

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2023

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Engineer Dave Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson

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

The Mayor read our newly adopted **Land Acknowledgement Statement:**

“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.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St: Ms. Snovel asked if any progress has been made regarding sidewalk repair mandates. She has noticed many streets with wide gaps and feels they are hazards for pedestrians. Mr. Farr said that they are currently working on the updated ordinance regarding sidewalks and curbs.

Janette Korenkiewicz 234 Liberty Court: Ms. Korenkiewicz asked about the trail crossing on Route 29. She wondered if a push & go button could be installed similar to the one at 6th & Main at Ursinus. Ms. Twardowski said she is waiting for more information on this, but said the county is reviewing that crossing. She also noted that the crosswalk button at Third Ave & Main Street is not working in any direction. Ms. Twardowski is aware and has contracted to have it repaired. She also asked if there is a dog curbing ordinance in the borough. Ms. Twardowski said that if someone has video evidence and is willing to go before the judge, citations can be written for not picking up dog waste.

Henry Blanco White 915 Chestnut St: Mr. White said that he noticed there are markings on the street at the trail crosswalk on Route 29, so he thinks progress is being made.

Ms. Kernen introduced Lisa Minardi from Historic Trappe. She gave a presentation and slide show featuring the extensive work they do to preserve local buildings and collect artifacts. Ms. Minardi asked for Council to consider financial support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasure's report and checks #6072-6105 which consists of ACH transfers, bills and payroll in the amount of \$193,632.54 by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that the borough has received a \$74K grant that will be used for the planning of the 400 block of Main Street that will be the roadmap for the revitalization of our downtown. She noted that Redner's will begin renovations to their store to make it a "fresh market" similar to their location in Audubon and that they will also be selling beer and wine. The Keenan Law Firm has completed the renovations of the Key Bank building and has two new tenants moving in. One, salon and hair/wig/supplies shop that specialized in ethnic products and the other is high end day spa. They are still looking for a tenant for the center suite that is about 700SF.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported that a guest speaker, Rebecca Hayden, did a presentation on Landowner Stewardship and Education at their meeting. She discussed numerous ways the Lehigh Valley Watershed works with communities, municipalities, and individuals through educational demonstrations, restoration projects and outreach programs. The committee also discussed collaboration on the Community Survey for the Central Perkiomen Valley Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that the sanitary sewer facilities are complete at Royal Farms and Freeland Square. Permitting and design for the Donny Brook Sewer Interceptor wall repair has commenced. The survey and confirmation has been received that verifies there are no Bog Turtle habitats. Entech has started preparing the 2023 Capital Improvements Plan.

LPVRS: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that Ms. Twardowski is working on scheduling an inspector to assess safety issues at the park. St Eleanor's spring cleanup at the park is schedule for March 30 and there is a park cleanup at Waterworks Park on April 22. There are two concerts scheduled for the park this year:

May 25 Barefoot Bobby

June 8 Bigg Romeo

All concerts are planned for 6:30-8:30PM

Ms. Costello noted that there are still about 45 dead ash trees in Hunsberger Woods and she is collecting quotes for removal. She has, to date, only received one resident request for ash wood.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION to approve the separation agreement with Officer Matt Cubbler by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the conditional offers of employment to Thomas Nehrlinger and Hunter Evans to replace Officers Cubbler and Shirey, both retiring in June, by McKinney with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr said that they have decided to table the discussion of the new sidewalk and curb ordinance until there is more agreement. He noted that the signal modification at Route 29 & Freeland Drive will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that a preconstruction meeting was held on March 29 for the 8th Avenue Culvert replacement project. Construction is anticipated to begin the week of April 17. Keyser Miller has submitted a land development application to construct an 11,590 SF sales and service building along Second Avenue. The building will utilize Keyser Miller's existing access to Second Avenue. The plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at the April 20th meeting.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser reported progress on the punch list for Glenwood Reserve by BJ Homes and deems it unnecessary, at this time, to pull their bond. She will continue to monitor their schedule and follow through to completion. She is working on the liquor license application from Redner's Market and noted there will be a public hearing at the May meeting for this.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski reported that the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge appealed the violations and was denied. He now has thirty days to make changes to the property. If he does not comply, she will start issuing citations. She has confirmed with Joe Webster's office that they are in support of House Bill 1031 which allows for animals to be included in Protection from Abuse orders. The borough will draft a letter expressing our support for this bill.

MOTION to approve advertising the revised parking requirements by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2023-04 for the destruction of old records by Costello with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski noted that Keyser Miller Ford will be coming before the Planning Commission on April 20 to discuss moving their offices to higher ground closer to Route 29. Also, 7 Brews is coming before the Zoning Hearing Board for approval on April 27 to open a drive thru coffee/smoothie/tea kiosk in the Collegeville Shopping Center parking lot.

POLICE: Chief Bucher's report is on file

MOTION to approve our fire police working in Upper Dublin during their triathlon event on May 21 by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

The Chief noted that Drug Take Back Day is April 22 from 10AM-2PM at Borough Hall.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 28 calls last month and 386.5 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: Mr. Long reported 113 calls last month and noted that they moved to their new location on Main Street on March 13 and everything is going great! Ms. Twardowski explained that the new tax

will be used to pay Freedom Valley Medical Rescue on a quarterly basis and will cover ambulance memberships for all Borough residents.

MOTION to approve accepting FVMR as our ambulance and paying them quarterly by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MAYOR: The Mayor noted that PVSD is considering adding resource officers to all of their buildings. He has not decided yet if he supports this decision and will be writing a letter to the school board when he decides. There was a lengthy discussion as to the merits and pitfalls of such a decision. Ms. Balzereit noted that the next school board meeting is April 11.

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

MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Traupman 256 E 9th Avenue – Mr. Traupman asked if PVSD uses cameras to monitor activity around the building and grounds. He feels that is a powerful deterrent as cameras capture activities without bias.

Dan Gross 534 Second Ave (Skippack) – Mr. Gross said that he has been before council before and is back due to a recurring problem he is having with his address. It is his opinion that 534 Second Avenue was assigned to a building in the borough without the due diligence to discover that he already had this address. He complained about constant mistakes in that he receives mail and packages for the businesses that have that address in the borough and that his things go to them. It is a huge nuisance when people come to his home when they are intending to go to one of the medical offices at the borough location. He also has concerns if there is ever an issue and he or his wife need emergency assistance (911). Ms. Twardowski assured him that she will look into the issue and the legality of it and get back to him next week.

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernan noted there is a dance concert at Ursinus College April 27-29.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:41PM