

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM by Council President Cathy Kernen.

Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins read the quarterly Land Use Statement Acknowledgement.

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Valarie Beckius, Kathy Costello, Damien Brewster and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins

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 December meeting and also the budget meeting minutes from the Nov 16 meeting by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Henry Blanco White 915 Chestnut – Mr. White asked if there has been a shift of our trash day. Ms. Twardowski advised that in 2024 if a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, we will be serviced Wednesday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's Report and check numbers 6526-6606 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski reported revenues in the amount of \$255,858.00 and expenses in the amount of \$317,671.39

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that there will continue to be meetings for the Main Street Steering Committee through April of this year. She is working with planner Mark Evans to schedule the dates.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted that there was no meeting in December, but that the next meeting will take place at Collegeville Borough Hall on January 15.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that at their last meeting Mr. Strauss (Trappe) suggested a water increase of \$0.25 per 1000 gallons of water. This increase will cost an average household of four approximately \$3.87 per quarter. She noted that they continue to investigate the wells. She also related that there was an executive session before the last meeting regarding a personnel matter.

**MOTION** to approve the proposed water increase that will start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised that the Rotary wants to donate a TREX bench for the new Creekside Park. She is deciding on the best place for the donation as the park floods and she worries that a TREX bench may not withstand the water well. It was considered to place the bench at one of the other parks or on Main Street. Ms. Kernan noted that Mark Evans from Derck & Edson is willing to put together a proposal for a comprehensive plan that would include all of our parks. He wants to meet with Ms. Costello and Ryan Beltz from the Perkiomen Watershed to discuss the wants and needs of the Parks Committee.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano the following report from December:

- 1 EDU approved for Upper Providence Township.
- 2 EDUs Capacity Rights Returns for Collegeville Borough.
- 51 EDUs Chapter 94 Consistency Letters for Upper Providence and Skippack Townships.

Work is completed for the grit building pipe replacement.

The Engineer, Contractor and Electrical Engineers are anticipating to start the construction of the emergency generator project very shortly.

Numerous maintenance, upgrades and repairs are being completed throughout the plant and meter pits that were damaged by Hurricane Ida.

All employee yearly evaluations were completed.

PERSONNEL:

**MOTION** to approve the administrative staff salary increases by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the Employment Agreement for the Public Works Director by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Ms. Twardowski noted that we have spent up to \$70K repairing parts for the street lights. There was an application last year for a grant that was denied. The traffic engineers at Gilmore & Associates have reached out to PennDOT to discuss a potential scope for a grant in order to find solutions for the problems we are experiencing on Main Street. Ms. Twardowski hopes to secure a grant that will cover the repairs and replacement of modules, preemptive devices and the video detection system. If we do get the \$174,600.00 grant, we need to allocate the 20% match required (approx. \$44K).

**MOTION** to authorize Ms. Twardowski to apply for a Green Light Go Grant by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to advertise the 2024 road projects (Larkin Lane and E Carmen Drive) by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Mr. Farr reported that the estimates were received to clean out the retention basin on Clahor Avenue and repair damaged pipes if need be, and it was very expensive. The estimates for the sidewalks were also much higher than anticipated. There are considerable dips that will need to be lifted near 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This project will likely need to be done in stages. These estimates will be discussed more in depth at the next Streets and Public Safety meeting.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that he has completed the specifications for the 2024 Paving Project. It is the plan to go out to bid in January for a February award.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted both hearings for the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel have been continued due to witness availability on both sides. She expects the hearings will be rescheduled in February.

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski advised that she received an official 90 day letter of notice today from Freedom Valley Medical Rescue that they are closing their Collegeville and Green Lane stations as of April 1. She, Mr. Farr and Mr. Hoffmann have been in meetings with other ambulance companies in anticipation of this. They are working towards a plan split the borough between Lower Providence and Friendship Medical Rescues. The goal is for the residents to have a membership based on where in the borough they reside and those memberships will be reciprocal for coverage when necessary.

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2024-02 for records destruction by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2024-03, the 2024 fee schedule, by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

POLICE: Chief Bucher's report is on file at Borough Hall

MAYOR: The Mayor will be involved with many Martin Luther King events and service days with Ursinus College and the Perkiomen Valley School District throughout the month of January. He encourages everyone to think of it as a day "ON" instead of a day "OFF" and find places to serve in memory of Dr. King.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 30 calls last month and 681.84 hours of service to the community. He noted three water rescues and that they aided at a house fire on Christmas Day. Mr. Penuel thanked everyone involved with the successful Santa Run on December 16.

AMBULANCE: No report

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:15PM