

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2023

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

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

The Mayor swore in the new Junior Councilperson, Alicia Hoffmann. Ms. Hoffmann then took her place at the Council table.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE: Ms. Twardowski noted that there is an open budget meeting scheduled for November 13 at 5:30PM.

MOTION to approve checks 6431-6485 and the Treasurer's report by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen noted that Collegeville just received the designation as one of the two best places to live in Montgomery County if you are over 55 years old by Montco Live. Ms. Kernen advised that the third Main Street Steering Committee workshop is scheduled for November 16 at 5:30PM. This meeting is open to the public. The committee consists of business owners and other Main Street stakeholders and will be expanded to all residents starting in early 2024.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius said their next meeting is on November 20. They will be wrapping up the regional plan and analyzing the survey results.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported an issue that came up at the meeting. The members of the committee that live in Trappe decided that they are against pursuing any further studies that pertain to the water connection with North Penn Water Authority. The two wells that showed unacceptable PFOA levels happen to be located in Collegeville Borough. Ms. Beckius explained that the way the committee works is that there are three members from each borough, and if the vote is split 3/3 no funds can be used. Ms. McKinney said that if no joint funds are used to research our options, then Collegeville Borough may have to pay for it. She feels that this adversarial relationship is not good and

goes back many years to past Councils. The Mayor asked how the committee is structured. Mr. Farr explained that it is a "committee," not an "authority." The members meet and report back to their councils. Ms. Twardowski said there is a legal agreement between the two boroughs and items such as infrastructure are supposed to be split equally between the two for maintenance and repair. The wells in question could just as easily be in Trappe! If the Trappe members cannot be persuaded to share in the research and implementation of any improvements, we have the option to take the issue to the Court of Common Pleas. Ms. Geiser stated that she has been in touch with the solicitor for Trappe and they are exploring ways to avoid litigation. That should be a last resort. The Mayor asked if the residents of Trappe are aware. Ms. Beckius said that only the people affected by these two wells were notified. Mr. Hoffmann asked if CTMA could send a letter notifying all residents of both boroughs about the issue because it could financially impact everyone. Ms. McKinney said it would have to be voted on and would probably come out to the same 3/3 vote. Ms. Kernen said that this is an important problem and Council needs to think through it and come up with a strategy to manage it. Mr. Hoffmann noted that someone could remind the Trappe Council that when they came to our council meeting recently with an issue of flooding on a property in Trappe, that we were open to addressing what was happening on our side of Clahor Avenue. Mr. Brewster asked how tied in we are with Trappe for the water. All the way in!! Mr. Farr said the partnership cannot be divided. Mr. Farr said that he had a conversation with one of the Trappe members after the meeting and that he feels this is not a permanent vote. It was explained to him that they just want to slow down and not pay for any more feasibility studies for the hook in until there are further inspections of our wells.

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that a tree was removed and branches trimmed on others at the park. The Perkiomen Watershed is installing thirty (30) trees in Hunsberger Woods on November 7.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski shared the report submitted by Ms. Stagliano. Twenty-six (26) EDUs were approved. Four EDUs from Collegeville Borough were returned. Please note that Collegeville Borough was the only municipality so far to give the authority the required information for the abandoned EDUs. Forty (40) EDU Release of Chapter 94 letters were approved for Lower Providence. The 2022 financial audit was approved with no discrepancies noted. Construction for the emergency generator should begin this year. Bid documents are being prepared by Gilmore and Associates for Primary Clarifier Tank repairs which should be bid this year for construction in the summer of 2024. The Authority is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our solicitor, Bob Brant. Bob was their solicitor for 20+ years. His wealth of legal knowledge in plants such as ours and authorities was invaluable to them. Bob was their conscience. He always seemed to know just what to say to give the board insight into any tough issue that came before them. But more than just the attorney, he was their friend. Bob will be sadly missed for a long time.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr noted that at the last meeting a resident requested a traffic study on 5th Avenue. The apparatus to monitor traffic was set up and did not show any substantial issue on the street. The resident thought it was not placed in the correct spot, so the Chief had it moved and there will be more data for the next meeting. The other topic at their meeting was Leslen Lane. The residents on that street want clarification on who exactly owns the road and why the Borough will not

take control of it. Mr. Farr explained that the road is simply not wide enough by state standards for us and that we cannot use tax money to maintain a private road. The committee will continue to investigate.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the Creekside Park project is substantially complete.

MOTION to approve payment request #1 from Floyd G Hersh, Inc in the amount of \$109,260.90 by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser gave an update on the Glenwood Reserve project. There are three minor punch list items that remain: the Conservation District report, the resetting of an iron property pin and the HOP permit for the ADA curb cut at the corner of Glenwood & Main Streets. She expects these all to be completed soon. She reported that an injunction was filed against the owner of Perkiomen Bridge Hotel which, if granted, would allow the court to compel the owner to remove the newer sections of the structure that are damaged. There is also a hearing scheduled for November 30 for the 24 citations that had been filed previously. The owner, Mr. Crawford, has requested continuances for both.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski reported that she attended a Regional Summit meeting with neighboring municipalities to brainstorm ways we can work together to assist each other and save money.

Demolition for the damaged FEMA properties that were bought out needs to go out to bid due to the amount. Ms. Twardowski noted that she met with the leadership of Freedom Valley Medical Rescue and was told they are seeking additional funds for next year from the Borough. Ms. Twardowski explained to them that she is investigating other organizations for medical rescue.

MOTION to approve going out to bid for the demolition of FEMA buy out properties by Beckius with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2023-13 for records destruction by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2023-14 to apply for a Local Share Grant by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to send a letter of intent for technical assistance from the DCED by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

POLICE: The Chief's report is on file and he thanked everyone involved for the success of the Halloween Parade.

MOTION to approve our Fire Police assisting the Jefferson Fire Company at their car show on Nov 4 by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 27 calls last month, 14 of them in Collegeville Borough and 504 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

MAYOR: The Mayor noted that the Perkiomen Watershed Sojourn that was to have taken place on October 13 was rained out and will be rescheduled for the spring. He noted that he and Ms. Baptiste attended an event at Ursinus College that was hosted by Congresswoman Madeleine Deane. He is pleased to share that Ursinus is a recovery friendly campus and thinks that will have a positive impact on the community. He also was thrilled with the huge success of the Halloween Parade.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Ms. Kernan noted that the funeral for Robert Brant will be at the Berman Museum on Ursinus' campus on November 17 at 11AM. She also thanked Upper Providence Township for hosting "The Walls That Heal" tour.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:45PM