

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 7, 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 (Via ZOOM), Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster, Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffman and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins

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 March meeting by Costello with a second by Hoffmann
MOTION carries 6-0

Aiden Kuklinski introduced himself as a member of Boy Scout Troop 105. He proposed a project for his Eagle Scout Program to rehab and make upgrades to the Little Library at Collegeville Park. The Little Library was an Eagle Scout project from many years ago by Jack Morgan. Aiden plans to honor that scout while improving it to include a children's section. He advised that he and his troop will be responsible to maintain the mulch and flowers that are planned as part of the project. Ms. Geiser noted that she could draw up an agreement as to who owns the library and/or a maintenance agreement for the care of it.

Tim Woodrow presented a minor land development plan for Ursinus College regarding their property located at 325 E 9th Avenue. They propose to divide the lot with the retention basin and keep that as college property and sell the other lot with the house to a private citizen. There is a proposed easement on the house lot for access to the rugby fields. Approval was recommended by the Planning Commission at their April meeting.

MOTION to approve conditional, preliminary and final approval for the minor subdivision of 325 E 9th Avenue by Beckius with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report and check numbers 252-296 by Hoffmann with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen continues to work with Ursinus College regarding RACP funds for use on their properties on Main Street.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius advised that there was no meeting in April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 7PM at Trappe Borough Hall.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Farr advised that there was a discussion about the water meters at the Collegeville Shopping Center. Joe Hastings has started evaluations to find leaks in the water system.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano reported that seven EDU's were approved and there were no capacity transfers. They purchased a chemical feed system and pump in the amount of \$9,090.00. The committee authorized a rotating assembly for the sludge mixing pump in the amount of \$29,440.00. They continue to look at the primary clarifier repairs regarding the coating systems. All representative meter pits are operational except for two and they are awaiting inspection by PECO.

PARKS: Ms. Costello advised that the meeting scheduled for May 20 is cancelled due to the primary election. The first concert of the season is scheduled for June 12 at 6:30PM and will feature the Tyson Mill Band. There will be bins for donations to the Daily Bread Food Pantry. She noted there is another Eagle Scout proposing a project, but that he is not ready to present at this time. She is working to schedule a park cleanup day on June 12.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kernan relayed that the contract talks for the Police and Public Works continue and that she expects agreements soon. She and Ms. Costello are amid interviews for the Junior Councilperson position.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr advised that the committee discussed the sidewalk issues on Carmen Drive, parking issues on 5th & 6th Avenues as well as Walnut and Chestnut Streets and the Bus Patrol camera program. They also discussed options regarding the deer population.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that the MS4 PRP Project for the 8th Avenue streambank restoration is now out to bid. Bids will be due on May 29 and we should have a recommendation for award at the June 4 Council Meeting.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser advised that there had been an executive session on Tuesday, May 6 regarding pending litigation. There was another executive session prior to this meeting regarding personnel and litigation matters.

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve Resolution 2025-05 that allows for Ms. Twardowski to apply for and sign applications for a Greenways Trail Grant by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve adopting a Facility Action Plan as recommended by our insurance carrier by Beckius with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve adopting an Accident and Illness Prevention Plan by Beckius with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve adopting a Safety Manual by Brewster with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski advised that the borough is requesting appropriations from Representative Dean's and Senator Fetterman's offices for the 2026 cycle in the amount of \$3M. These funds would go toward Main Street improvements for pedestrians, repaving the borough parking lot, as well as cameras and lighting for the borough building. 9th Avenue sidewalks, curbing and traffic calming, more security lighting and cameras on Ursinus' campus are also potential uses for the grant.

POLICE: Chief Barnshaw advised that he and Detective Sohl attended the ribbon cutting at Goodness Bowls in the Collegetown Shopping Center. The Axon body cameras and Tasers have come in and will be put in action as soon as they are online. He noted that he has been made aware of a vacant property on Carmen Drive and he has beefed up patrol in that area. The Chief explained the new Bus Patrol program that PVSD has joined (starting April 21) to add cameras to the buses. Violators that pass buses when the lights are on at a stop will receive a ticket in the mail. If the borough agrees to join the program, it will receive \$50 of the charged fine.

MOTION to approve the following fire police requests by Brewster with a second by Hoffmann

April 8 Trappe for a wide load delivery to the new playground

May 13-17 – Limerick Fire Company Carnival

May 17 – Lower Providence Hero Run

May 31 – Perkiomen Township Community Day

June 5-15 – Lower Providence Fair

June 21 – Fairmont Fire Company (Lansdale) Car Show

MOTION carries 6-0

FIRE: Mr. Kuklinski reported 27 incidents last month. The company participated in three training sessions and there were 100 daybook entries. He thanked our Building Inspector/Fire Marshall, Randy Yardumian, for his rapid response and assistance at sites of issue in the borough. There were 528.5 hours of service to the community.

AMBULANCE: No report

MAYOR: The Mayor thanked the Chief and other officers that came out on May 1 for the peaceful demonstration on Route 29. He noted that he spoke at a ceremony honoring the 15,000 African Americans that served in WWII known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He advised that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and also Asian American/Pacific Islanders Month. 4% of the population of Collegetown Borough is Asian or Pacific Islander.

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

MOTION carries 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernan reminded all that the Memorial Day Parade will start at 10AM at Augustus Lutheran Church on May 26 and end at Water Works Park with a WWII remembrance ceremony followed by Community Day.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:30PM