

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2024

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

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr (via ZOOM), Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster, Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffmann and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins

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

MOTION to approve the minutes from the April meeting by Beckius with a second by Costello
MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Kernen reported that there was an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss litigation.

Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins facilitated the swearing in of our newest Police Officer, Timothy Rudderow.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amy Way – 141 7th Avenue Ms. Way asked if there are any rules in place that protect older trees or have requirements that a replacement tree be planted when one is removed. She said she understands the need to remove old/dead trees and regular maintenance, but hates to see the charm and shade gone with the removal of healthy trees. Ms. Kernen advised that all of council agrees, but that it is difficult to direct homeowners what do to on their property. Mr. Brewster noted that he has the same concerns and would like to brainstorm with her about options on this issue. Ms. Geiser said she will do some research on the topic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and check numbers 6761-6813 by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen noted that the survey results are in regarding the Main Street plans. The committee is beginning to review the results and she will have that information to relay at the June meeting. She has been told that The Library is still waiting for the liquor license to be transferred, but anticipates the opening soon.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius shared the 2023 Summary and noted that the next meeting will be on May 20.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. Beckius reported that the new standards for acceptable levels for PFOA in the water have been revealed and are 4 parts per trillion gallons. The plans to get to within those levels is required by 2026 and the implementation begins in 2027. The Authority continues to monitor and consider the options.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano the following updates from the last meeting:

- 1 EDU Upper Providence Township
- 89 EDUs Release of Chapter 94 Consistency Letters:
- 80 EDUs Encompass Health Rehab Hospital- LP Township
- 9 EDUs Pennington Property Group - CTMA

She noted that the generator concrete footings have been poured and that the rebar work continues. One of two Notice of Termination permits were received from MCCD. General maintenance and repairs continue daily.

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted the upcoming Bigg Romeo concert on May 16 at Collegeville Park.

MOTION to approve using \$35K of budgeted funds to replace the kid's play structure and draw lines for a pickle ball court at Collegeville Park by Brewster with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Costello asked council to agree that baseball teams at the park be restricted to players under the age of 16.

Brian Fox 104 W 3rd Ave – Mr. Fox complained that the adult players hit the ball too hard and far and that there is continual damage and aggravation to the residents.

Zenaida Cruz 116 W Third Ave – Ms. Cruz complained about the rudeness of the players and that they came on to her property to get their ball.

Terri Stagliano 201 Independence Ct – Ms. Stagliano said that she has lived across the street from the ballfield for 30+ years and that while there have been incidents, she expected such living so close to the field. She also noted that the adult teams bring in a lot of money for field maintenance.

Ms. Kernan ended the discussion and stated that the decision has been made to restrict usage to 16U teams starting next year.

Ms. Kernan noted that the dedication of our new Creekside Park is coming up on June 1 at noon. The park will be known as Welakamike Park which means "pretty place" in Lenape. There will be local dignitaries and activities for families as well as the Perkiomen Watershed Sojourn happening that day. In the event of bad weather, the ceremony will be here at Borough Hall.

Ms. Kernan asked for approval to use our Montgomery County Planner, Naomi Crimm, to help with the comprehensive planning for our parks. All agreed. Mr. Hoffmann explained that with the planner's help, we are in a better position to attain grants.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernan made note that our Chief is retiring on July 1. She advised that the process has begun searching for a replacement. The committee has interviews set up with two internal candidates later this month.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Ms. Twardowski reported for Mr. Farr that the committee met and discussed Carmen Drive. When that neighborhood was built, oak trees were used as street trees. As

the oaks have grown, the roots are wreaking havoc on the sidewalks. They discussed how to handle that with the residents. They reviewed the results of the speed study on 9th Avenue. They discussed a storm water issue that has been brought to our attention by the owner of 142 Carmen Drive. This property butts up against CVS and the trail. The retention basin was not maintained by the previous owner and, as a result, is not draining as intended. The homeowner has tried to clear it, but has come to the borough to ask for help to ensure his efforts are the correct way to proceed. The committee, with input from our Solicitor and Engineer feels it would be appropriate to provide technical engineering assistance to the property owner in his efforts as it is for the greater good of the community to remove the standing water. Ms. Geiser will draft a waiver for the homeowner.

MOTION to approve technical assistance from Gilmore & Associates up to \$4000 by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski asked Council to consider allowing the residents of Carmen Drive to park on one side of Park Avenue during the paving. All agreed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that a preconstruction meeting was held for the 2024 Paving Project. The concrete work will begin in early May with the paving to possibly follow later in the month. Demolition work continues on the homes along W First Avenue. We have received our first payment request from the contractor and have provided our recommendation under separate cover.

MOTION to approve payment #1 to G&R Excavating in the amount of \$90,904.32 for the demolition on W First Avenue by Brewster with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser noted that the process continues with the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel and that she and Ms. Twardowski are following up to ensure each deadline is met.

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-08 for the Watershed Restoration Grant in the amount of \$177,516.00 by Brewster with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-09 for the Greenway Trails Grant by Beckius with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve Trouble's End selling PA beer and wine at Community Day by Brewster with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0 *this will be also be voted on by Trappe Council at their meeting

MOTION to approve Ms. Twardowski opening negotiations with the owner of a vacant lot on E First Avenue that was not bought by FEMA by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski advised council that the owners of Keyser Miller Ford will be coming before them with a conditional use application at the July meeting. She also advised that she applied for a Delaware

Valley Regional Planning (no match) grant this week that would cover engineering and design. She hopes to be able to put that toward the Bum Hollow trail connection project.

POLICE: Chief Bucher reported that there were five aggressive driving details in April and that Drug Takeback Day was on April 27. He noted that 29 pounds were collected that day and added to the 89 pounds from the receptacle in the lobby.

MOTION to approve the following fire police requests by Costello with a second by Brewster:

May 4 – Lower Providence Presbyterian Community Day

May 14-18 – Limerick Carnival

May 27 – Trappe Memorial Day Parade

June 1 – Perkiomen Township Community Day

June 6-15 Lower Providence Fire Department Carnival

July 4 – Limerick Township Fireworks

Sept 28 – Lower Providence 5K Hero Run

MOTION carries 6-0

AMBULANCE: Mr. Reynolds reported that they handled eight calls in the borough in April and that they will have a unit on site at the Ursinus Graduation.

FIRE: No report

MAYOR: The Mayor advised that he is working with students at the Reimagine Center of Ursinus College on the topic of sustainability and that they will be coming to Council in the fall with a proposal of how the Borough and the College can work together.

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

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Botti – CEDC Mr. Botti reminded Chief Bucher about the NO PARKING signs on our side of Locust near the park to avoid the difficulty of previous years at the Memorial Day Parade and Community Day. The Chief said he will take care of it.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:46PM