

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 2022

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

ROLL CALL: Pres Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius and Dean Miller

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brandon Ott – 120 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Ott asked if it would be possible to have sidewalks installed along 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He believes it would be safer for residents and college students. He feels confident that Ursinus would pay for most of it as they own several properties on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ms. McKinney said that one of the major issues is that there are many homes on the street that don't have a lot of frontage and this project would take up much of their yards. Mr. Farr and Ms. Kernen asked Mr. Ott to attend the Streets & Public Safety meeting at which time there would be more time to discuss the issue.  
Penny Balzereit - 232 Freeland Drive – Ms. Balzereit reported that the dumpster has been removed from behind Freeland Drive.

Ms. Geiser opened the hearing for the new MSD Zoning and noted:

- B1 is a pure and correct copy of the Ordinance
- B2 is proof that it was advertised twice
- B3 are the minutes that reflect the recommendation from the Planning Commission
- B4 is the approval letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission
- B5 is proof that it is on file at the Montgomery County Law Library

Ms. Geiser explained that the hearing is open and comments are allowed, but that the hearing is being continued until the March 1, 2023 meeting at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Kernen explained that the new zoning has been done to attract more businesses to the borough, but that she plans to meet with the community and business owners to ensure that everyone understands the new zoning and the impact it will have.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report and check #s 5798-5890 in the amount of \$147,398.74 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve Ordinance 616 setting tax rates for 2023 by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to award the trash/recycling contract to Whitetail Disposal (with new automated pick up) for three years with two one year options by Costello with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

**MOTION** to approve Ordinance 615 allowing alcohol in borough owned parks for borough sanctioned events by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 6-1 (Miller)

Ms. Kernen reported that Redner's has decided to renew their lease. The management company is trying to convince them to take over an open space next door in order to sell beer and wine. She also gave an update on the former DaVinci's building. Mr. Chen had hoped to reach an agreement with the owners of TransFleet to allow him to widen the driveway to gain access to his parking lot. He has been unable to do so and is considering selling the property.

CPVRPC:

No report

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. McKinney reported that they discussed investments and paid bills at the meeting. The \$2 increase in the water bill was voted down 4-2. Mr. Farr added that this increase is not a tax, but an operating fee. He is worried that if the committee does not do incremental increases, the residents will be upset when one big increase comes.

LPVRS:

Ms. Stagliano reported two capacity rights EDU's and 224 chapter 94 consistency letters were approved for the Upper Providence Yerkes Rd. development. The contract for the Grip Pipe was awarded to Eastern Environmental in the amount of \$183,079.00. The committee authorized repairs to four building roofs in the amount of \$43,300.00. They voted on the yearly employee health insurance and wages for 2023. The committee also approved the Operating & Capital Budget for 2023. Total expenses and debt service total is \$7,210,045.00. It was decided that the treatment charges will increase from \$15.00 to \$17.00 per month in 2023.

PARKS:

Ms. Costello noted that May 26 and June 8 are the proposed *Concerts in the Park* dates. They have some ideas for bands, but asked for input from council and residents if they have a band they would like to see play. She met with Ryan Beltz from the Perkiomen Watershed to discuss hosting summer camps in the park.

PERSONNEL:

Ms. Kernen noted that she and Mr. Hoffmann will be doing performance reviews for Ms. Twardowski and Ms. Robertson next week.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report. Next meeting will be December 28.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER:

Mr. Leh reported that bids were opened for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert replacement for both the structure and the installation on December 1. We have offered a recommendation for award for both contracts. The revised plans for the Second Avenue and Freeland Drive signal modifications have been submitted to Pa-DOT in October. Gilmore is still waiting for approval.

**MOTION** to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert Structure project to Contech Engineered Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$175,703.00 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert installation project to Mason Dixon Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$422,677.40 by Beckius with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

SOLICITOR:

Ms. Geiser reported that she worked with borough staff and council on ordinances, resolutions and other matters.

MANAGER:

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2022-16 for records destruction by Beckius with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the meeting and holiday schedules for 2023 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski reported the status of the EMS situation and explained that we are still considering our options for joining Freedom Valley, Skippack EMS or possibly donating to both with the understanding that the county will dispatch the closest ambulance based on emergency level.

POLICE:

The Chief's report is on file.

FIRE:

Mr. Penuel reported 38 calls last month and 412 hours of service to the community.

MAYOR:

The Mayor read the following for Council consideration:

Our nation and community have just completed the acknowledgement of Indigenous People Month. Each November, people across the United States celebrate Native cultures and achievements and bear witness to the difficult history of colonization of Native American peoples by European settlers. The tradition started in 1986 when President Reagan established. "American Indian Week" to

run from November 23-30th to line up with the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Since the 1990s, each President has issued a November statement to honor Native people and culture. Eventually, the practice became the month we celebrate today. I am proud to represent Collegeville Borough in a process that moves beyond the acknowledgement of weeks and a month to the acknowledgement of the importance of ancestral lands.

In the summer of 2021 under the leadership of Ursinus College Vice President Heather Lobban-Viravong and its Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement, I began to work with Dr. Lobban-Viravong, the college, and community toward a partnership with the Delaware Tribe of Indians. This opportunity initially presented itself through the Perkiomen Valley School District and Dr. Seamus Clune. Since that time, representatives from the tribe have come to Collegeville, the college and high school campuses to meet with the faculty and staff there as well as with Council President Cathy Kernan and myself who are all a part of what we call the Welcome Home Project. That project has involved the reinternment of remains, reading important books, engaging in discussions, establishing an arboretum, the naming of an important street surrounding one of our campuses and other actions. The Delaware Nation presented our borough with a banner commemorating our historic partnership which I in turn presented to our Council.

I would like for the Borough of Collegeville to adopt a Land Acknowledgement Statement as we enter 2023. Land Acknowledgements are words of recognition and thanks frequently opening events or are found in written event programs. You may notice that some individuals and units at Ursinus College begin events by acknowledging the relationships of indigenous peoples and nations to the land on which the event is taking place, or record these relationships in an event program. This is especially true if an event has connections to indigenous communities, histories, or cultures.

Land acknowledgements are most often offered in a welcome to the audience, in opening remarks, or in an event program. I envision a Land Acknowledgment Statement being read quarterly at our Borough Council Meetings and when the mayor or council members participate in ribbon cutting ceremonies for businesses and organizations and when we host Borough events such as Community Days and parades. I propose the following statement for your review and encourage you to adopt it at our January Council Meeting. This Statement would then henceforth be read or cited at selected Borough events, documents and websites:

***We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario) have stewarded through generations land and waterways on what is now known as Collegeville Borough. Our residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions rest on Lenapehoking, their ancestral and spiritual homeland. Collegeville Borough, in the State of Pennsylvania, honors and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.***

**MOTION** to approve all the committee and administrative reports by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Craig Penuel – 208 W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Penuel asked if any thought has been given to the trash expense for the tax exempt properties. There are several residences owned by Ursinus College as well as a few group homes, a church and rectory. Ms. McKinney stressed that her salary is taxed. Mr. Penuel said it is property tax that pays for trash, not income tax. Ms. Twardowski said she will look into it.

Ms. Kernen reported that she was contacted by a resident, Lynne Rodenbaugh, because she was concerned about a neighbor that continually rakes his leaves and his grass clippings into the street. She asked if we have an Ordinance regarding this. We do not. The DEP does not have guidelines about this. Ms. Kernen thinks we should have an education campaign to address the issues of clogging the storm drains. Ms. Twardowski said we will gather info for the newsletter in the spring months to address this as the season for this has passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:55PM