

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 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, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, 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 February meeting by McKinney with a second by Farr  
**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Kernen introduced Mario Da Costa, the Director of Public Affairs at Ursinus College. Mr. Da Costa gave an overview of the federal funding process. He asked Borough Council to supply a letter of support for a grant he is seeking to renovate the Myrin Library. The intent is to make the building a fully ADA accessible, community-oriented meeting space to benefit students and residents. Mr. Da Costa noted that there is still time for the borough to submit also and that he is happy to assist in any way.

Ms. Kernen introduced Aileen Johnson from the Perkiomen Valley Library. Ms. Johnson explained many of the events happening at the library and noted the spring book sale coming up on March 22 & 23. She handed out special glasses for viewing the lunar eclipse coming up on April 8. Best viewing times will be between 2-4PM. She advised that last year was their biggest year of circulation at over 100K items!

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve checks 6630-6729 which included payroll, ACH transfers and bills for a total of \$206,505.12 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen invited everyone to attend the Main Street Master Plan Meeting at Ursinus College's Schellhase Commons on March 20 at 6:30PM. She advised that people can also attend via Zoom.

Ms. Kernen noted that at the last meeting she discussed the possibility of combining Community Days with Trappe Borough. While they want to keep their own Community Day, they are open to combining other events in 2025. She is pleased at the prospect of working together and cross promoting since residents from both boroughs are most likely attending the gatherings.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius advised that there was no meeting in February. The committee meets every other month. The next meeting is March 18 at 7PM.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney noted that they paid the bills and discussed investments. There are no major updates for current projects. She said much of the meeting was spent discussing the ongoing water issue. They are still waiting for the final numbers for acceptable levels from the EPA and continue to test the water. Ms. McKinney emphasized again that there are no plans to sell the water company.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano that at the last meeting the committee held their reorganization meeting and everyone kept their positions. The full report is on file.

PARKS: Ms. Costello said they are looking to acquire two to five year old play equipment for the park. She reported that two concerts have been scheduled: May 16 and June 6. She is working with two Eagle Scouts to decide on a project. They are considering making birdhouses, a library box for Water Works Park, fixing the library box at Collegeville Park and painting fire hydrants. She is still working on a Parks survey.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr reported that we are working on finding a grant that will help with the water retention basin on Clahor Avenue. He noted that at their last meeting, a resident requested there be a stop sign in the Collegeville Shopping Center near the entrance to Rascals. Ms. Twardowski has reached out to the shopping center management and asked them to consider this request. Mr. Farr asked Ms. Twardowski to give an update on the ambulance. Ms. Twardowski confirmed that we are now in a partnership with Lower Providence Ambulance and Friendship Medical Rescue to cover the residents of the Borough. If you are on the Borough side of Main Street, you will be serviced by Lower Providence. On the other side, it will be Friendship. She did note that for "priority one" calls, the closest available unit will be dispatched.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

##### ENGINEER:

**MOTION** to approve awarding the paving contract for Larkin Lane and Carmen Drive to GoreCon Inc in the amount of \$226,893.77 by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Agreements have been signed for the FEMA Acquisition/Demolition Project and the contract has begun preliminary coordination for the demolition work. Mr. Hoffmann asked if there is an update on the striping on E 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Leh said this is not the right time of year to paint, but that they are holding escrow for that work. He advised that Ms. Twardowski has found a grant which appears to be a good fit for the MS4 PRP Plan. As such, we will postpone going out to bid on this project until 2025 in the hopes of obtaining the grant.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser reported that no hearings have been set for the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel litigation, but that she feels confident that there will be a settlement. She also suggested we comply with the assessment recommendation by the Perkiomen Valley School District for 555 Second Avenue. Generally, the school district takes the lead on cases like this as they have the larger financial interest. The credit due back from the borough is expected to be less than \$500.

**MOTION** to approve the tax assessment decrease for 555 Second Avenue in the amount of \$87,470.00 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

MANAGER:

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2024-06 for old police records destruction by McKinney with a second by Beckius

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2024-07 to apply for the Montco 2040 Grant and commit to the 20% match in the amount of \$69K to connect Bums Hollow to the Perkiomen Trail by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the resignation of Alan Christian from the Planning Commission, the resignation of Frank Mueller as the alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board, and the appointment of Frank Mueller to the Planning Commission by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski asked council and the meeting attendees to recommend anyone they know of that would be interested in the vacant ZHB alternate position. There will be a full job description posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Ms. Twardowski noted that April 13 is scheduled to be the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Creek Cleanup Day. They always need volunteers.

At the April 3 council meeting, there will be a presentation by a development group that has interest in repurposing some of the buildings on the 400 block of Main Street. They will take questions at that time. Ms. Twardowski said that presentation and Q&A will start at 6PM before the regular Council Meeting.

POLICE:

**MOTION** to approve a Fire Police request from Conshohocken Borough for their St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16 by Costello with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

**MOTION** to approve closing Main Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues from 7AM-5PM on August 11 for the Fire Company's Car Show by Beckius with a second by McKinney

**MOTION** carries 7-0

AMBULANCE: No report

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 37 calls last month, 16 of those were in the borough. He noted 448.33 hours of service to the community.

MAYOR: They Mayor wished all the women happy "Women's History Month". He advised that he will be writing a letter of support for Mr. Da Costa's plan for the Myrin Library. He said that as a result of his story in the *Times Herald* last month he has made several positive connections in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

Ms. Kernan noted the Collegeville Lions Club Egg Hunt at Water Works Park on March 29 at 10AM and the upcoming Dinner & a Show, "Captain Darling" at Ursinus College's Lenfest Theater.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:03PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Tamara Twardowski, Secretary