

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 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 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 Costello with a second by Beckius
MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Aileen Johnson – PV Library – Ms. Johnson thanked the borough for the generous donation and noted that the library has received a \$1M federal grant to do much needed repairs and renovations to their building. She reported that circulation is up to 105K. They have hired a Youth Service Coordinator that will help expand their services. The book sale is scheduled for April 11-12. Their newest newsletter will be available in the lobby of Borough Hall.

Gary Sassaman – 209 11th Ave – Mr. Sassaman made Council aware that there is a lot of muddy runoff coming down the creek from the new development that is under construction in Trappe. He worries that it may do damage to the new wall. Ms. Twardowski said she will make sure the manager of Trappe is made aware.

Chuck Draksler – 484 Shakespeare Drive – Mr. Draksler asked if the marking and excavating of homes on Shakespeare is part of the paving project. Ms. Twardowski said it could possibly be PECO and their gas main project. She will look into it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks 150-195 by Hoffmann with a second by Farr
MOTION carries 5-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen advised that Ursinus College is still committed to moving forward with revitalization projects on Main Street, with possible projects including renovations to the Marzella’s building, renovations to the Chow Bistro building and a connection of the parking lots behind these buildings. Ursinus has also requested that they be allowed to hang college flags along Main Street during events on campus like “Welcome Week” and graduation.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius reported that they held their reorganization meeting in February and Brett Coleman, Marla Hexler and Ms. Beckius retained their positions. She noted discussions on the MCPC Comprehensive Plan, the Perkiomen Mapping & Flooding Mitigation Study, and that Upper Frederick

Township has created a zoning ordinance requiring a minimum of two acre parcel for new builds. The 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events have been determined. The flyer will be in the March Newsletter as well as on our website. Pre-registration is required.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Farr advised that well and water discussions continue. Ms. Beckius noted that they discussed tech updates such as making credit card payments an option and creating a website.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano reported that 25 EDU's were granted and three Chapter 94 consistency letters for 20 EDU's in Lower Providence were granted. Authorization was granted for execution of a ground lease with Rise Up Towers for wireless communication facility for 5 years which will automatically renew up to four additional five year terms.

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised that the committee has decided to not allow use of the Scout Cabin until further notice. The cabin needs to be inspected and once that is done, it will be determined if it is feasible to make the renovations/repairs needed to make it accessible again. Ms. Costello met with coaches from the teams that use the baseball field to determine if the alterations to the field recommended by the Montgomery County Planning Commission will work for them. The coaches said they need the fields bigger than what was noted on the plan, so Ms. Costello will go back to the county to see if they can work on mutually acceptable dimensions. The sidewalks around park are ready for concrete once the weather allows. Ms. Twardowski thanked TransFleet for their donation of the concrete.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernen reported that Borough Council is recruiting for a new Junior Councilperson now that Alicia Hoffmann is graduating this year. The position description will be posted on our website, in the newsletter and forwarded to Perkiomen Valley High School. She and Mr. Hoffmann are enjoying being part of the negotiations for the 2026 Police Contract and are learning a lot!

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr noted that there were discussions regarding the Ursinus owned monument near the Glenwood Reserve development, the Carmen Drive sidewalks and increasing the parking ticket fee.

MOTION to authorize preparation and advertisement of an ordinance revision raising the fine for parking tickets to \$75 by Farr with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 5-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that bids were opened for the 2025 Paving Project this week and it is recommended to award the contract to G&B Construction. The engineers are finishing up the specifications for the MS4 PRP Project and it will be going out to bid shortly.

MOTION to approve awarding the 2025 Paving Project to G&B Construction in the amount of \$139,933.00 by Beckius with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

Ms. Kernen advised that there was an Executive Session on Monday regarding a legal matter.

SOLICITOR:

MOTION to approve the previously approved salary increase for the Collegeville Trappe Joint Public Works Director by Beckius with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 5-0

MANAGER: No report

POLICE:

MOTION to approve Ord No. 621 Mutual Aid Agreement to become a part of Montgomery County SWAT Western Region for Police by Hoffmann with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to execute the Mutual Aid Agreement by Hoffmann with a second by Farr

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to approve closing Main Street on May 17 from 9AM – 1PM for Ursinus graduation.

MOTION carries 5-0

MOTION to approve a fire police request from Conshohocken for their St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15 (Rain date March 22)

MOTION carries 5-0

FIRE: Mr. Sassaman introduced the new Chief of the Fire Company, Lou Chiccarine. He noted that there were 53 calls last month and 452 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

MAYOR: No report

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

MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

Ms. Kernen noted that Goodness Bowls recently opened in the Collegeville Shopping Center. Bonjung Japanese Restaurant at the Collegeville Station is celebrating 20 years in the Borough with an anniversary party on March 19. Dawat Indian Cuisine opened in the previous AAYVA location in the Marketplace Shopping Center. Please support these Borough businesses!

MEETING ADJOUNED 7:21PM