

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Council VP Gary Hoffmann

ROLL CALL: Council VP Gary Hoffmann, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius and Dean Miller

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 McKinney with a second by Costello
MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Penny Balzereit 232 Freeland Drive noted that she is still in touch with the owner of Keyser Miller Ford and that progress is being made to remove the dumpsters from behind Collegeville Crossing.

Gary Sassaman 209 11th Avenue asked if there is an update regarding the bridge repair on his property.

Ms. Beckius said that she continually asks for status reports at Public Works and that they are waiting for approval and information from PaDEP. Mr. Sassaman thanked Ms. Beckius for her follow up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and checks 5799-5845 by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

Mr. Hoffmann reported on a meeting he attended last week regarding Trappe Ambulance. It has been noted that they are merging with an ambulance company in Harleysville and will now be known as Freedom Valley Medical Rescue. They will retain and work out of the Trappe Ambulance building. It was stated that meeting that Collegeville Borough will need to make a considerable contribution in order for our local EMS to be staffed and for our residents to continue to be covered. This is a new budget item that needs to be discussed.

Mr. Hoffmann reported another meeting regarding the trash contract. The lowest bid received doubled the amount the borough has been paying for the last five years. Truck maintenance, gas prices, staffing and recycling fees have all skyrocketed and is reflected in these numbers.

There will be more information and discussion regarding a possible tax increase at the open budget meetings on November 11 and November 21.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: No report

CPVRPC: No report

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. Beckius noted that bills were paid and finances discussed at the last meeting. She also reported that she was informed that there are now fewer cell towers, so there will be less franchise fees paid.

LPVRS: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that they submitted a grant application together with the Perkiomen Watershed to plant trees and clean up Hunsberger Woods. The ADA swing has been installed at the park and there are further plans to make the park more ADA accessible.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh noted that the 8th Avenue culvert replacement project is out to bid. They expect to have a recommendation for award for Council at the December meeting. Gilmore has received comments from Pa-DOT for the Second Avenue signal. They have addressed the issues and resubmitted. They anticipate approval soon.

SOLICITOR:

MOTION to approve Resolution 2022-14 allowing Ms. Twardowski to apply for a Green Region Grant by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to advertise the MSD Zoning by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 5-0

Ms. Geiser noted that there will be a public hearing at the December meeting regarding this zoning update.

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve Resolution 2022-13 for record destruction in compliance with Borough code by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

Ms. Twardowski noted to Mr. Hoffmann that her budget numbers reflect the lower cell tower fees.

POLICE: Chief Bucher noted the success of the Halloween Parade with the new route.

MOTION to approve our Fire Police assisting at the Jeffersonville Fire Company's 6th Annual Car Show on November 5 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 5-0

The Mayor asked the Chief if there are plans to keep poll workers and voters safe on Election Day in light of the contentious political climate. The Chief said that all neighboring police departments are on alert to the possibility of having to be back up for each other.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 28 calls last month, seven of which were in the Borough. The Fire Company provided 446 hours of service to the community.

MAYOR: The Mayor commented that he thought this year's Halloween Parade was one of our best. He thanked the Rotary for their hard work on this popular event. He noted that he was part of a community forum, along with our Police Chief, at Ursinus College to discuss strategies to diminish the level of underage drinking on campus. This is Indigenous People's month and the Mayor would like our Council to draft a Land Use Statement to present at our December Meeting.

MOTION to approve the Committee and Administrative reports by McKinney with a second by Costello
MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Penny Balzereit 232 Freeland Drive noted that they are anticipating some issues at the Trinity Church on voting day due to some plumbing issues they are experiencing. She is working with the church to arrange for a porta potty on site.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:37PM