

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by Council President Cathy Kernen.

ROLL CALL: President Kernen, VP Hoffmann, PPT Farr, McKinney, Beckius, Costello and Miller

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Engineer Leh, Chief Bucher, Manager Twardowski and Assistant Robertson

MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 1 meeting by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the November 8 Budget meeting minutes by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

BUDGET & FINANCE: Ms. Twardowski reported ACH transfers, payrolls and check #'s 5230-5310 in the amount of \$354,044.68. She reported we ended the year with \$400K plus \$270K in AARP funds. She noted that the new police car was delayed and will be an expense for next year and that we had unexpected storm damage to the traffic light and streetlights near Royal Farms that cost \$100K to repair. Ms. Twardowski said she will have the complete year-end report at the February meeting.

MOTION to approve the treasurer's report and checks by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that Worthwhile Wear in the old Sears location is hoping to be open at the end of January. Brenna Sowers is in talks with Ursinus to open a coffee/tea/entertainment space in the 476 E Main St building. The Barn Yard children's play space set the take over some of the building that previously was Rock n' Roll After School. The Planning Commission is meeting later this month to finalize the new zoning for the corners of 5th & Main.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Ms. Beckius welcomed Mr. Miller to the committee and noted the next meeting will be January 17.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney said there was a discussion about a rate increase. While it is true that CTMA does have a decent reserve fund, she (and Mr. Farr and Ms. Beckius) think that small incremental rate increases are paramount to keeping a safe amount in case of a repair or replacement. She noted that if something comes up for the sewer, the repairs can run in the millions. This topic will continue to be debated at the next meeting. She encouraged everyone to attend on January 25.

LPVRS: No report

The Mayor asked if there is any update that can be posted to the website as he has been asked questions. Ms. Twardowski said she will reach out to Ms. Stagliano to see if there is any new information.

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that the fee schedule has been adjusted for the ball field. Prices were raised across the board, but more substantially so for non-residents. A resident team is considered so if more than half of the members live in the borough. There will be no more tournament play and the calendar will be split into seasons: spring/summer/fall. The next meeting will be January 18th and they will discuss grants and concerts. Ms. Twardowski said they are trying to do the basketball repave by quote rather than the “out to bid process”. It will be cheaper for us if we procure the materials and just get quotes for the labor.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION to approve the Police Chief’s contract thru 2024 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the manager’s contract by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the administrative staff increase of 4% by Beckius with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr explained that an issue came up on Glenwood Ave. Ursinus College owns the patch of ground that holds a college memorial. They are willing to run wiring and pay for two lights if the Borough will agree to pay for the electricity. Ms. Twardowski asked the council for guidance on how to move forward with another issue: There is a lamppost that was taken down by the builder of Glenwood Reserve. The light was apparently part of the property from when that parcel was a private home. The power source has been found for this light, but the question remains of who will pay the bill for it. The new Glenwood Reserve townhome HOA wants the borough to absorb this light. When this came up, Mr. Leh informed the committee that the original development of Glenwood Park Village was supposed to be paying for their street lights through their HOA and has not been. The committee agrees that it would be a good idea to pay for the lights that UC wants to put at the memorial, but disagrees about continuing to pay for the Glenwood Village and the new one at Glenwood Reserve. Alex Tweedie added that it may not be possible to separate it out now, after all these years. PECO may not allow us to hand the bill back to the HOA.

MOTION to approve the borough paying for the electricity for two new cobra head lampposts at the Ursinus Memorial on Glenwood Ave at the approximate cost of \$20 per month by Costello with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

Council agreed that Ms. Twardowski should approach the HOA’s of both developments about paying for their own lights.

Mr. Farr reported that Ursinus has a request for another light to be added in the parking lot of one of their buildings at 6th & Main Streets. He said he feels it is a reasonable request for public safety as the parking lot is very dark. This would be the same situation as on Glenwood: Ursinus would buy and install the light and the Borough would pay for the electricity.

MOTION to approve paying for an additional street light installed by Ursinus at 6th & Main rear parking lot by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the proposal from Gilmore & Associates to oversee the repair of the culverts at 5th & 6th Avenues and the replacement of the culvert at 8th Avenue in the amount of \$106K which covers all engineering fees associated with the project by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported during the previous month, activity has occurred on the following projects: 131 W. 4th Ave. Residential Conversion Project – we have received escrow release request No. 1 for this project and have provided a recommendation for release under separate cover.

Freeland Square – Construction continues. Curbing has now been completed around the perimeter of the site.

First Ave. Boat Launch Project- We have received approval for our General Permit from Pa-DEP. We will need to wait until the LPVRSIA Interceptor Project is complete prior to considering any type of construction.

MOTION to approve partial escrow release for 131 W 4th Ave in the amount of \$60,423.00 by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski noted that twenty of the twenty-two residents are planning to move forward so far with the FEMA buyouts.

MOTION to approve Form #3 designating Ms. Twardowski as the agent for acquiring the FEMA grant by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Form #5 which stipulates the conditions for accepting the grant: buying out the residents, demolishing the homes within ninety days of settlement, dedicating the land as open space, placing deed restrictions and acknowledging no more funding requests will be allowed by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski said she was contacted by the Perkiomen Watershed Initiative and asked to get support for a storm water study for the Perkiomen Creek. Act 167 would require a much more stringent ordinance than we currently have. The group discussed the topic at length and decided they need more information before supporting the initiative. Ms. Twardowski said she will try to get someone from the group to attend our next meeting to explain further and answer questions.

MOTION to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski noted that we were not awarded the RACP grant, but that we can try again for next year. She suggested moving the monthly council meeting to the Fire House since they have so much more space. She is looking for council approval to move forward with approaching the Chief and getting estimates for equipment. Ms. Kernan took a vote and everyone agreed to get more information. Mr. Penuel suggested that he and Ms. Twardowski go to the Limerick Fire House to see their system that works well.

Ms. Twardowski reported that she just received a conditional use application for Phoenixville Federal Bank. They anticipate demolishing their existing building and rebuilding on the same footprint. She explained that they need a CU for the drive thru and storm water. They will go before the Planning Commission later this month and should be before Council at the February meeting.

MOTION to approve the 2022 Fee Schedule by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted they are working with PVSD collecting phones for Laurel House. We will accept donations until January 17. Ms. Kernan noted the receipt of the Ursinus contribution toward police salaries.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 42 calls last month and a total of 407.02 volunteer hours and a total of 289 members.

MAYOR: The Mayor noted he will be at the ribbon cutting for Worthwhile Wear on January 11 at 5PM. He is also taking part in the 422 Coalition hosted by The Landing. The topic to be discussed is how to make this area more a more aging friendly community. He will be taking part in the Day of Service on January 17 with PVSD.

MOTION to approve the Committee & Administrative reports by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

No Public Comment

Ms. Kernan thanked the Fire Company & Victoria's on Main for their help with the tree lighting ceremony. The winners of the holiday home decorating contest were:

Griswold award: 243 Park Ave

Most religious: 120 Claymont Drive

Traditional: 390 8th Ave

Colonial: 136 Claymont Drive

Ms. McKinney said the next Montgomery County Borough's Association meeting will be via ZOOM and they are looking for topics to educate the borough leaders.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:09PM