

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2024

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

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

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

The Mayor swore in our newest officer, John “Teddy” Falnes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Catherine McCarthy – 193 Park Ave – Ms. McCarthy outlined the problems with vandalism she has been experiencing at her home. She has had destruction of property, milk thrown at her house, kids jumping her fence and messing with her belongings and, most recently, had her tires slashed. She believes that she has been targeted and that these are hate crimes. She noted that the police have been very helpful and sympathetic, but feels there needs to be more done. The Mayor expressed his sincere empathy for her situation and plans to write an article for the Newsletter imploring residents to be kind to one another and embrace their neighbor’s differences.

Kelly Siriani – 160 Park Ave – Ms. Siriani added how upsetting it has been for her family to see what is happening to her neighbors and offered to start a town watch program or allow the police to sit in her driveway to monitor the area.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the October meeting by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s report and checks 7097-7162 by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen advised that there was a public meeting on October 21 to present the final draft plan for the Main Street Revitalization Plan. There will information in the November Newsletter that details the questions and answers that were posed at the presentation.

CPVRPC: No report

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney had no report, but Ms. Twardowski noted that the cell tower payment has been approved for 2025, but that may not happen in 2026 as the fees collected are decreasing. There has been a water conservation notice released by the water authority due to the lack of rainfall. The authority is asking all residents to cut back on all non-essential water use.

LPVRSA: Ms. Stagliano reported that they reviewed the draft 2025 budget, and at this time, she does not expect a rate increase. The Authority met with representatives from Rise Up Towers. Currently, there are three cell providers that have equipment on the roof of the Oaks Convention Center. The Authority was contacted by Rise Up concerning possibly erecting a tower on LPVRS property. They are currently in negotiations. The six municipalities received letters for an Ordinance or Ordinance to adopt the new local limits. A “local limit” is what kind of chemical can be safely sent into our system by businesses or companies in the municipality.

All but two meter pits damaged in Hurricane Ida are operational. They are still waiting for PECO to inspect them.

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that they are reviewing the park survey results and are working on a wish list for 2025. She advised that the trees received under a TreeVitalize Grant through the Perkiomen Watershed are schedule to be planted on Nov 15. The committee is still waiting for the proposal for the trees at Collegeville Park.

PERSONNEL: No report

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

Mr. Farr noted that he is happy with the new system we have in place with the two Ambulance companies handling the borough.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh advised that 7 Brews will be submitting a revised land development plan and traffic study for consideration at the Planning Commission’s November 21 meeting.

Gilmore & Associates has begun the preparation of the specifications for the 2025 Paving Project. The roads for next year are Colonial and Avon Avenues and School Street from 8th to the end.

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve sending the snow plow contract out to bid by Brewster with a second by Costello
MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski noted that the borough received a \$250K Local Share Grant to repair the 6th Avenue culvert. She would like to apply for another Local Share Grant in the amount of \$472,579.00 that opens at the end of this month.

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-13 to apply for a Local Share Grant in the amount of \$472,579.00 by McKinney with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski advised that there will be an open budget meeting on November 14 at 6PM at Borough Hall and that the Streets & Public Safety meeting will be on November 19 at 6PM (Borough Hall).

The borough was awarded another \$500K RACP grant on Friday for the Main Street Revitalization.

POLICE: Chief Barnshaw advised that he is investigating grants to pay for Tasers and body cameras. On October 26 he collected 100 lbs. of expired and unused medications during Drug Take Back Day. The reporting system used by the officers is changing in November. The Police Advisory Board had their first meeting and it was a time of great sharing and suggestions. The Board plans to meet quarterly. Mr. Brewster asked if the borough has a curfew. The Chief said that Sundays-Thursdays it is 10:30PM and midnight on Friday and Saturday for those under 18 years of age.

MAYOR: No report

AMBULANCE: No report

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 47 calls and 509.65 hours of service to the community. It was noted that there is no open burning allowed in the borough unless it is wood in a fire pit or chimnea.

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

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Siriani – 160 Park Ave – Ms. Siriani said that people continue to speed on Park Avenue and drive in the middle of the road to avoid the speed pillows. She has seen many close calls as people speed by and ignore the school buses. Chief Barnshaw said he will send officers to patrol the bus stop areas in the morning and afternoon on Park Avenue.

Jan Snovel – 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel agrees there is still many people speeding on Park Avenue.

Karen Lasko – 191 Park Ave – Ms. Lasko asked about the dead trees on the trail. She was advised to call the office for the number for the County Trails department for reporting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Brewster advised that he was asked to inquire about thinning out the deer population. Ms. Twardowski said she has done some research and that the most common way to thin the herd is to allow for hunting in the borough-which is difficult to imagine as there are not many wide open spaces. There was a discussion of the pros and cons.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:40PM