

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster and Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffman

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and checks 102-149 and check # 7279 (from an old account) by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen noted that the Business Development Committee meetings will be starting back up on an "as needed" basis. Goodness Bowls is planning to open soon in the Collegeville Shopping Center.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted that the January meeting had to be rescheduled and will be at Trappe Borough Hall on February 17.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney advised that they paid the bills and discussed the most recent report from Entec regarding the water situation.

LVPRSA: Ms. Stagliano advised that she has been re-elected as the chair for the LVPRSA. 27 EDU's were approved. Three capacity rights were returned. She noted that it is not usual procedure to return EDU's, but that the exception was granted after Hurricane Ida when the damaged homes were demolished. Upcoming projects include the secondary clarifier structure replacement and sludge handling facilities evaluations as part of the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that the committee needs to submit a final design plan to the County in the next week or so. It is the committee's recommendation that they go with the plan from Burke for the 5-12 year old play structures and with Kompan for the 2-12 YO structures as part of the long range plans for the park. The next Park Committee meeting will be February 11 at 6PM.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION to approve the re-appointment of Alicia Hoffmann as our Junior Councilperson by Brewster with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr advised that the committee met with the HOA members from the Glenwood Reserve community regarding some traffic issues. He noted that the feedback has been positive regarding our new system of EMS coverage by Lower Providence and Friendship.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that Gilmore & Associates has gone out to bid on this year's paving project. Bids are set to be opened on February 27th and therefore, we should have a recommendation for award at the March Borough Council Meeting.

MOTION to approve beginning the survey for the Bums Hollow Trail Connection project by Brewster with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 7-0

The specifications the MS4 PRP Project (8th Avenue Streambank Restoration) are almost finished and they anticipate going out to bid in March for an April award.

MOTION to approve Gilmore going out to bid for the 8th Avenue Streambank Restoration project by Beckius with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

SOLICITOR:

MOTION to approve Ordinance 619 which is step one in acquiring the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel by Eminent Domain by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Ordinance 620 which applies to local limits for allowable discharge of pollutants into the sewer by Brewster with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement for EMS services by Farr with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2025-03 which allows Ms. Twardowski to sign grant paperwork for the 8th Avenue Streambank Restoration project by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski explained that the Swift911 program for countywide notifications has been discontinued and that we are now using ReadyMontco.

POLICE:

MOTION to approve advertising the Mutual Aid Agreement for the Police in the region to include Upper Perkiomen Police Department by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

MAYOR: The Mayor noted his participation in the Martin Luther King Day of Service at Ursinus College in January. He spoke at an Episcopal Church in Kennett Square as well as gave two lectures at Ursinus College regarding civil rights and the role of the church as well as youth organizing. He took part in the Grand Opening of the Turning Point restaurant in the Providence Town Center on January 26.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 45 calls in January and 741.82 hours of service. There were two significant fires in the borough: a car fire at Royal Farms and an electrical fire on campus at Elliott House. The Mayor brought up a discussion about the ability to anticipate weak areas with regard to fires in the wake of the devastation in Los Angeles.

AMBULANCE: Mr. Reynolds submitted his report and noted that in 2024 Lower Providence EMS was on hand at the Rotary Halloween Parade and all home football games on campus at Ursinus College. They received a new three year state license and have a new ambulance on the road. They are now using iPads to cut down on the amount of paper reports and have a new fee transparency page on their website. The 2024 Annual Report is still in the works.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Damien Brewster thanked Ms. Twardowski on her continual work in acquiring grant money and noted that every dollar collected from grants saves our residents!

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:25PM