

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 4, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello and Dean Miller (Beckius not present)

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 December Council meeting as well as the November Budget meeting by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Lynch from Freedom Valley Ambulance introduced himself and gave an update on the status of the ambulance and that they are in the process of moving the Phoenixville staff to the Trappe Division and expressed that they would like to continue to serve the area as the primary EMS service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasure's report which includes payrolls, ACH transfers and credit cards in the amount of \$270,059.40 and checks #5900-5957 by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen noted that Ping Chen had hoped to reach an agreement with TransFleet for access to his parking lot, but has not been able to at this point. He has decided to try to lease the space. Ursinus College is working to increase the parking to allow Haven Coffee & Tea at 476 E Main St. Ms. Kernen asked Council to consider a donation to Historic Trappe. She stressed the importance of building a relationship with them. They were very helpful when their construction crew and structural engineer assessed the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel and she values their expertise moving forward. If the borough were ever to obtain ownership of the Hotel, we would need to donate it to a historic group. Mr. Farr and Ms. McKinney agreed that further discussion needs to happen before we give an unbudgeted donation. The Mayor suggested to have Ms. Minardi come and speak to Council and explain all that Historic Trappe does. This might help council decide about funds. Mr. Farr thinks Council needs to make a plan for the Hotel as people ask constantly for status updates.

CPVRPC: No report

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney noted that the 2023 Budget was approved 4-2. She wanted to note on the record that there is discord within the committee regarding sewer rates. She explained that

every year the auditor suggests a rate increase. The Collegeville members of the committee agree and vote for the increases. The Trappe members do not. She and Mr. Farr agree strongly that the rates should incrementally go up. Their hands are tied because it keeps getting voted down. It was suggested that Joe Hastings do a presentation to explain that all expenses go up every year and that rates need to also.

LPVRPC: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that one third of the dead Ash trees in Hunsberger Woods have been removed. She noted vandalism at the Collegeville Park and is working with Joe Hastings to get better, tamper proof lighting.

PERSONNEL:

**MOTION** to approve the salary increases for the administrative staff by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**MOTION** to approve the re-appointment of Bruce Craver to the Zoning Hearing Board until 12/31/25, Andrea Baptiste to the Vacancy Board until 12/31/23 and David Kellon to the Civil Service Commission until 12/31/28 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr reported that there was a discussion about installing sidewalks on E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave between Main St and Route 29. The discussion will continue with Ursinus College. They discussed the installation of new flashing lights at the trail crossing on Route 29. The committee will reach out to Montgomery County regarding upgrades at that crossing.

**MOTION** to approve the application and commit matching funds for a Green Light Go grant to be used to upgrade the adaptive timing system of the Traffic Signals by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**MOTION** to approve Gilmore & Associates to prepare and advertise the 2023 road project by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that they have sent the contract documentation out to Mason Dixon for Execution for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert Replacement Project. They have also released the agreement to Contech to generate final shop drawings for production. He noted that they have re-advertised bids for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues Culver Repair Project. Bids are scheduled to be received in time to be considered at your February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski reported that she has received verbal approval from FEMA for the grant to buyout the devastated properties from the hurricane. Meetings with residents will start in about 90 days.

**MOTION** to approve Ms. Twardowski as the designated agent for the buyouts by Costello with a second by Miller

**MOTION** carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski said, at this point, Skippack Ambulance has no plans to put an ambulance on this side of the creek. Freedom Valley is fully staffed and is still (at this time) housed in Trappe. Don Lynch said Freedom Valley has every intention of staying in Trappe or finding a comparable spot on this side of the creek to service our community. Ms. Twardowski noted that she has a meeting next week with Perkiomen Township and Upper Providence to discuss the ambulance situation as they have not made any decisions yet either.

POLICE:

**MOTION** to approve the donation of three out-of-use police cars for Fire Company training by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 39 calls last month and 634.8 hours of service to the community. He noted that in 2022, there were a total of 414 calls and 5816.9 hours of service. The Fire Services Agreement will be discussed at the February meeting.

MAYOR: Mayor Wright-Riggins commended our Police department on Collegeville being ranked the safest place to live in Montgomery County and 2<sup>nd</sup> safest in Pennsylvania!

**MOTION** to approve adopting a Land Acknowledge Statement of Lenape land which will entail it read quarterly at meetings and also events throughout the year by McKinney with a second by Farr

**MOTION** carries 6-0

\*full statement available on our website

The Mayor gave special thanks to Heather Lobban-Viravong for her extensive work to secure this relationship between the college, PV School District and the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Henry Blanco White 915 Chestnut St – Mr. White asked when we will receive our new trash cans.

Ms. Twardowski said we do not know yet but will put updates on our website as they come in. He also asked if we can post the fire company training dates on the website so he can watch. Mr. Penuel said he will let us know when scheduled.

Mr. Farr noted that there had been a question posed by a resident at the budget meeting regarding bi-weekly recycling pick up. He asked if that had been considered and if it is too late to consider it now.

Ms. Twardowski said that it is too late as the contract has been signed. She noted that there were many more complaints about that than the size of the cans when they did that in Trappe. If your can is not full on a certain week, you don't have to put it out.

Ms. Kernan invited everyone to attend the Martin Luther King Jr Community Inter Faith Service at Bomberger Hall at 3PM on January 22.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:54 PM