

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2020 @ 7:00PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Council President Cathy Kernen

Roll Call: Council President Cathy Kernen, Council Vice President Shannon Spencer, Council Pro Tem Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Valarie Beckius, Council Member Craig Farr and Council Member Kathy Costello and Mayor Wright-Riggins

Also in attendance: Borough Manager Geoff Thompson, Solicitor Dan Grieser, Engineer David Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Finance: Mr. Hoffmann noted that he and Mr. Thompson worked on a new budget summary that they feel is easier to read and understand so that everyone can easily see where the money goes. Mr. Thompson read from the Treasurer's report and asked for approval of check numbers 4123-4172. **MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report and disbursements by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Business Development: Ms. Kernen turned the floor over to representatives from Ursinus College to explain their upcoming event, MUSIC on MAIN Festival. Mr. Brock Blomberg, President of Ursinus College, introduced himself and said he hope this event will be more than just a big day for the college. He hopes it will attract the entire community. He introduced Maureen Cawley. Ms. Cawley said how much everyone at Ursinus values the partnership with the Borough and look forward to many years as strong neighbors. Ms. Cawley apologized for not having brought the information about this event sooner to Council. She invited everyone to meet with her after this event, to discuss upcoming events. Ms. Cawley stated that instead of hosting Music on Main just on campus, they hope to expand and use a "porch fest" concept that has become so popular. Many of the buildings along Main Street will have different musical acts on their porches and people can walk along and stop to listen. Vendors will be available on Main St. and several stages will be located on campus as well as at the new Commons building patios. Ms. Spencer asked how the SEPTA bus line will be affected. Chief Bucher said SEPTA will be notified and given a detour to get avoid the festival. The only stop that will be affected is 6th Ave. Ms. McKinney said that initially she was skeptical, but now is in favor and thinks it will be a wonderful community event. The Mayor asked if there is a rain date. Ms. Cawley this event is rain or shine and they are working on a rain plan. Ms. Spencer asked about parking. Ms. Cawley said that the Masonic Lodge has agreed to let them use their lot; parking is available on campus in lots and on practice fields. Ms. Cawley said they have 600 employees, most of whom will not be there taking up parking spots. Ms. Spencer asked if they plan to reach out to the area residents that may be affected by people parking on the numbered streets that are near campus. Ms. Cawley said they are open to suggestions for how to best do this. Ms. Spencer said she thought maybe a post card that explains the event and for people to expect more cars on the street that day. Ms. Kernen thanked Ms. Cawley and said this could possibly turn into an annual event like the Car Show.

Ms. Kernan said students from the Ursinus U-Imagine Center have been conducting a study of college towns and that the results will be on the website. She said they have received a rough outline for the comprehensive plan from the Montgomery County Planning Commission. This information will help us get future grant money.

Communications: Ms. Spencer said she is sending out the newsletter and hopes the next one will be out sooner. She said the committee received ten submissions for the logo contest and they will bring the top three to Council for consideration. She noted that Steve Barth has been posting to the borough Facebook page and uploading great vintage pictures. Ms. Spencer said she will be having monthly meetings for the Communications committee at Borough Hall at noon on the last Thursday of the month and all are welcome to attend. The Mayor noted that the logo is to go with the new slogan "Collegeville, a nice place to come home to". He is not sure how the logos we have received will fit with that.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano reminded everyone that the committee's meeting is not until this coming Tuesday, so her information is from last month's meeting. She noted that the litigation between Shannondell and the Lower Providence Sewer Authority is close to being settled after 12 years. She noted that the work has begun behind Collegeville Crossing and barring any issues, should be completed in 2 months.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius said the meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16. She said she has not received an agenda, but that they are working on the Perkiomen Trail.

Planning Commission: Mr. Thompson said there was not meeting last month, but that this month they will discuss the Rees property.

CTMA: No report

Public Works: Ms. McKinney said Public Works discussed the repayment plan for the salt shed property. Mr. Thompson said Collegeville currently owes \$117K for the land purchase and engineering. Ms. McKinney said there was a \$5K fine for rejecting the bids for the plan. Ms. McKinney said Public Works is anxious to get the money back from the boroughs. Someone at the meeting suggested the repayment could be obtained from cell tower revenue. Ms. McKinney said she explained to them that that money is already accounted for in our budget and that we cannot just use that to repay. She said that Trappe legal counsel decided that Trappe will pay what we decide to pay. Mr. Greiser said he has the spreadsheet and the breakdown is:

\$157K for land

\$60K engineering

13K other fees (lawyers etc.)

MOTION to authorize a \$25,000 payment to Public Works by the end on May 2020 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Mr. Thompson commented that because there has been so little spent on salt and plowing this season, we could be in a position to use some of that allotted money to pay the debt back sooner.

Parks: Ms. Costello said there was no meeting. She noted they are getting estimates for a new French drain in the playground area, drainage work for the baseball field and fencing on 4th Ave. They have booked 3 bands for the summer concerts:

June 11 Barefoot Bobby

June 25 Little Red Rooster

July 9 Trout Fishing in America

She said the Committee is planning a spring clean-up day in May to clean the park and playground. Ms. Spencer asked the date. Ms. Costello said they haven't decided on that yet, but will discuss at the next meeting on April 7.

Personnel: No report

Street, Public Safety and Lighting: Mr. Farr said they had a meeting this week and discussed paving projects. There was a long discussion about the speeding on Park Ave. 15 residents attended and discussed possible solutions. They discussed crosswalk signs and signs restricting large trucks. The new LED lights were discussed and should be finished the middle of March. Chief Bucher said when the truck signs go up, that will include all large vehicles. Ms. Spencer asked the representatives from Ursinus College if they could instruct the sports buses to not use the side roads. Ms. Parker said that they use the WAZE app and that must be how they are directed. Mr. Hoffmann noted that the sign directing people to Ursinus on Main St is faded. Ms. Parker said it will be replaced this year. Mr. Farr said there was also a discussion about the state of the sidewalks in the borough. He said they are brainstorming on ways to approach the problem, one of them being approaching our local cement contractors to see if they would do a bulk pricing for a block so that it is more affordable for residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Leh reported that the Hudson Square zoning (Rees Property) was discussed at the January 16th Planning Commission meeting. Staff met to discuss the rezoning ordinance. The Applicant will be submitting a draft proposal for this option for the Borough's review and discussion at the Planning Commission's March 19 meeting.

His office has been working through the remaining review comments for Royal Farms with their engineer. The Applicant has also resubmitted their Highway Occupancy permit to PA-DOT and is fairly confident of approval within 30 days.

Bids will be received on February 28th for the 2020 Paving Project. A letter will be issued for recommendation of award prior to the March 4 Council Meeting.

We have completed our design work for the Third Ave – 2020 Grant Project. We have also met with some of the adjacent residents and they have been supportive of the project. As such, we intend on going out to bid in March with the intent of awarding the project in April. **MOTION** to approve soliciting bids for the 2040 Grant for Third Ave sidewalks by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Twelve bids were received for the paving project with the low bid from Innovative Construction Services in the amount of \$115,109.00. **MOTION** to award the 2020 paving bid to Innovative Construction Services by Ms. McKinney with a second by Mr. Hoffmann. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Solicitor: Mr. Greiser stated that he worked with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Leh on the Third Avenue construction easements. He noted that Royal Farms is getting closer to obtaining the required permits for the project. He also worked with the developer of the proposed townhouse project.

Manager: Mr. Thompson reported that the LED upgrades have begun and should be finished mid-March. He said the Perkiomen Watershed received \$40K in grants from the Fishing & Boating Commission to start our boat ramp project. He also noted that the Governor of PA has put out a budget proposal regarding police funding. He is suggesting that every borough/township needs to pay toward State Police funding-even those with their own police departments. He has reached out to request and explanation of the formula they used to calculate what everyone will pay. He has not heard back. He stated that he does not think this will pass as everyone with a police department will push back.

Police: Chief Bucher reported that the homicide on Third Ave was an isolated incident. The suspects have all been identified and we are waiting to see if charges will be filed. It was not a random act and there is no danger to the community. He noted that Montgomery County receives grants each year for police equipment. This year we were the recipients of some of those funds and now have a license plate reader.

Collegeville Fire Company: Mr. Freas reported that there were 29 incidents this month and they averaged just over 10 minutes from dispatch to on scene.

Trappe Ambulance: No report

Mayor: The Mayor noted the Collegeville Rotary Pancake Breakfast is schedule for March 15. He said adults are \$10 and kids \$5. He is excited for Music on Main after he stops at the Perkiomen Watershed for their annual cleanup day on April 4.

Discussion of Council Workshop Meetings

Ms. Kernan said they have decided to add another meeting to the monthly schedule. This meeting would be considered a “workshop” meeting and will be the week prior to the regular Council Meeting. The purpose of this is for the public to come and discuss issues with Council in depth. Ms. Kernan said this will be purely for information, no voting. We will advertise it on the website. Mr. Greiser said that since there will be more than 3 council members present and you COULD vote and minutes are required to be taken. Ms. Spencer asked how much advertising needs to be done. Mr. Thompson said 24 hours. Ms. McKinney asked if we need to have counsel. Mr. Greaser said that is up to Council if they want him at the meeting.

Ray Korenkiewicz asked how it will impact the budget to have staff at another meeting. Ms. Kernan said they don’t have to necessarily have staff if it causes budget issues. She noted that Workshop meeting will only be as-needed. **MOTION** to schedule a council workshop meeting as needed by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Robert Botti 713 Clahor Ave

Mr. Botti asked if engineers were consulted about traffic calming and speed bumps. Mr. Farr responded that many things were discussed, but it was decided that speed bumps are not an option because of emergency vehicles.

Todd McKinney 275 E 9th Ave

Mr. McKinney said that if Ms. Costello can give him dates in early May for the cleanup in the park, he can get students to help...same for the Perkiomen Watershed

Collegeville Borough Council Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2020

Page 4 of 5

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration of Ordinance No. 600, Updated PMRS Plan: **MOTION** to approve Ordinance No 600 by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Consideration of Appointing Craig Farr as a Voting Delegate for the 2020 PSAB Annual Conference: **MOTION** to approve Craig Farr as voting delegate by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer **MOTION carries 7-0**

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Historical Commissions: Ms. Kernan said she was approached by Martha Kriebel about starting up a historical commission in the borough. We have 25 structures that date back to the 1800's, but have no ordinances or lists that protect them in any way. I am recommending that we form a committee to investigate the possibility of forming a Historical Commission. Our intention is not to restrict owners from improving their properties. We hope to have Pastor Martha, a representative from Ursinus College and other people that are interested in historical preservation. Ms. Beckius, Ms. Spencer and possibly Ms. Costello are interested in joining. Mr. Greiser said that Cory Kegerise from the State Historical Preservation Office has agreed to meet with people from Collegeville to discuss the process of protecting historical properties.

MOTION to start an ad hoc historical preservation committee by Ms. McKinney with a second by Ms. Spencer. **MOTION carries 7-0**

Ms. Kernan announced that Trouble's End Brewing finally opens tomorrow at 4PM. They have a full restaurant menu. Their craft beers are not ready yet, but they have many beers on tap as well as wine and craft cocktails. Please support them!

Ms. Kernan advised that Council has an executive session immediately after the meeting regarding litigation and will not return.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:22 PM