

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 4, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius and Damien Brewster

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

MOTION to approve the minutes from the September meeting by McKinney with a second by Costello  
MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Kernen noted that there was an Executive Session before the meeting to discuss litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eric Bullen 53 W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Bullen asked if speed pillows have been considered on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Farr said there would have to be a traffic study that shows the speeding is an issue. Chief Bucher said he will move the sign that records the speed of cars passing over to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and they will have some data for the next Streets & Public Safety meeting.

Linda Korenkiewicz 43 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – Ms. Korenkiewicz said she has noticed many dead or dying trees in the borough and wondered if there are plans to replace them. Ms. Costello said that there were a few at the park and they are being replaced.

Ms. Geiser introduced Joe Clement. Mr. Clement represents Larry Wargo and gave a presentation of their proposed plan, which is to convert an existing industrial/commercial building into 12 apartments. There will be no new site improvements. Mr. Clement then explained their request for five waivers for their 135 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue conversion project. .

MOTION to approve Waiver A, section 600.41B – right of way by Costello with a second by McKinney  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Waiver B, section 600.34 AB - \$9K fee in lieu of a sidewalk by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Waiver C, section 600.38 – lighting by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann  
MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Waiver D, section 600-13E – existing features by Brewster with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Waiver E, section 600.27 - \$6K fee in lieu of recreational space by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the Land Development plan for 135 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue contingent upon compliance with the Gilmore Review letter dates 8/10/2023 by McKinney with a second by Costello  
MOTION carries 7-0

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve checks #6377-6430 and payrolls, payments & ACH transfers in the amount of \$334,356.39 by McKinney with a second by Costello  
MOTION carries 7-0

##### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Kern reported that The Library restaurant in the former DaVinci's building is expecting to open before the end of the year. Elegant Celebrations is taking over the Whitby's Jewelers and hopes to open their doors soon. The second meeting for the Main Street Steering Committee is scheduled for October 16.

##### CPVRPC:

Ms. Beckius reported that they discussed open space and greenways at their last meeting. They are extending the surveys until the end of October. The next meeting is Nov. 20.

##### CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. McKinney noted that there are no updates regarding 199 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue or Royal Farms. They discussed a \$473,330.00 sewer lateral repair project. Two wells remain down and the Committee is exploring alternatives for treatment including constructing an interconnect with North Penn Water to purchase bulk water from them and also treatment at each impacted well. .

LPVRS: No report

##### PARKS:

Ms. Costello said they are looking at grants to replace the structure at the park. She is working on her 2024 Park budget.

Ms. Beckius thanked Ms. Costello for her efforts on the baskets for the Perkiomen Watershed raffle. Ms. McKinney also thank Ms. Costello for her great work on the Parks Committee.

##### PERSONNEL:

MOTION to approve the resignation of Damien Brewster from Planning Commission and the appointment of Eric Pfeiffer and Karen Vitelli to Planning Commission by Costello with a second by McKinney  
MOTION carries 7-0

##### STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Farr reported that the big topic at their meeting was the basin on Clahor Avenue. The inlet pipe appears to be partially buried and if the flow is partially blocked it could be causing excess water on the

street. He said clearing out around the inlet could cost \$40K. He also is working on his budget for 2024, and while the planned road projects include Carmen Drive and Larkin Lane, the sub structure under Carmen Drive may delay the replacement of that road depending on cost. Parking on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was also discussed. There were some complaints about a school bus issue at Freeland and Stine Drives. It was decided that the bus would move back a house length from the corner so that motorists would not have to stop.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

##### SOLICITOR:

Ms. Geiser reported that all landscaping has been completed at Glenwood Reserve. The hearing for the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel is set for November 30 at 10AM.

MOTION to approve the Board of Assessments Appeal Settlement Agreement for Beehive at 505-511 Second Ave by Costello with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

##### ENGINEER:

Mr. Leh noted that the contractor for the Creekside Park is on site and work has begun. He reported that a minor land development application for 135 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been submitted which proposes the conversion of an existing 7,507 SF commercial building into twelve apartments. The application was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their September 21 meeting and approval was recommended.

##### MANAGER:

Ms. Twardowski reported that she met with Freedom Valley Medical Rescue and that they anticipate needing a larger fee from the borough next year. Ms. McKinney asked how much Ursinus College is contributing toward the ambulance service. Ms. Twardowski said she is not certain, but will look into it and that is something that should be addressed as we look at the budget. Ms. Costello asked when the demolition of the FEMA homes will start. Ms. Twardowski said she anticipates it will start in a few weeks.

MAYOR: The Mayor read our Land Use Acknowledgement statement:

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*"We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario) have stewarded through generations land and waterways on what is now known as Collegeville Borough. Our residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions rest on Lenapehoking, their ancestral and spiritual homeland. Collegeville Borough, in the State of Pennsylvania, honors and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land."*

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**POLICE:**

Chief Bucher noted five DUI and five Aggressive Driving details last month. The Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 25 and Main Street will be closed from 6:15-8:15PM. Drug Take Back Day is set for Saturday, October 28 from 10AM-2PM at Borough Hall. He also mentioned the informative event that he, Officer Barnshaw and Officer Sohl attended at Ursinus last week: The Community Conversation Symposium.

**FIRE:**

Mr. Penuel reported 16 calls and 383.5 hours of service last month.

**AMBULANCE:**

Mr. Long noted that things are continuing to go well at their Main Street location.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:40 PM**