

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Council President Cathy Kernen at 6:30PM

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Kathy Costello (via ZOOM), Valarie Beckius, Dean Miller. McKinney not present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Engineer Dave Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the February meeting by Farr with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Aileen Johnson from the PV Public Library gave an update of programs offered and fundraising campaigns at the Library.

Sue Calvin – 358 Stratford – Ms. Calvin asked for an explanation for the \$20 change fee to exchange trash cans. Ms. Twardowski explained that the cans were ordered in bulk and the fee is to cover the cost of having Whitetail come back and do the exchange.

Kinjal Bakshi – 164 Stine Drive – Mr. Bakshi thinks the borough “dropped the ball” with these new trash cans. He did comment that the borough staff and council has made some great changes over the last few years, but this is not one of them!

Janette Korenkiewicz – 234 Liberty Court – Ms. Korenkiewicz was upset that the Collegeville Green community was given the option for smaller cans and College Park was not. Ms. Twardowski explained Collegeville Green was not offered the option, but rather the agent for Collegeville Green was proactive in reaching out to the borough and asked if they could possibly have smaller cans. The contract was bid for 96 gallon cans for everyone, but we were able to talk to White Tail about ordering a smaller size for the whole development before they place the order. She also asked if it would be possible, for the residents that back up to Third Avenue, to place the cans there. Ms. Twardowski said she will talk to her contact at Whitetail and let her know. Ms. Korenkiewicz also asked for an update regarding the easement for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert repair. She noted that there were issues in the contract she was given to sign months ago and that she has not seen a corrected document. Ms. Geiser explained that since the management company is represented by an attorney, Ms. Geiser had responded directly to the attorney regarding the issue and has not received a response. Ms. Twardowski also noted that there was an issue with a property not being recorded properly and she is waiting to hear the outcome of that from her last correspondence with Josh at Excalibur. It will be coming up later in the meeting tonight that the borough will probably not be moving forward with the culvert repairs anyway at this time; the bids came in too high. She hopes that the recording issue of who owns the property can be cleared up in the near future so that when we decide to do the repair or replacement, it can be ready to go.

Bill Hollister – 35 Addison Lane – Mr. Hollister asked for status update on the Glenwood Reserve community punch list from BJ Homes. Ms. Geiser reported that a letter was sent to the builder back in February and that their response was received just yesterday. Many items have been addressed, but there are still some outstanding landscape concerns. Ms. Geiser explained that pulling their bond is an

arduous process and that it is much easier to work with the builder. The bond is always an option if they do not finish the work. Mr. Hollister said he wants to know exactly when the work on the basin will be done so that they can have a representative from the homeowner's association present. Mr. Leh said he is happy to share the timeline that was provided by BH Homes, but that weather will be a factor on the exact day they can work. Ms. Geiser noted that the builder was given a completion date of April 1, 2023. This issue will be an agenda item for Council at the April 5 meeting. If the work is not completed by then, it will come for vote by Council if it will be necessary to pull their bond.

John Evans McBride – 296 Carmen Drive – Mr. McBride said that he appreciated that Ms. Twardowski visited Carmen Drive and looked at the trash can situation. He said that he cannot comfortably navigate the big cans, his snow blower and car in his garage. He wanted to hear her thoughts. He feels that this has made his garage unusable and therefore has diminished his property value. Ms. Kernan said that sooner or later all municipalities will be going to automated pick up.

Mr. Bakshi feels we should have paid the extra \$20K and kept the service the same as it was. Ms. Kernan said that Council was swayed by the uniform look of having all the same cans and also the safety of the drivers when making their decision. She realizes that it is not the perfect situation for everyone.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report and checks #6019-6064 in the amount of \$212,871.42 by Hoffmann with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan explained the new MSD Zoning that has been proposed from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She noted that it will maintain the quaint village look to our streetscape and facades. Current properties will be grandfathered so as not to burden current owners with expensive changes, but will be for new businesses coming in to the borough. The committee is preparing comparison documents from the old to the new and plans meetings in the coming months for residents and business owners so that everyone can see the new plan. Nothing will be adopted until everyone has the chance to see how the changes will affect Main Street.

CPVRPC: No report. Next meeting is March 20.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Farr reported that the sewers are surveyed approximately every four years with cameras and that several laterals need to be repaired. He appreciates the proactive measures to avoid big problems. The state water inspection showed our water is in good condition. Ms. Beckius noted that the bid was approved and that work on the wall on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Mr. Sassaman's house will begin this spring as weather permits.

LVPRSA: No report

### PARKS:

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2023-03 authorizing submission of a Montco 2040 Grant application for improvements at Creekside Park by Costello with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 6-0

The Mayor asked if the grants and paperwork need the name to be assigned to the park as part of the funding and wants to ensure that, if so, that the park gets tagged properly with the Lenape name that was planned. Ms. Kernan assured him that the park will have the Lenape name for “beautiful creek” that was promised.

Ryan Beltz from the Perkiomen Watershed added that their portion of the project is finished and showed some slides to depict how the boat launch looks now.

Ms. Costello is working with L Leaphart from the barber shop on Main Street and Nick from Ursinus College on a diversity day event for 2024. They are planning to host some mixers in 2023 to build up support for the event.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr said a continuing topic at the meeting is for the signal upgrade being considered by the county at the trail crossing on Route 29. The other discussion was regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert repairs. It is the recommendation of the committee to defer doing the repairs at this time. The culverts will continue to be monitored and the tentative replacement dates are as follows: 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 2026 and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 2030. The budget committee has projected that we will have the savings to fund those projects by that time.

**MOTION** to reject the bids for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert repairs by Miller with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that Gilmore has opened and reviewed the bids for the 2023 Paving Project and have offered a recommendation for award. The structure for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert replacement project is in fabrication with an expected delivery date of the first week of May. The bids opened for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> culvert repair project on January 25. (Previously voted down)

**MOTION** to approve the paving contract to Innovative in the amount of \$207,508.75 by Farr with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted that she will follow up at the April meeting to ensure that BJ Homes follows through on the timeline they submitted for punch list items. She has submitted a draft ordinance for curb and sidewalk repair as well as a residential Use & Occupancy ordinance.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski noted that she sent a second notice of violation letter to the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel. The first letter was to have the owner put up fencing around the property and also demolish the parts of the building that were falling down. He did install the fencing, but the demolition has not happened. He has filed an appeal to the Notice of Violation. Appeals to the Property Maintenance Code are handled by a hearing before the Streets & Public Safety Committee. Ms. Geiser added the hearing to her calendar and will attend on behalf of the Borough. She will advise Ms. Twardowski if it needs to be advertised.

Ms. Twardowski said that the borough received a request of support for House Bill 1031 which adds animals to Protection from Abuse orders. Ms. Kernen said it sounds like something to support, but she is waiting to hear back from Joe Webster's office to provide more information about it.

POLICE: The Chief's report is on file

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 17 calls and 286.68 hours of service to the community. He noted that they plan to cut the donated police cars on Monday, March 6 at 7PM and all are welcome.

AMBULANCE: Mr. Long reported 122 calls last month. He noted that the lease is signed and they plan to be moved in to their new home on Main Street in one of Ursinus owned buildings on the 400 block in about two weeks.

MAYOR: The Mayor noted that March starts Women's Awareness Month and that we should all be thankful for the hard work and constant involvement of our President, Cathy Kernen. (applause!)

**MOTION** to approve the reports by Farr with a second by Hoffmann  
**MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:03PM