

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Council President, Cathy Kernen. The meeting was held virtually due to a disaster declaration and flooding.

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Shannon Spencer, PPT Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Craig Farr, Council Member Kathy Costello, Council Member Valarie Beckius and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins. Marion McKinney was absent.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Engineer David Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson. Solicitor Dan Grieser was not present due to power outage, in his place was Alex Baumler from Kilkenny Law.

**MOTION** to approve the Minutes from the August meeting by Ms. Costello with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ed Snowden 238 Freeland Drive – Mr. Snowden asked if the requested turn signal at Freeland & Route 29 is being discussed at the meeting. Ms. Kernen said that it is and that we can move it up on the agenda and discuss it now. She noted that she has seen the comments on the neighborhood Facebook post and that she is aware that several residents in Collegeville Crossing have sent letters to PennDOT asking for a new light. The response from PennDOT was unclear. She asked Chief Bucher to clarify the points in the response. The Chief noted that in their response, PennDOT implied that the Borough has the authority to change it. While that may be true, what they don't say is that if we take it upon ourselves to make the change, we are working outside the approved permit. We will be completely responsible for the cost, maintenance and liability. Mr. Snowden asked if any other solutions have been explored. Ms. Kernen replied that a band aid will only help a little and leave the main problem still there. George Vloiras 155 Derr Drive thinks if more Police were visible it could be a deterrent. Deb Snowden 238 Freeland Drive added that perhaps we could request a blinking sign warning that there is a light ahead could help. Penny Balzereit 232 Freeland Drive said that her experience has been that it is non-rush hour times that are the most dangerous. She asked if it would be possible that PennDOT would have a meeting with residents and council to discuss the issue. Mr. Leh said that will be difficult but something that perhaps Joe Webster's office could help facilitate. Ms. Kernen's recommendation is to put together a sub-committee to explore all the options. It was decided that more Police presence might help and the Chief said he would direct the officers that, between calls, during rush hour to park at Freeland.

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2021-19 that would allow WB Homes to revise the plan for Freeland Square to allow for adding seven parking spaces along Third Ave and also a waiver to eliminate a three foot grass strip by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Ms. Twardowski reported checks 5032-5088 along with the ACH transfers and payroll was \$213,009.79 this month. Our accounts are in line with planned budget numbers.

**MOTION** to approve check #'s 5032-5088 and the Treasurer's report by Mr. Hoffmann with a second by Ms. Spencer

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** Ms. Kernen reported that there was a joint meeting with the BDC and the Planning Commission to discuss a new overlay for Main St. She has plans for meetings with residents as well as business owners to discuss the vision for the renovation of buildings primarily along the 400 block of Main St. Another plus will be if Ursinus renovates the buildings and leases out to restaurants and shops, there will be more taxes to collect.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Spencer noted that there are now 683 people subscribing to the Newsletter. The Newsletter is planned to go out this week.

**REGIONAL PLANNING:** Ms. Beckius said the committee has not met the past two months since Jamie Magaziner resigned. Eric Jarrell will be taking over starting at the September 20 meeting until her replacement is found. They will catch Mr. Jarrell up on the interactive map and discuss the next project which is a stewardship guidebook.

**CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:** Ms. McKinney was not present, but Ms. Beckius reported that a new dump truck was ordered and Mr. Farr noted that they will be beginning negotiations for the new Teamsters contract and Mr. Hastings' contract also. The manhole covers will all be repaired prior to the paving on Route 29 and Ridge Pike.

**PARKS:** Ms. Costello noted that The Smooth Edge Band will be performing on Thursday, September 9 at 6PM in the park. The rain date is September 16. The new fence for the baseball field is scheduled to be installed October 6-8. She is getting a paving estimate for the basketball courts. She thanked resident Brian Fox for replacing the screens at the Scout Cabin.

**PERSONNEL:** **MOTION** to approve Frank Muller as the new alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board by Ms. Costello with a second by Ms. Beckius.

**MOTION** carries 6-0

**MOTION** to approve the new four year Police Bargaining Agreement Contract by Ms. Spencer with a second by Ms. Costello

**MOTION** carries 6-0

Ms. Kernen noted that this new contract is on par with the rest of Montgomery County.

**STREETS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LIGHTING:** Mr. Farr encouraged any and all residents to join his sub-committee for the Collegeville Crossing & Route 29 issue. He noted that the Fire Safety inspections are

moving along and that at the next meeting, September 7, they will begin considering an Ordinance regarding rental inspections. Public input is always welcome.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the sanitary sewer installation for Freeland Square is scheduled to begin shortly. WB Homes plans to be in attendance to discuss adding seven new parking spaces along Third Avenue and also request a waiver for the elimination of grass verge between the curb and sidewalk. The ADA ramps for this project have been delayed due to COVID-19 matters and associated quarantining of members of the concrete contractor's crew. Work is now scheduled to commence after the Labor Day Holiday. Mr. Leh said that we have received the Bog Turtle study from our environmental consultant and will be submitting our permit application to PA-DEP early next week.

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski explained that the state requires the MMO be approved in September for the following year.

**MOTION** to approve the non-uniformed employee MMO contribution for 2022 of \$130,926.00 by Ms. Spencer with a second by Mr. Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

She also noted that the Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting via ZOOM on September 9 to discuss plans submitted for the Collegeville Car Wash. The meeting link is on the website for anyone that wants to attend.

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted that there were two aggressive driving details in the borough last month. The first was August 12 from 6AM – 11AM on Park Avenue. Ten trucks were pulled over and advised that Park Avenue is for local delivery trucks only. The other was on August 20 from noon to 4PM and eight vehicles were stopped. This program is facilitated by the state and the officer's overtime pay is reimbursed by them. The Chief said he also has his MMO for approval. This number will most likely be revised at meeting closer to the end of the year and is anticipated to go up considerably.

**MOTION** to approve the MMO contribution of \$97K for Uniformed Officers by Ms. Costello with a second by Ms. Beckius

**MOTION** carries 6-0

FIRE: No report

AMBULANCE: Ms. Twardowski reported 110 calls for Trappe Ambulance, 18 of which were for Collegeville Borough and 114 calls for the Limerick station of which seven were for Collegeville Borough. Dispatch to arrival on site time averaged 7 minutes, 56 seconds.

MAYOR: They mayor reported the following he has issued two Proclamations. The first is proclaiming September as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month". The second proclaims September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> as "Constitution Week" in the Borough. He thanked Karen McCaslin for bringing this to his

attention and for all of her volunteer hours to the community. The Proclamations will be posted on the website.

**MOTION** to approve the Committee and Administrative reports by Ms. Costello with at second by Mr. Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen McCaslin thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation and asked the location of the scout Cabin. Ms. Kernan said it is at the end of Clamer Ave. She also asked about the reference to the traffic at Freeland Square. Ms. Kernan explained that there had been a lengthy discussion at the beginning of the meeting and that she is welcome to attend the Public Safety meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> to get more information.

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernan noted that starting at the October Council Meeting, the start time will be 6:30PM. The time change will be posted on the website as well as Facebook.

Meeting Adjourned 8:26PM