

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2022

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

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Dean Miller and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Engineer David Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson

MOTION to approve the minutes from the September meeting by Costello with a second by McKinney
MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aileen Johnson from the Perkiomen Valley Library reported the events and resources available at the library. Of note are the new automatic renewals that will save in late fees and the availability of loaner “hot spots”. Construction is almost finished to stabilize the building and fundraising continues.

Ms. Kernen opened the hearing for Ordinance 614, the Historic Resource Ordinance. Ms. Geiser explained that this ordinance only pertains to the original five properties discussed at the last meeting:

- The Perkiomen Bridge
- The original portion of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel
- Clamer Hall
- The Andrew Todd House/Isenberg Hall
- Fetterholf House

Ms. Geiser noted explained that this is a Zoning Overlay for a proposed Ordinance that will be applicable throughout the Borough to the properties listed on the registry. By way of background, this was previously advertised for a hearing, however, there were substantial changes recommended by the Borough and County Planning Commission which warranted the hearing and ordinance being re-advertised. This ordinance, which Council has discussed at previous meetings, is a pared down version of a historic overlay which sets out requirements of a registry. At our previous meeting in September, we held a public hearing to adopt the registry and five Borough properties were added. This is a requirement under the proposed ordinance.

- B-1 is true and correct copy of the proposed ordinance
- B-2 is proof of publication and that it was advertised twice prior to the hearing tonight
- B-3 is the attestation that the ordinance was on file with the Montgomery County Law Library prior to this evening
- B-5 the minutes from the August 22 borough council meeting where they reviewed and commented on the Ordinance with the proposed changes that were adopted.
- B-6 is the email and attached redline draft of the ordinance provided by Montgomery County Planner, Naomi Crimm dated August 23, 2022 which provided comments after review by MPCC.

Ms. Kernen opened the meeting for council and the public to make any comments. Robert Botti asked for a list of the five properties.

Hearing closed.

MOTION to approve Ordinance 614 Historic Resource by McKinney with a second by Miller

MOTION carries 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve checks #'s 5746-5797 for payroll, ACH transfers and payments in the amount of \$204,972.04. Deposits in the amount of \$534,307.49 by Beckius with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski reported that the borough received a refund from the pension audit in the amount of \$10K, \$270K in rescue funds and \$93K in state aid.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen spoke of her discussion with Jonathan Chen, the new owner of DaVinci's Pub and his plans to redesign the interior into an upscale sushi bar/bar/restaurant. He hopes to open next summer.

MOTION to approve installing permanent markers to Water Works Park for events that require parking by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

Speedway has closed, and rumor has it there will be a 7-11 coming in that spot. More info to follow.

Ms. Kernen noted that she testified with Chrystal Gilchrist at Joe Webster's Storm Water and Flooding Forum. The full article is available on our website.

MOTION to advertise the Special Event permit that would allow for alcohol in Borough owned parks for Borough sanctioned events by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-1 (Miller)

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted the committee met on September 19. The meeting mostly dealt with a discussion regarding housing units and the residential construction reports put out by the county, which are available on the Borough website. The committee is also working on a storm water presentation as a resource for residents.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that they paid the bills and discussed investments. The two committees went over the special events permit allowing alcohol in the parks. There was a conversation with Joe Hastings regarding water and sewer rates.

LPVRSa: Ms. Stagliano noted that they have not had discussions about raising rates at the authority, but that she expects that will have to happen at some point. The interceptor project is complete and the DEP is reviewing the plans for the stream bank restoration. Realistically, that will not happen until next summer. They have received and approved the bids for the generator. Eastern Environmental has been accepted as the contractor with a bid of \$824K. BSI has been chosen as the electrical contractor with a bid of \$3.2M.

PARKS: Ms. Costello thanked Ms. Twardowski for her help getting a grant in the amount of \$63K that will pay for the basketball court at the Collegeville Park to be repaved. The next meeting will be on October 18 and will be via Zoom.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr reported that they had a lengthy discussion about the ambulance situation and that Brian Kuklinsky was a great resource for information. The trash contract was also discussed. They also went over the street priorities, but he noted that they have to wait until the budget is finalized before that can be decided.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that Gilmore has reviewed the bids and offered their recommendations under separate cover for the 5th & 6th Avenue culvert repair projects. They have also completed the bid specifications for the 8th Avenue culvert replacement project. They will be forwarding their review to Ms. Geiser's office. They are still waiting on an easement agreement from one of the adjacent property owners. Once the solicitor's office gives approval and the easement is approved, it will go out for bid. The permitting has been received from Pa-DEP for the MS4 PRP project, which is the 8th Avenue streambank restoration project. No work can commence on this project until the 8th Avenue culvert replacement project is fully completed.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted her work on the Historic Resource Ordinance and Special Events Permit.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski noted that budget talks are starting and wanted to advise that there are two items that are substantially increased from years past: trash and snow removal/salt. The lowest trash bid is double the amount of our last contract and the salting, storage & snow removal is \$15-20 per hour higher. She encouraged all to attend the budget meetings that will be posted when confirmed to be part of the discussion of scenarios to handle the significant increases.

Mr. Penuel asked if taking the trash in house has been considered. Ms. Twardowski said we don't have time to get a program like that together by January.

The new ambulance merger will also have an impact on the budget as they will be needing increased support from the participating municipalities and Collegeville's share is estimated at \$60K which is a \$55,000 increase.

Ms. McKinney pointed out that inflation is causing everything to go up! Raising taxes could be an unfortunate necessity.

MOTION to approve accepting the plow/salt bid from MAK Services by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve the Tax Collector Resolution allowing the TC the ability to waive fines if a property owner can prove non-receipt of their tax bill by McKinney with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to renew the contract with Montgomery County Planning Commission in the amount of \$38,934.72 over three years which affords us many grant opportunities by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2022-12 for the destruction of old records by Beckius with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve a temporary waiver of Land Development and Sub-Division for Ursinus College for the use of a temporary pod located in the middle of campus for a period of 26 months, with the understanding that they will have to re-apply after 24 months by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted several aggressive driving details in the borough that were concentrated in the area of Route 29 & Freeland Drive and Park Avenue. Main Street will be closed on October 26 from 6PM-8PM for the Halloween Parade between 2nd Avenue and 5th Avenue.

MOTION to approve the road closure as noted above for the Halloween Parade on October 26 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve our Fire Police to assist at the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church on October 21 by Beckius with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve the amendment to the Police Pension Document by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 33 calls last month, 11 of which were in the Borough and 300.34 service hours to the community.

MAYOR: The Mayor noted his participation at the following events:

- Spoke on equality and inclusion at the PV School Board meeting
- He will attend the inauguration of President Hannigan at Ursinus College on October 14
- Lecture at PV High School on October 25
- Will be giving the invocation at the Pennsylvania State Legislature in Harrisburg on October 24
- Collegeville Halloween Parade

MOTION to approve the administrative and committee reports by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:27PM