

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2022

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

ROLL CALL: Pres Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Valarie Beckius, Kathy Costello and Dean Miller

(McKinney and Wright-Riggins absent)

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 February meeting by Beckius with a second by Farr  
**MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: Aileen Johnson from the Schwenksville Public Library reported that the library has just moved from masks required to mask optional. Story Time for kids continues as well as many online programs. This month for National Women's Appreciation they are presenting a program called "Finding Justice". They are working on the summer program. The theme this year is "Oceans of Possibilities". Construction on the building continues and has grown into a \$2M project.

Jon Doman, Collegeville Tax Collector, noted some tax relief for seniors on a fixed income. Forms are available on our website and to contact him or our State Rep Joe Webster's office if anyone has questions about how to fill them out. Deadline to apply for tax relief from the state or PVSD is June 30. Steve Gehringer from Ursinus College asked if there is a start date for the PennDOT paving project on Main Street. Ms. Twardowski said that she has heard mid-March, but nothing solid yet.

**A Statement from Collegeville Borough on an Issue of Importance by Ms. Kernen  
Ukraine and the Russian Invasion**

Collegeville Borough, its Council and Mayor denounce Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and we express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine. We support and pray for the Ukrainian people, and for those persons and organizations attending to and providing comfort to the forcibly displaced people from Ukraine.

We stand with the Ukrainians as they fight to defend their freedom and independence, and join with others around the world in encouraging all countries to keep their borders open and that they provide assistance to everyone in need of protection.

There are more than 1.1 million members of the Ukrainian American diaspora. Ukrainians have been immigrating to the United States since the late 19th century, and in fact, many arrived in Pennsylvania in 1877 to work in the mines. After the Second World War, the largest immigration wave of Ukrainians occurred when thousands of displaced Ukrainians sought refuge in large American cities including Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, and Chicago. Thousands more fled during the cold war and its aftermath. In 2019, Ukrainians were one of the top groups resettled as refugees in the US.

An attack on democracy anywhere is an attack on democracy everywhere--and must not be tolerated. The moral arc of the universe is indeed long, and we believe that the evil President Putin has unleashed on Ukraine will come back over time to undermine his own regime.

Collegetown Borough, our Council and Mayor urge everyone to pray for those suffering in Ukraine and for an end to hostilities and the restoration of true justice and genuine peace.

Finally for ways to help the citizens of Ukraine, please visit the website of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center located in Jenkintown in Montgomery County: <https://www.ueccphila.org/> NPR also has listed the best sites to donate to help Ukraine here:

<https://www.kbbi.org/npr-news/2022-02-24/want-to-support-the-people-in-ukraine-heres-how-you-can-help.>”

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve check #5372-5424, payroll and ACH transfers in the amount of \$171,717.51 by Hoffmann with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan explained the Local Share Assessment Grant is money from casino revenues and she is requesting that the Borough apply for a grant that will be used for the Main Street Plan. Congressman Webster and Senator Muth are both in favor. The funds will be used for a firm to assist the Borough with creating and adopting the plan, assist with garnering public input and documents such as 3D renderings that reflect the desired look of the 400 block of Main St.

REGIONAL PLANNING: No report

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: No report

LPVRSAs: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that we did not qualify for the DCNR grant this year because our basketball court is not ADA accessible. She plans to work with Ms. Twardowski to see if we can make it so and try again next year. She is working to schedule a spring clean-up day for the parks. So far, they have one concert scheduled for June 23<sup>th</sup>, The Bachelor Boys and are trying to schedule another. There will not be a meeting this month.

PERSONNEL: No report

##### STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY:

**MOTION** to approve up to \$1K for a traffic count study by Gilmore & Associates at Route 29 & Freeland Drive by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**MOTION** to approve up to \$15K for a road survey and repair plan by Gilmore & Associates by Beckius with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that construction continues onsite at Freeland Square. In addition, WB Homes is in the process of completing the offsite ADA Ramps at the intersections of W. Fourth Ave. and Walnut St., and W. Fourth Ave. and Chestnut St. We have completed the topographic field surveys for the 5th, 6th, and 8th Ave. Culvert Repair / Replacement Projects and design has begun.

We anticipate submitting our General Permit Applications to Pa-DEP within the next few weeks.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted that she worked on the drafted opinion and decision for the Conditional Use application from Phoenixville Federal.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski asked council if they had decided about sending a letter of support for the Perkiomen Watershed Initiative. Ms. Kernan polled the members and it was decided that our Borough Council will join with Ms. Gilchrist and send our support. Ms. Twardowski provided a handout advising residents how to manage storm water on their property as part of the continuing education about storm water.

**MOTION** to approve Resolution No. 22-03 giving Ms. Twardowski and Ms. Kernan authority to execute all documents and agreements for the Local Share Agreement Grant by Farr with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

POLICE: Chief Bucher's noted his report on file and no other issues to report.

FIRE: Mr. Freas reported 34 calls with an average dispatch to scene of 11 minutes. There were 370 hours of service last month.

**MOTION** to approve closing the fire apparatus fund and releasing \$550,470.97 to the fire company for the purchase of a new fire truck by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

TRAPPE AMBULANCE: Ms. Twardowski reported 112 calls, 19 of which were for Colledgeville Borough and 163 calls from the Limerick station, 12 of which were for the borough. Dispatch to arrival on scene was 8.42 minutes on average.

MAYOR: No report

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

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sam Bugay 7 Glenwood Ave asked if taxes were going to be raised again and other comments. Ms. Kernan said there are no plans to raise taxes.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 7:28PM**