

## MEETING MINUTES

### FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2021

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo: Called the Council Meeting to order at 7:24 PM

Council President Papaleo apologized and said there was an executive session for police and employment matters related to insurance brokerage.

Mr. Ruskowski led the flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call (Council President Papaleo, Councilman Kyle Willis was absent, Councilwoman Leigh Daly, Councilman Nick Waters was absent, Councilwoman Malinda Isaac, Councilwoman Lorna Fyffe, Councilman Robert Ruskowski, Mayor Bob Frey was absent, Solicitor Alex Baumler, Secretary/Manager Andrew Hayman) was present.

#### **Audience Participation**

Ms. Lisa Reid – 1913 Carter Road – asked if there was a noise ordinance on the books but it was rattling the windows in her neighborhood. Ms. Reid says she keeps hearing that there are no ordinances. Mr. Papaleo said that previously he had been aware that a noise ordinance existed. Mr. Papaleo said he passed a noise ordinance in August, 2021. Mr. Papaleo said it is 10pm to 8am such that a reasonable person would determine that it was a disturbance. Mr. Papaleo confirmed that there now is an ordinance in place. Ms. Reid said that this disturbance is a couple times per week. Joseph Higgins – 1897 Carter Road said he could confirm this as he brought Ms. Reid to the meeting and said that parties sometimes go until 2:00am. Mr. Higgins said that this had been reported at a previous council meeting and that nothing had been done. Mr. Papaleo said that the police should be called and there could be a warning issued and that eventually a fine would be issued if the matter continued, but noted that residents might be required to comment in court if needed. Mr. Ruskowski said that the Police frequently don't arrive right when the incident is occurring and cannot act if there is no witness. Mr. Ruskowski then explained the process of asking for a hearing and said that this was the problem with reporting certain matters and said that sooner or later some officer is going to hear it. Mr. Ruskowski encouraged the residents involved to call the police when such things occur even if it required multiple calls per night to resolve the matter. Mr. Ruskowski said that he has a neighbor who blasts music in his car but that nobody reports it. Ms. Dawn Andonian said that in some areas you can call a justice of the peace.

Manager Hayman said that multiple reports had been received via Access Folcroft but no address had been provided at that time. Ms. Daly asked if this matter had been alleviated at all due to parking permit enforcement beginning and suggested that leniency would not be allowed for people who do this.

#### **Conditional Use Hearing for M&T Events at 1842 Delmar Drive**

Councilwoman Daly made a motion to open Folcroft Borough Council Public Hearing 2021-03 of Tamara Graham's application for conditional use of the property at 1842 Delmar Drive. Ms. Fyffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baumler said that the formal hearing 2021-03 had begun and said that before getting into the nuts and bolts of the application, he had to take care of several matters. Mr. Baumler said that a court reporter is in attendance as required by law. Mr. Baumler said that this is a court hearing and asked that residents speak clearly so all comments are heard.

The Conditional Use Hearing was transcribed by a court reporter. =

Ms Daly made a motion to close the meeting at 8:02pm. Councilman Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Engineer's Report**

Ms. Catania said that Popeyes is close to asking for a final inspection and that Safestor received their temporary certificate of occupancy allowing all items to be brought into the store however the public will still not be allowed. Ms. Catania said that a punch list was completed, required by the developers agreement and that the Borough has 15 days to send via certified mail to the applicant and developer, confirmed by Mr. Baumler. Ms. Catania said that an escrow release is on the agenda however she did not have the developers agreement but it will be for the next meeting. Ms. Catania said that while it was on the agenda, councilmembers did not have the dollar amount available until today. Ms. Catania said that Beacon of Folcroft LLC is proposing to send revised plans and that she met with Delcora with regard to the tunnel project and that she has a better idea of what is being done. Ms. Catania said that they are not proposing any physical structure, however the tunnel will go through Montgomery Park from the Darby Creek Authority Pumping Station.

Ms. Catania said that DEP and planning commission need to review a document from Delcora and then a resolution to either approve or deny a document for Delcora regarding long term control. Ms. Catania said she has a spreadsheet of the alleyways and that she will review it once there is more information. Ms. Catania said the outdoor classroom was on the recommended list of projects for funding but was not aware of whether or not County Council will approve it.

Mr. Papaleo asked about the Folcroft Avenue bridge and asked if anything can be done to expedite the project. Ms. Catania said the project is on PennDOT's list. Ms. Catania said that the best way to get assistance is through state legislators and noted that half of the bridge is Sharon Hill's and half is owned by Folcroft. Ms. Catania said she was unclear if the bridge is demolished who must pay for it – whether the municipality receive liquid fuels funding or not. Ms. Catania said that one of her younger engineers could find out what the demolition of a similar bridge would cost but that she did not want to guess. Ms. Catania said that a home demolition typically costs about \$23,000 but there are many more considerations for bridges.

Ms. Isaac asked what caused the fire. Mr. Papaleo said he believed a piece of wood fell off of the bridge onto electrical fires. Ms. Catania concurred with this and said it was probably true. A resident asked about grant funding. Mr. Papaleo said that we are looking into every possible option and that he was glad that this discussion was on record.

**Public Finance & Administration** - *Mr. Papaleo*

- A motion to approve the bill list for the month of September, 2021 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of September, 2021 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the September 7th, 2021 workshop meeting and September 21st 2021 Council meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by Councilman Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.
- Acknowledgment of MPC punch list for safestor was discussed.

A motion to acknowledge the MPC punch list and direct the Borough Secretary to forward to the developer by certified mail was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion to table the approval of an escrow release was by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of requests for proposals for 2022 Borough insurance provider was discussed. A motion to table this item was made by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by Councilman Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of a tax collection resolution was discussed. Mr. Baumler said that this represented an increase to 1.5% of trash and sewer. Mr. Hayman said that this was already discussed at the previous meeting and that he had crafted the resolution in question.

A motion to approve a resolution establishing a payment structure was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The resolution passed unanimously.

- Consideration of 2022 Preliminary budget was discussed. Mr. Ruskowski made a motion to approve the 2022 preliminary budget. Councilwoman Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of approving the expanded permitting option for Access Folcroft from GOGov. A motion to approve the expanded permitting option was made by Councilwoman Daly and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Papaleo discussed a 2 hour parking restrictive zoning along Elmwood Avenue from Primos Avenue to Ashland Avenue. Mr. Papaleo said that there are parking permits in Glenolden to discourage street parking and that people from Glenolden park all over Folcroft Borough. Mr. Papaleo said he would like to discuss parking restrictions along the corridor. Ms. Daly asked what the two hours would do. Ms. Daly said that this would be for everyone including residents and asked whether this was a problem. Ms. Dawn Andonian said that this is a problem with people parking vehicles on the Folcroft side of the street and that when she turns onto Elmwood when she returns from work she has to dodge vehicles in the street. Mr. Papaleo said that there already are permit parking regulations in place. Ms. Daly asked if police officers would be chalk lining and wasn't aware of how this would be implemented. Mr. Eiserman said that a vehicle would have to be tracked by a police officer and checked to confirm they had not been moved. Ms. Isaac said there would need to be signage. Mr. Papaleo said he did not want to make a decision tonight and that he just wanted to discuss it. Ms. Andonian said that there is a particular home who's owner parks their work truck on an abandoned property. Mr. Papaleo said that this was a trespassing matter and the Borough could not intervene unless the property owner asked for assistance. Ms. Andonian said that she has seen people walk across the street from Glenolden to get their vehicles including parking to the corner. Ms. Daly said this was already not allowed. Ms. Andonian reiterated that she is seeing people from g Glenolden come into the Borough including commercial vehicles.

Ms. Darlene Taliaferro asked if all residents could get permits. Mr. Papaleo said that he would talk to the solicitor about this but that it was on his radar.

Mr. Papaleo said there was an item from the prior meeting to discuss which had been tabled, saying that it was to discuss requiring landlords to hardwire fire alarms. Mr. Papaleo said the benefits to this are obvious and wanted to discuss it. Mr. Papaleo said that this way all alarms go off if there is a fire alarm in the home. Mr. Papaleo said that he believed this would make landlords invest in their properties. Mr. Papaleo said he believed there was a public health benefit. Ms. Daly asked if people who sell their homes do the same thing. Mr. Papaleo said he was not sure but he was open to it. Ms. Daly said that right now having detectors in each room is a requirement to sell their home and asked if hardwiring would be required instead. Ms. Daly said that her parents house had it but that it was not cheap and as a resident she could not afford it and that landlords might increase rent for their tenants instead. Ms. Daly said that if this was a regular issue it should be across the board and only if there were current issues. Mr. Papaleo clarified that this would only be for home sales. Ms. Daly concurred and said that it should be a precondition for home sales. Ms. Fyffe said she also already has it and that it costs \$70 a month for all items including a camera and installation. Mr. Ruskowski said that he always had an issue singling anyone out but for rentals and sales he was open to it. Mr. Ruskowski said that if it was a safety issue it should not only be limited to landlords and that it was a good idea but he was not supportive of it without a gradual implementation via home sales and inspections. Ms. Daly said that in older Folcroft homes the electrical work is atrocious. Ms. Daly said she thought she would have to put in another power line out back of her home because of the amount of electricity needed. Ms. Daly explained how hardwired fire alarms work to Ms. Andonian. Ms. Reid asked if the Borough would pay for inspections and fire extinguishers. Mr. Papaleo clarified it would be to renters and home sales only.

- Councilmembers discussed accepting the resignation of Councilman Kyle Willis. Councilwoman Isaac made a motion to accept the resignation of Councilman Willis. Councilman Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Works Committee** - *Mr. Willis*

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**Public Safety Committee** - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve the Police Chief's Report for the month of September, 2021. Councilwoman Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve the Fire Chief's Report for the month of September, 2021. Councilwoman Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve the Fire Marshall's Report for the month of September 2021. Councilwoman Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Ruskowski discussed installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Folcroft Ave and Cairns Boulevard. Mr. Papaleo said that he and Mr. Waters had noted awful speeding in this area and that a dog was killed in the area and an old woman was almost hit. Mr. Papaleo said speeding from Delmar Drive to Elmwood Avenue is awful in both directions on Folcroft Avenue. Mr. Papaleo said he believed Cairns and Christine Court were the main intersections that he thought stop signs were relevant. Ms. Catania said that if PennDOT has specific requirements that are met this could be done. Ms. Catania said that a study must be performed first and that PennDOT regulations would not allow for stop signs to be used to control speeding. Ms. Catania said that if it can be proved that there are certain reasons for a stop sign – first for 30 days as a temporary via resolution so that if someone was in violation of the sign a ticket should be issued. Ms. Catania said that after 30 days it could be a permanent sign. Ms. Catania said she would send over a list of issues first.

Mr. Ruskowski made a motion to do a study to consider stop signs at Cairn and Christine Court. Ms. Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Health and Literacy** - *Ms. Fyffe*

- Ms. Fyffe said that there is a pantry up and running and anyone can get food if they need it.

**Municipal Planning and Zoning** – *Mr. Waters*

- There was no new business to discuss.

**Public Parks and Recreation** – *Ms. Daly*

- Ms. Daly discussed the upcoming Borough coat drive. Ms. Daly said the details for this have not come through yet but some information needs to be received and once this is received, she will present this information to council to see if this can be done.

- Ms. Daly discussed the upcoming Trunk or Treat event. Ms. Daly said that right now 15 cars are signed up for Trunk or Treating and that the FOP has donated candy and that 300 pumpkins will be given out to residents who attend. Ms. Daly said currently rain is being called for and said that this would be postponed if needed on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Municipal Legislation** – *Ms. Isaac*

- There was no new business to discuss

**New Construction Committee** – Mr. Willis

- There was no new business to discuss.

**Parking Permit and Paving Committee** – *Mr. Willis*

- Councilmembers considered an exemption request for Eileen Lord. Ms. Daly said that as before an exemption request had been received and recommended approving this. Ms. Daly made a motion to approve a permit exception for Eileen Lord for a parking permit. Mr. Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Baumler had nothing new to report.

Finance Director's Report

Ms. Stilwell said that the Borough would move forward with creating capital reserve accounts as per the request from Council President Papaleo in a previous meeting.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman presented the Borough Manager's report, highlighting updates from the highway department, code enforcement, COVID 19 and parking enforcement.

Old Business

New Business

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:48pm by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by COUncilman Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.