

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2025

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

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, 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

The Mayor read our **Land Acknowledgement Statement:**

“We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario) have stewarded through generations land and waterways on what is now known as Collegeville Borough. Our residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions rest on Lenapehoking, their ancestral and spiritual homeland. Collegeville Borough, in the State of Pennsylvania, honors and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.”

MOTION to approve the minutes from the December meeting by Costello with a second by Beckius
MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Travis Odom presented for his 7Brews project that is planned for the Collegeville Shopping Center.

MOTION to approve the waiver requested by 7Brews to receive preliminary and final approval at the same time as recommended by the Planning Commission by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to approve final Land Development approval for 7Brews by Hoffmann with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks 7213-7278 by Hoffmann with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 5-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen advised that they are deciding what projects to focus on in 2025. The committee will be working to find developers that have interest in renovating the buildings on Main Street and also researching the costs associated with doing so. Ms. Kernen said they are starting meetings up again for the Business Development Committee and looking for volunteers interested in joining.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Farr reported that they have received the first engineer's draft of the PFAS report. The report is about 60% finished at this point. There will be many discussions about available options before they host a public meeting.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported there was no December meeting. Next meeting is Jan 20 at 7PM at Trappe Borough Hall. All are welcome.

LPVRS: No report

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised there will be a Parks meeting on January 7 at 6PM at Borough Hall that is open to the public. There will be a design professional at the meeting to give an overview of options for the park. She hopes to discuss priorities and plans for the parks for 2025 and to brainstorm fundraising ideas. All are welcome. Ms. Costello is also welcoming suggestions for bands for the summer concert series for 2025.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION to approve salary increases for the administrative staff and Manager's agreement by Costello with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to approve new terms for the following existing committee members by Beckius with a second by Farr:

Heather Bernardin and Jerry Stayer to Zoning Hearing Board

Marion McKinney, Craig Farr and Valarie Beckius to CTMA/Public Works

Andrea Baptiste to the Vacancy Board

Jim Calvin to the Civil Service Board

MOTION carries 5-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh explained that due to poor weather, the sidewalk repair along Third & Fourth Avenues has been delayed.

Mr. Leh advised that Gilmore & Associates hopes to go out to bid on this year's paving project in late January. He is asking for authorization to go out to bid in an effort to potentially award the project at the March meeting.

MOTION to approve Gilmore & Associates going out to bid for the 2025 Paving Project by Farr with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

SOLICITOR:

MOTION to approve advertising Ordinance 2025-01 regarding Eminent Domain for the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel by Hoffmann with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 5-0

MANAGER: Ms. Twardowski noted that she has received an indication that the borough has been awarded a Watershed Restoration grant from the state for the MS4 streambank restoration project. There is a 20% match for this grant. It is estimated to be a \$200K project.

POLICE: Chief Barnshaw reported that, with the help of Joe Webster's office, the department has received a grant of \$91,000 to fund body cameras and new Tasers for our department. He also noted that there will be a second Police Advisory Committee meeting this month. The Chief noted that the Santa Run on December 21 was a success.

MAYOR: The Mayor invited all to the Interfaith Celebration in honor of MLK Day at Ursinus College on January 26. The gathering will be held at the Kaleidoscope Building on campus in the Lenfest Theater.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 26 calls for the month of January and 656 hours of service to the community. He noted for 2024, there were 384 calls, 109 of which were in the Borough, and 5710 hours of service for the year.

AMBULANCE: No report

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

MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jon Doman noted that he only has six parcels that have not paid taxes for 2024 and how much he enjoys being the Tax Collector for the Borough. He hopes to maintain his position at the next election.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:17PM