calls and average of 10.21 minutes from dispatch to arrival. He noted that the annual Santa visit will be December 21. Please bring wrapped WELL MARKED presents to the Borough by Thursday December 19. He also mentioned the Bucket Brigade is set up outside Redner's until Christmas Eve. They collected \$1400 in 2 days!

Trappe Ambulance: No report

Collegeville Borough Council Minutes

December 4, 2019

Page 3 of 4

Mayor: The Mayor agrees with Mr. Barth that Collegetown is becoming a destination town! He attended the Rotary 5K Turkey Trot and noted that the first year they had 42 runners...this year 200! He thanked Chief Bucher and the ambulance services for their help.

MOTION to approve the committee and administrative reports by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Kern. **MOTION carries 7-0**

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Items not on the agenda)

Fred Schutz Trappe, Mr. Schutz said he has been a regular attendee of the Borough's Association Dinners and that Collegetown Borough's attendance has been very low. He said they are nice events with (mostly) good presentations. He said it is open to council members as well as committee members and first responders. Ms. McKinney noted that she is the Vice President and would encourage all to come!

Ms. McKinney presented Ms. Stagliano, Ms. Tulio and Mr. Braun with plaques for their years of service to the Borough on Council. She praised them for their hard work and dedication to the community.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration of the 2020 Final Budget: Mr. Thompson said that the availability of the 2020 Budget was advertised and that no changes were made to the Final Budget from the Preliminary Budget. **MOTION** to approve the 2020 Final Budget by Ms. Spencer with as second by Mr. Braun. **MOTION carries 4-3 (Braun, Stagliano, Tulio - No)**

Consideration of Ordinance No. 598, 2020 Real Estate Millage: Mr. Thompson explained the ordinance was advertised and the 2020 millage rate is 5.2 mills, with 4.2 mills for general purpose and 1.0 mill for fire services. **MOTION** to approve Ordinance No. 598 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Kern. **MOTION carries 4-3 (Braun, Stagliano, Tulio - No)**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:38PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Geoff Thompson, Secretary