

BOROUGH OF COLLEGEVILLE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2024

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster and Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffmann

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

Ms. Kernen noted that prior to this meeting, the Council met for an Executive Session to discuss real estate and litigation matters.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report and checks 7035-7095 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that the draft Master Plan for Main Street is finished and she hopes everyone will come to hear the plan. There is a public meeting planned for October 21 at 6:30 to allow everyone to learn about the plan and share their comments.

CPVRPC: Ms. McKinney reported that the discussion mostly centered on the change of plan for the homes being built on a tract in Lower Frederick. They had originally planned for large single homes, but were met with issues regarding the lots being in a flood plain. The plan is now for cluster homes that will allow for the open space to be in the flood plain.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that the meetings were brief this month. They continue to discuss the water situation and she reiterated that there are no plans to sell the water system to Aqua. When all of the data is collected and options are researched, there will be a public meeting for residents of both Collegeville and Trappe Boroughs to be made aware and help with the decision making process to address the problem.

LPVRSAs: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello reported that she is looking at pricing for another new playground structure. The committee has hired a consultant to assess the safety of the equipment at the Collegeville Park. There were two benches and a tree donated and they will be installed soon. The Committee has decided to hold off on the decision about the Scout Cabin. It will be winterized and available for use until it gets too cold. On November 15, the PV Watershed Conservancy will plant thirty donated trees at the Creekside Park. Ms. Costello thanked Jim and Kelly Taylor for donating their time and materials to fix the library at the park.

Ms. Kernan noted that the borough received an award at the PV Watershed Conservancy on September 20th at their Flannel Formal for the Creekside Park.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Ms. Twardowski noted that they discussed body cameras for the Police Department. Chief Barnshaw has researched pricing and financing options. There is no parking on a part of 6th Avenue between 1AM and 6AM. This continues to be a point of concern for residents as many students disregard this rule. It was discussed that the parking ticket fee be raised from \$10 to \$75 to hopefully make an impact. The 2025 for paving was discussed. At this time the streets that are planned are Avon, Colonial and School. The estimate for this work is \$250K. Budget planning continues and after it is confirmed, this plan will be finalized. The sidewalk "lifting" on 3rd and 4th Avenues near the park is finished. Ms. Twardowski noted that there will be no meeting in October and that the next meeting will be November 19.

PERSONNEL: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the land development plans have been received for the 7Brews application and are under review. The plans will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at their October 17 meeting. The repairs for the Chestnut Street Extension sinkhole are scheduled to be made the week of September 30th or October 7th.

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski advised that the 7Brews project will be reviewed at the October 17 Planning Commission meeting. It was noted that because we received more than \$750K in government grants to purchase the flooded properties, we must do a single line audit. This audit will cost approximately \$17K, but can be paid for with grant money.

MOTION to approve payment for a single line audit to Bee Bergvall & Company by Beckius with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-12 to apply for a PECO Green Open Space Region grant in the amount of \$10K for the trail connection at Bums Hollow by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski noted that Borough Hall will be closed on October 25.

There will be an open Budget Meeting on November 14 at 6PM at Borough Hall. The Streets & Public Safety meeting will be on November 19.

POLICE: Chief Barnshaw said that he attended “Coffee with a Cop” at the Pottstown Campus of Montgomery County Community College with officers from many surrounding municipalities. The Chief advised that Drug Takeback Day will be Saturday, October 26 from 10AM-2PM.

Chief Barnshaw explained the process to hire a new officer and noted that Officer Sohl, Officer Nerlinger and he unanimously agreed to offer our last open position to John Falnes.

MOTION to approve the hiring of John Falnes as a Police Officer by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MAYOR: No report

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 21 calls this month and 338 hours of service to the community. The annual Hero Run is this Sunday, October 6 and online signup is still available.

AMBULANCE: Chris reported 131 dispatches last month and 111 of those were handled by Lower Providence. They continue to have an ambulance on stand by for Ursinus football games.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Damien Brewster 42 10th Ave – Mr. Brewster thanked Ms. Costello for the successful concert at the park. It was very well attended and a great way to end the summer.

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel also thanked Ms. Costello for her hard work at the park. She noted how often she sees her there doing maintenance.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:12PM