

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello (via ZOOM) 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

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

Ms. Kernen noted that there was an executive session before the meeting to discuss litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the 2024 budget by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and check numbers 6487-6538 by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen noted that the meeting was on November 16 and included council and members of the Main Street Steering Committee. The most important thing that came out of the meeting was that everyone agrees we want to maintain the small town feel we have. We should renovate the buildings we have rather than tear down and build new. The plan is to model our Main Street after Skippack, Yardley, Newtown and New Hope. They also discussed the components of the plan such as zoning, parking, traffic calming and maximum heights and setbacks for the buildings. It is the also a hope that we can secure a grant that would allow us to connect the Perkiomen Trail to Main Street. This planning process will take a few months and the public will be encouraged to attend meetings to give input.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported that the meeting took place on November 20. They discussed the Planning Assistance contract, set the budget for 2024, set the 2024 meeting dates, analyzed the community survey and discussed issues in the surrounding municipalities. In 2024, the committee will meet here at Collegeville Borough on the third Monday of the month at 7PM.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney noted that there are no updates for the W 3rd Avenue project, Royal Farms or the Fugo Tract. Work on the wall reconstruction over the Donny Brook creek is ongoing. The committee is continuing to monitor rates and discussing rate increases. The wells will continue to be tested and monitored. Ms. McKinney thanked Ms. Kernan for her support and for reaching out to the president of Trappe Council to encourage him to consider all options to correct the water problem. Ms. McKinney stressed that there are NO plans to sell our water and sewer!

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised that the Creekside Park is finished and that she is researching adding amenities that can withstand flooding to the area. She is working with Ryan Beltz on the master plan for adding trees.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano the following:

- 3 EDUs were approved.
- No Capacity Rights Transfers or Returns issued.
- Approved Release of Chapter 94 Consistency Letters for 30 EDUs. All for Upper Providence.
- Approved the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget. No increase in treatment charges for 2024.
- Awarded the Primary Clarifier Rehab Project in the amount of \$3,818,180.00 to Eastern Environmental Contractors.
- Approved several upgrades and repairs on our maintenance schedule at approximately \$70,000.00.
- Approved a new medical insurance policy for our employees for 2024.
- Approved raises for our 11 employees.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr noted that there was no meeting in November and there will not be one in December.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the Creekside Park is finished.

MOTION to approve payment requests 2 & 3 for a total of \$64,969.85 to Floyd Hersh for the park by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

Mr. Leh noted that they have started assembling specifications for the 2024 Paving Project and that they intend to be prepared to go out to bid in January for a February award.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser stated that the Montgomery County Conservation District is the reason for the delay in closing out the Glenwood Reserve project. She also advised that the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel has retained an attorney to handle the citations that have been issued against the hotel. A continuance has been granted that pushes that hearing off until January 4.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski advised that the swearing in of officials will be at the reorganization meeting at 6PM on January 2 followed by the meeting at 6:30PM. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, January 3. Affidavits will be distributed and can be notarized in the office.

MOTION to approve the meeting dates and Borough holiday schedule for 2024 by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski informed everyone that in order to address outage and capacity issues, PECO will be making a substantial investment to transmission lines in the area of the following roads: Stratford, Colonial, Avon and Clahor. This will be taking place over the next few months. She reached out to PECO as soon as they made us aware of this work to let them know that we had just paved Stratford Avenue and were concerned about how this would impact the road. After meeting with PECO representatives, the contractor will attempt to keep all work in either grass areas or Clahor, Avon and Colonial with the exception of one crossing on Stratford near 461-485 Stratford Avenue. Even though the work will be done by boring under the road, there is a need to dig two test holes in the roadway, which will be repaired infrared technology. The work is anticipated to be done by April and when complete will reduce outages in the area. We will post this information on the website and in the newsletter.

POLICE: Chief Bucher's report is on file.

MOTION to approve a fire police request from Lower Providence for December 24 at the Collegeville Bakery from 8AM – 3PM by McKinney with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 7-0

MAYOR: No report

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported that there were 23 calls last month and 453 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

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

MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel thanked everyone on council, police, fire and meeting attendees for all of their work throughout the year. She gave out homemade delicious cookies to everyone 😊

Henry Blanco White – 915 Chestnut St – Mr. White said he thought we should, as they do in England, notify the utilities of upcoming paving projects and not allow them to interfere with the paving for at least six months.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:21PM