

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by Council President Cathy Kernen.

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster 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 March meeting by Brewster with a second by McKinney  
**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Traupman 256 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Traupman asked the Chief about the right of way on crosswalks for pedestrians. He said he now routinely avoids E 9<sup>th</sup> & Route 29 intersection because the joggers just run into the road. The Chief said the runners should always look and wait for traffic. If they are in the crosswalk already, cars are to yield to them.

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St. – Ms. Snovel complained that she was walking earlier in the week and while attempting to cross at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Park Avenues, she was waved out by one car and another approaching car almost hit her. She noted that there was a police officer sitting across the street and he did nothing to intervene. Chief Barnshaw said he will advise the officers to be on the lookout for this type of behavior.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks numbered 196-240 by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that Ursinus College has made renovations to the former home of the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation office at 476 E Main St. The Perkiomen Watershed is planning their annual sojourn on the Perkiomen Creek for June 7. They will

once again stop for lunch at our Welakamike Creekside Park. Ms. Kernan said she plans to work with the college to possibly get someone from the tribe to come and do a presentation.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius advised that the committee met on March 17. They discussed the new development on the Renninger Tract, revisions of the comprehensive plan, some zoning changes in Lower Frederick, the Centennial Street development and the Perkiomen Creek flood study. She noted the stream clean up on April 12 sponsored by the Perkiomen Watershed. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 7PM at Trappe Borough Hall.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. McKinney reported that the meeting was brief and that bills were paid and water issues were discussed. There was an executive session regarding a personnel matter.

LPVRS: Ms. Twardowski reported for Ms. Stagliano. 25 new EDU's were approved in Upper Providence for Pulte Homes and 113 transfer EDU's were approved for the project on Black Rock Road. 20 Chapter 94 Consistency Letters were approved for Lower Providence. Fees were paid toward the generator installation project and the primary clarifier rehabilitation project.

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised that the first concert has been scheduled for May 22 at Collegeville Park and will feature the Tyson Mill Band. The committee is working to come to a decision about the dimensions of the baseball field. The climbing tube and slide at the park are damaged and have been closed until parts can be obtained to fix them. Ms. Costello noted that a continuing problem at the park is that the recycling cans are always filled with trash therefore contaminating the recyclables. She is not sure how to address this. Mr. Farr asked the committee to begin also looking at Waterworks Park and what needs to be done there so that Collegeville and Trappe Boroughs can make updates there as well.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr reported that the committee met with the residents on Carmen Drive regarding the state of the sidewalks along their street. The consensus of the residents is to remove the trees and replace the sidewalks. The hope would be to plant more appropriate trees for the neighborhood that won't have such profound root systems.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernan advised that Council is still looking for a replacement for Alicia Hoffmann as her term as JR. Councilperson is expiring this May. Mr. Farr asked if we do not get a high school student, could we advertise the position to students at Ursinus. Ms. Geiser noted that it is a program through the Borough's Association and it does stipulate that it is for a high school student.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that signed agreements have been received from the contractor for the 2025 Paving Project. Paving operations will not begin until after the end of the school year. The specifications for the MS4 PRP Project (8<sup>th</sup> Ave Streambank Restoration) are now complete and it will be going out to bid next week.

SOLICITOR:

**MOTION** to approve Ordinance 622 to raise the parking ticket fine to \$75 by Brewster with a second by Farr

**MOTION** carries 7-0

MANAGER:

**MOTION** to approve allowing Trouble's End Brewing to serve beer and wine at the Community Day following the Memorial Day Parade by McKinney with a second by Hoffmann

**MOTION** carries 7-0

POLICE: The Chief noted that there was a "Coffee with a Cop" event earlier in the day at Ursinus College. It was very well attended and was a positive experience with about 50 students and faculty as well as the campus safety officers and five of our officers. On April 24, Erin Millburn will host an event for our officers and the Department of Campus Safety at Borough Hall to discuss what is available through Montgomery County Victim Services. Chief Barnshaw advised that implementation of the new county record management systems continues and it is going well.

**MOTION** to approve using the allotted grant funds to purchase the new Tasers and body cameras from Axon by McKinney with a second by Brewster

**MOTION** carries 7-0

MAYOR: The Mayor congratulated Ms. Kernan for the award she received from the Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce for her tireless volunteer work in Collegeville. He noted that he attended the Police Advisory Board meeting, participated in the close of Ramadan event at Ursinus and congratulated Chief Barnshaw on the successful "Coffee with a Cop" events.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported there were 36 incident calls in March and 515.5 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

**MOTION** to approve all reports by McKinney with a second by Costello

**MOTION** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snovel 432 Chestnut St – Ms. Snovel is concerned about the safety of the new Tasers. She watched a documentary about deaths that occur as a result of their use. Chief Barnshaw noted that the officers have possessed this equipment for many years, this is just new equipment and further training will be attended by all.

Gary Sassaman 209 11<sup>th</sup> Ave – Mr. Sassaman advised that many years ago when he was on council and the Jr. Councilperson position was created, it was for borough residents only and that the hope was that it would spur community activism in local emerging adults.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Hoffmann noted that he, Robyn Hannigan, President of Ursinus, and Ms. Twardowski travelled to Washington again last week to visit with staffers from Senator Fetterman's, Congresswoman Dean and Senator McCormick's offices to revisit the opportunity to receive federal appropriation funds for various projects in the borough.

Ms. Kernan noted the Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt on April 18 at 10AM in Waterworks Park.

There is a live theater production this weekend at Ursinus College titled *Fun Home*.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:52PM