

BOROUGH OF COLLEGEVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Dean Miller and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins.

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

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Reorganization meeting by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Geiser opened the Conditional Use Hearing for Phoenixville Federal Bank by explaining the process and introducing the bank's attorney, Andy Rau. Full transcript is available.

**MOTION** to close the hearing by Beckius with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to dismiss the Conditional Use application for the drive through windows as it was deemed unnecessary by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the steep slope Conditional Use with a stipulation for the parking easement with the property next door (also owned by Phoenixville Federal) and conformity with diagram A5 which reflects changes made as dictated by Ms. Geiser by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the waiver of Land Development by Beckius with a second by Miller

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Kernen introduced Chrystal Gilchrist from the Perkiomen Storm Water Initiative gave a presentation about issues of recurring flooding along the Perkiomen Creek. She asked Council for a letter of support for Act 167 study for the Perkiomen Creek. Ms. Kernen said that she and council will consider the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Sassaman 209 11<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Sassaman asked if there has been any discussion at Public Works about the wall deterioration next to his home. Ms. McKinney noted that the survey has been approved and should be complete by the end of the month. At that time, permits will be pulled and the repair done.

**MOTION** to accept the resignation of Shannon Spencer from the Planning Commission by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to appoint Susan Phillips to the Planning Commission by McKinney with a second by Costello  
**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUDGET&FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve check #'s 5312-5371 and the Treasure's Report by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan noted that Ursinus College has put any major development on hold until they name their new president. There is a coffee house still in the works for 476 E Main St. The owners of the Key Bank Building are planning to divide the building into three 2000SF spaces. We have invited Downtown Scoop from Souderton to attend our events in the hope that they will open a shop in Collegeville. We are meeting with Lisa Minardi from the Trappe Historical Society to brainstorm ideas to save the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Ms. Beckius said she will contact the County to see why we haven't received the trail maps yet. She noted they are still working on the Landowner Stewardship Guidebook. Schwenksville is still dealing with issues related to the flood and Upper Frederick is working on zoning issues.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney noted that they had their reorganization meeting. They paid bills and discussed the Inflo Phase 4 bid.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano reported that ten EDU's were approved. The original completion date was June of 2021 but, due to many delays, is now October 2022. The Collegeville part of the project is complete except for the connection at the Chestnut Street extension. Turtle and eagle monitoring continues. The project is 16,900 linear feet and only 4500 remains. The trail is set to reopen this month. At the reorganization meeting, all the players stayed the same.

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that the committee met on January 8 and spent most of the meeting hearing a presentation by Rich Wallace on Hunsberger Woods. She is reaching out to groups to aid in continuing the work to preserve the park for future generations. They are working on the ball field schedule for this season. The plan is for two concerts this summer. She and Ms. Twardowski are working on a grant that will help with the basketball court resurfacing project.

STREETS & LIGHTING: Mr. Farr noted there was no meeting last month. He asked Ms. Twardowski if there has been any movement on the Glenwood Ave lighting issue. Ms. Twardowski said she is waiting for updated 2022 pricing from Lenni Electric has not gotten a response from the HOA. She suggested that Ms. Geiser send a follow up letter.

Ms. Kernan noted that there was an executive session before the meeting regarding litigation.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### ENGINEER:

**MOTION** to approve escrow release #3 for Freeland Square in the amount of \$49,496.00 by Beckius with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Mr. Leh reported that the topographic field surveys for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue culverts are almost finished and the design process will soon begin. The wetlands still need to be located, but this step must be completed once the area is free of all snow.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted that the executive session before this meeting was regarding some ongoing litigation regarding the Buck Estate lawsuit from 2015. Our insurance carrier has recommended that we accept the settlement.

**MOTION** to approve the settlement of the Buck estate lawsuit (numbers confidential) by Costello with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

### MANAGER:

**MOTION** to approve Ordinance No. 2022-02, the updated 2022 fee schedule, by Costello with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski reported that the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant is \$7.5M, \$6M of which is for nineteen properties/21 structures, demolition and settlements. The timeline for the acquisition is late summer.

**MOTION** to approve the borough joining the Cohen Law Group for group negotiations with Verizon and Comcast by Miller with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

### POLICE:

**MOTION** to approve the road closure of Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 9:30AM to 1PM for graduation on May 14 by Beckius with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

### MAYOR: No report

FIRE: Mr. Sassaman reported 291 members and 347.9 volunteer hours. There were 42 calls in January.

TRAPPE AMBULANCE: Ms. Twardowski reported that in December of 2021 there were 108 calls to the Trappe station, 16 of which were for Collegeville Borough and 140 calls to the Limerick station, 12 of which were for the borough. Overall time from call to site was 8.72 minutes.

**MOTION** to approve the Committee and Administrative reports by Costello with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernan noted that St. Eleanor's is hosting their Annual Food Drive this weekend. The drive up hours are Saturday, Feb 5 10-5 and Sunday, Feb 5 8-1:30. This benefits St. Vincent DePaul, Project Outreach and The Daily Bread Food Pantry.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:45PM