

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6PM by Council Vice President, Gary Hoffmann.

ROLL CALL: VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster, Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffmann and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins

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

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

Chief Bucher gave an update on the accident on Main Street that happened at 1PM today.
Mr. Hoffmann asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the person that lost their life.

The Mayor read our **Land Acknowledgement Statement:**

“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.”

Phil Sapovits gave a presentation on behalf of his group (Silverback Investment Partners) that mirrored the meeting on March 20 at Ursinus College. The overview depicted what businesses they are hoping to attract to our Main Street and the overall look of the buildings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks #6730-#6760 by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan was not present, but Mr. Hoffmann asked everyone to take a moment to look at and return the survey regarding our Main Street on the website and newsletter.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted that most of the discussion centered on a land development project on Centennial Street, which is not in the borough. She advised that Skippack Township may rejoin the group. The next meeting will be April 15.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that they paid the bills and discussed investments. The wells and water continue to be tested.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano. Four Edu(s) were approved. Nineteen chapter 94 consistency letters were approved. The generator project is moving ahead. The contract documents for the primary clarifier repair project has been executed and Gilmore & Associates are scheduling the pre-construction meeting. Many maintenance and repairs were performed.

PARKS: Ms. Costello presented slides that showed the playground equipment that is being considered to replace our old set at Collegeville Park. They are all in the \$30K range. Ms. Geiser suggested that Ms. Costello decide which set she wants to move forward with and add it to the agenda for voting at the May meeting. Ms. Costello noted the first concert in the park (Bigg Romeo) is scheduled for May 16. Mr. Brewster explained that he is researching the possibility of painting lines and installing a fence on the hockey court so that it could also be used for Pickleball. Mr. Alex Tweedie, 316 Colonial Avenue suggested a solid wall rather than a fence so that it could double as a bounce back wall for all racket sports as well as a sound barrier.

PERSONNEL: Chief Bucher explained the Consortium process for hiring a new patrolman in anticipation of the retirement of Detective Milburn. There was a third candidate when we did the last round of hiring that is still interested in working in our department. He noted that we need to extend an offer of conditional employment in order to do the required background checks.

MOTION to approve offering a conditional employment offer to Timothy Rudderow by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh advised that they have received the signed agreements back from the contractor for the 2024 Paving Project. Demolition work has begun on some of the homes along West First Avenue that are part of the FEMA acquisition program. The contractor is still waiting for confirmation from PECO that gas and electric services have been disconnected on others.

Robert Lilick – 204 Airport Rd, Limerick attempted to address council regarding the demolition job on First Avenue. Ms. Geiser explained to Mr. Lilick that he has no standing to speak at our meeting. Only residents and business owners of our borough are allowed to speak in this forum. Mr. Hoffmann suggested that he send an email to Ms. Twardowski outlining his concerns.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser advised that there was an executive session on March 26 regarding a legal matter. She noted that a Consent Order has been signed by the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel,

the Borough and Judge Tolliver that requires Mr. Crawford to demolish the newer dilapidated additions, clean up all debris, ensure the building is secured and fence the area. Ms. Geiser is encouraged by this step since now the owner has a time frame in which to comply or he will be subject to sizeable fines and more litigation.

MOTION to approve ratifying the Consent Order for the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski reported that we are dealing with another building that is in disrepair. Our BCO has been in touch with the owner of a vacant warehouse on E Third Avenue. He has agreed to board up the windows and clean up the parking lot so that police can safely patrol the area. It is a dangerous and unsightly situation that is close to a trail entrance. Ms. Twardowski is investigating the best use of the property as the owner has stated that he would be willing to sell for the "right" price. She advised that in the next month, the landscape near the creek will change dramatically. The Stong property along with all the others behind Keyser Miller will be gone, the asphalt removed and grass planted. On the other side behind Royal Farms, all but two homes will also be gone. Saturday, April 13 is the Perkiomen Watershed Cleanup Day and they are always looking for volunteers. The new Creekside Park dedication will take place the same day as the Watershed's Sojourn. (June 1, time TBD)

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted that Drug Take Back Day is schedule for April 27.

MOTION to approve the Main Street road closure for Ursinus College graduation on May 11 from 9AM-1PM by Beckius with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve a Fire Police request from Upper Dublin for their Triathlon On May 19 from 6AM-10AM by Brewster with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

FIRE: Mr. Sassaman reported 31 calls for the month, 7 of which were in the borough. 411 hours of service to the community. He thanked everyone for the success of the Redner's receipt program. He is collecting money every month that covers meals and incidentals.

MAYOR: No report

AMBULANCE: Chris Reynolds from Lower Providence Ambulance reported 14 calls in March for the borough and that base to response location is averaging eight (8) minutes. He noted that things are going well and that they have a great working relationship with Friendship Ambulance.

MOTION to approve all reports by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Henry Blanco White – 915 Chestnut St – Mr. White asked if all the trees at the corner of 9th & Main will be removed in light of what happened earlier today.

Terry Albertson, Ursinus College – Ms. Albertson conveyed the college’s sadness over the accident on Main Street earlier today. She advised that one tree was removed this afternoon and that all the trees will be assessed this week.

Jan Snovel – 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel said there is a bush at the corner of 3rd & Chestnut that has been trimmed back, but not enough for people that drive SUVs or trucks to have clear lines of sight.

Jim Traupman – 256 E 9th Ave – Mr. Traupman asked if the meeting time has been moved up. Mr. Hoffmann explained that it started early tonight to accommodate the Silverback presentation. It was announced at the March meeting, advertised in the paper, on the park sign and our website.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:57PM