

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 2024

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

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

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

Ms. Kernen noted that there was an executive session before this meeting to discuss a real estate matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snovel -432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel explained that one of her neighbors observed the Whitetail truck leaking what he thinks is hydraulic fluid on the road. Ms. Twardowski said she will advise our contact at Whitetail Disposal.

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the May meeting by McKinney with a second by Beckius  
**MOTION** carries 7-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report and checks 6820-6898 by McKinney with a second by Costello  
**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that she met with the owners of Silverback Investments, Phil Sapovits and Paul Toland, Ms. Twardowski, Mr. Hoffmann, the head of the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, Aliyah Stanger, and Montgomery County Commerce Department Director, Steve Forster, to tour our Main Street. This is important because we would like to use our RACP grants to pay for the new parking lots and any storm water remediation behind college owned buildings. Ms. Kernen also pointed out that the Philadelphia Business Journal published an article about our progress on Main Street on May 29. She said that she hoped to post the article on the CEDC and Borough websites for everyone to read. The Library has finally opened in the former DaVinci's location. Steg's BBQ has opened on the front porch next to Chow Bistro on the weekends.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that they paid bills, discussed investments and continued brainstorming regarding the water situation.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported that the committee met on May 20 and had a reorganization due to a member leaving the committee. There was discussion about EMS routes during flooding emergencies. They reviewed the draft of the Comprehensive Plan regarding transportation. Traffic counts and

transportation improvements were analyzed. The realignment of Germantown Pike in Lower Providence and the traffic circle at the Jim & Ralph's location was discussed also. There is concern about the high cost of new housing in our area. Mike Hayes from the Montco 30% organization did a presentation about affordable housing.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano that the School House Run Interceptor is being reviewed. They are awaiting the final report for the Industrial Pretreatment Program. Their financial audit is scheduled for June 13 & 14. Gilmore & Associates met with staff to plan upcoming projects in the five-year capital plan.

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised the Elastic Karma concert in the park is schedule for Thursday, June 6. The Bigg Romeo concert has been rescheduled for July 11. She thanked Brian Box and Ozzie Cruz for their help repairing the picnic table and sign at the park. Mr. Brewster has prepared a letter to go out to the residents who live around the park perimeter to get input on their thoughts about the new pickle ball courts. Ms. Kernen noted the successful dedication and opening of the Welakamike Creekside Park on June 1. Montgomery County Commissioner Jamila Winder, Senator Tracy Pennycuick, Representative Joe Webster, Jeremy Johnson from the Lenape Tribe and our Mayor all spoke at the dedication. Ms. Twardowski thanked the Fire Company for donating the chairs and tents for the event.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernen reported that the hiring committee for our new chief consisted of her, Mr. Hoffmann, Ms. Twardowski, Mayor Wright-Riggins, Ursinus Safety Director Gabby Wright, former Chief of Limerick PD Brian Skelton, and Pastor and LGBTQ+ advocate Marcia Baily.

**MOTION** to approve appointing Officer John Barnshaw as Chief of Police starting July 2 by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve a conditional offer of employment to Sean Hart to replace Officer Barnshaw as Police Officer by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr noted that there was no meeting in May.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the concrete work has been completed and paving operations are scheduled to start this week for the 2024 paving project on Carmen Drive and Larkin Lane.

**MOTION** to approve payment request #1 from GoreCon Inc in the amount of \$18,869.59 by Brewster with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Mr. Leh noted that the demolition work for the homes along W First Avenue is substantially complete. There is still some restoration work to be done. The contractor has now started demolition on E First Avenue.

**MOTION** to approve payment request #2 from G&R Excavating in the amount of \$92,509.65 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Mr. Leh advised that there has been a land development application received for the existing Wells Fargo Bank located in the Collegeville Shopping Center. Chase Bank is proposing to demolish the existing bank and build a Chase facility in its place. The plan is currently under review and will be on the Planning Commission's June 20 meeting agenda.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser reported that there was also a discussion about real estate at the earlier executive session. She stated also that the proposed Resolution regarding social media that is on tonight's agenda has been tabled until the July meeting. She noted that she has been in touch with the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel's attorney, and that he has not heard from his client. Unfortunately, Mr. Crawford has missed many of the deadlines that were part of the court order. Ms. Geiser asked Council for approval to move forward with the Court of Common Pleas regarding this violation.

**MOTION** to approve moving forward with requesting the court to enforce the consent order against the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel by Brewster with a second by McKinney.

**MOTION** carries 7-0

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski advised that on May 23 the borough was issued a \$250K Montco 2040 Grant that will go toward the trail connection from Bum's Hollow to the Perkiomen Trail. She noted that these funds granted last year are what paid for the new Creekside Park. Ms. Kernan thanked Ms. Twardowski and Mr. Leh for their efforts applying for grants. Ms. Twardowski reported that along with Chase Bank, 7 Brews will also be on the agenda for Planning Commission on June 20. Keyser Miller may possibly be ready also.

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted several successful aggressive driving details last month. The Chief noted that our new officer, Tim Rudderow, has now been here a month and is doing great.

**MOTION** to approve the following fire police requests by McKinney with a second by Beckius:

1. Limerick Township – July 4 fireworks
2. Upper Salford Township – Aug 15 Folk Festival
3. PV High School – June 7 Graduation
4. Ambler Kiwanis – July 5 Fireworks
5. Fairmont Fire Company Lansdale Car Show – June 15
6. To Ratify previous request for funeral May 18 in Exeter Township

**MOTION** carries 7-0

MAYOR: Mayor Wright-Riggins highlighted many positive professional and personal achievements of Chief Bucher and thanked him for his many years of service to the community. He noted that the Chief has been a pleasure to work with and has managed to change his perspective regarding police. We will all miss him and look forward to Chief Barnshaw continuing the tone of "community policing" in Collegeville Borough.

Ms. Kernan announced to all that there is a retirement party for the Chief at the Firehouse on June 27 with more details to follow.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel gave reports for both April and May. In April there were 29 calls, 7 of which were in the Borough, with 365 hours of service. In May there were 33 calls, 13 of which were in the Borough, and 554 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

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

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Traupman 256 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Traupman thanked Chief Bucher for his service and presented him with a BMW (model car) for his retirement.

Damien Brewster 42 10<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Brewster advised Council of the passing of Henry Blanco White, a frequent attendee of our meetings. They Mayor called for a moment of silence for our friend Henry.

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernen noted two events coming up:

Movies on the Lawn: *Wish* on June 21 and *Migration* on July 26.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:55PM