

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2024

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

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

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

Chief Barnshaw presented an award to Officer Tim Kennedy for his 25 years of service to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report and checks 7161-7212 by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski and Mr. Hoffmann presented the budget for 2025. They highlighted some projects that have been planned including traffic signal upgrades, improvements to Borough Hall and inlet/culvert repairs. Ms. Kernen thanked them both for their hard work in keeping the borough on track with their goals for capital improvement projects and keeping a reserve balance that enable us to utilize the grant money we are allotted.

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-14 for the 2025 Budget by McKinney with a second by Beckius
MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski advised that she, Mr. Hoffmann, President Hannigan and David Colangelo, who helps Ursinus with applying for Federal Appropriations, are traveling to Washington DC next week to meet with Senators Fetterman and Dean in the hopes of receiving joint federal appropriations that can be used toward the 400 block of Main Street plan. Ms. Twardowski noted that this is great opportunity for a municipality of our size to have access to a lobbyist to aid us in acquiring this type of funding. There will be a full project scope presented at the January meeting.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernan noted that the Main Street Master Plan has been completed and presented to council and the public. The committee is now reviewing projects for 2025. Ms. Kernen reported that Iron Hill Brewery in Phoenixville has closed. It has been hard times for restaurants since

the COVID 19 outbreak due to rising costs of food and the difficulty with staffing. Goodness Bowls is getting close to opening in the Collegeville Shopping Center and will offer nutritious fare. Rascals Fitness will be closing at the end of the year. No word yet what is coming to that spot. Ms. Twardowski advised that she received an application for a gaming lounge in the Redner's Shopping Center, but she denied it for zoning reasons. She said she received a call the following week from another person with the same type of business. She plans to bring the issue up at the Planning Commission meeting in December to start the discussion for parameters for these types of businesses.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported that the committee met on November 18. They passed their 2025 Budget and are entering the third year of their 3-Year contract with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. They discussed flood mapping of the Perkiomen Creek. Updates were given regarding zoning and building in neighboring municipalities. The meetings next year will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Trappe Borough Hall.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney noted that the CTMA budget was approved at their last meeting. There was an executive session before the Public Works meeting that could affect the 2025 budget, so it has not been approved yet. It was decided at the meeting that water rates would increase 20%. At their meeting last night, Trappe only approved a 15% increase.

MOTION to approve Resolution 2024-15 to increase water rates 15% by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. McKinney explained that the committee is still waiting on the final report about the wells and PFAS levels. When that is received, there will be public meetings for residents of both boroughs to discuss the options available to fix the problem. This process is going to take a while and is going to be expensive. Mr. Farr was disheartened by the response from Trappe Borough with regard to the rate increase. The 20% increase would only bring in \$275K and the solution to the issue could cost up to \$10M! There was a discussion that they form an "Authority" so that they would not have to go to the boroughs to make these decisions. (The rules are different for "Authorities" and "Committees") Mr. Hoffmann suggested that the elected officials (Webster and Pennycuick) be invited to these meetings so that they are aware of what we are up against. Mr. Penuel asked if has been considered to join the North Penn Water Authority rather than just buy water from them or start our own. Ms. McKinney said she will bring that up as an option at the next meeting.

LPVRS:

MOTION to authorize the solicitor to update our sewer ordinance regarding commercial limits by Brewster with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 7-0

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that she has a meeting with a resident that has expertise in park equipment to assess our playground and structures for signs of wear and damage. The Master Plan for the parks will be discussed at the next meeting on December 17. It will be in person and ZOOM. Ms. Costello advised that she had over 100 responses from her Facebook post asking for input for the park and hopes to see residents at the meeting. The hope is to have a discussion about the feasibility of some of the suggestions. She has been able to water the new trees at the Creekside Park with the water she

collected in five rain barrels. She thinks we should consider installing a couple at Borough Hall that could handle the watering around the building and will look into installing gutters that could catch rain in barrels around the pavilion for the watering needs at the park. Mr. Brewster shared words of appreciation for all of the work Ms. Costello does behind the scenes to make sure the parks and trees are maintained.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernan mentioned that a number of committee and commission members have terms that end in 2024. She will be reaching out to see if they all plan to continue and will have those appointments ready for the January Reorganization meeting.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that representatives from Gilmore met with a contractor regarding the repair of the sidewalk along Third and Fourth Avenues along the park. Weather permitting, the repairs will be made this year.

MOTION to approve the final payment to G&R Construction in the amount of \$37,402.00 for the FEMA Acquisition and Demolition project by Beckius with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 7-0

Mr. Leh advised that the Clayhor basin project has been completed except for the paving of the sidewalk. That will be finished when the weather is suitable.

SOLICITOR: No report

MANAGER:

MOTION to awarding the salt and plowing contract to MAK Services by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski presented the meeting schedule for 2025 to Borough Council and noted two dates to discuss. The first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day. It was decided the meeting will be held on Thursday, January 2. The only other conflict day is the July meeting that falls on the 2nd of July and may coincide with people's holiday vacation plans. It was decided that the July meeting will be on July 9th.

MOTION to approve support for the America 250 program to participate in events celebrating the 250th anniversary of the USA in 2026 by Costello with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski asked for approval for the charitable donations for 2025. There was a discussion about how to ensure that borough funds go to the organizations that most impact residents of Colledgeville Borough. There are a couple of options that need a little more investigation before we commit any donations

MOTION to approve charitable donations to:

- The Daily Bread Food Pantry in the amount of \$2500
- Montgomery County EMS in the amount of \$2000
- Historic Trappe in the amount of \$2500

- Perkiomen Valley Library \$7000

By Brewster with a second by McKinney

MOTION carries 7-0

POLICE: Chief Barnshaw reported that they received a grant for body cameras with the help of Senator Webster's office. He noted that Joe Nemic, a retired Chief from Phoenixville Police Department, will be appointed the Safety Director for Ursinus College and he looks forward to a good working relationship with him. All of our officers did well qualifying with their weapons ability this year. The Chief and a few officers will attend "Coffee with a Cop" in Spring City next week.

MAYOR: No report

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported 42 calls in November and a total of 333.5 hours of service to the community.

AMUBLANCE: No Report

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

MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel thanked the council for all of their hard work and gave out her delicious cookies!

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:09PM