

MEETING MINUTES
FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2021

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo: Call the Council Meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Mayor: Flag Salute and Invocation.

Roll Call (Council President Papaleo, Councilmember Nicholas Waters was absent, Councilmember Leigh Daly, Councilmember Tawana Grayson, Councilmember Malinda Isaac, Councilmember Lorna Fyffe, Councilmember Robert Ruskowski, Mayor Bob Frey was absent, Solicitor Alex Baumler was absent, Secretary/Manager Andrew Hayman was present.)

The CDBG hearing was held. The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Mr. Papaleo noted the retirement of a Folcroft officer and yielded the floor to Chief Bair. Mr. Bair said that officer Joseph Benning was retiring after 23 years and read a resignation letter into the record, noting the resignation was effective December 21st 2021. Mr. Papaleo presented Mr. Benning with a plaque recognizing his years of service. Mr. Benning thanked Borough Council and the community.

Audience Participation

There was no audience participation

Mr. Papaleo took a moment to thank former Police Chief and current Councilman Robert Ruskowski for a lifetime of service to the Borough of Folcroft. Mr. Papaleo presented Mr. Ruskowski with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the Borough.

Engineer's Report

Ms. Catania was absent. Her report was provided to members previously via email as noted by Mr. Papaleo.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Motion to approve the Police Chief's Report for the month of November, 2021 was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the Fire Chief's Report for the month of November, 2021 was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the Fire Marshall's Report for the month of November, 2021 was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to hire the following Part Time Cadets: Nicholas Matty, James Surplus, Tyler Humphries and Christopher Dougherty was discussed.

A motion to hire part time cadet Nicholas Matty was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to hire part-time cadet James Surplus was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to hire part-time cadet Tyler Humphries was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Finance & Administration - *Mr. Papaleo*

- Motion to approve the bill list for the month of November, 2021 was made by Ms. Daly and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of November, 2021 was made by Ms. Daly and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the November 16th 2021 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Ruskowski seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Papaleo discussed the approval of \$1,500 for inaugural meet and greet for residents. Mr. Papaleo acknowledged the Mayor-Elect as she had been tasked with this position. Ms. DiCicco said that considering the incoming Omicron variant of COVID 19 the event has been cancelled.

Mr. Hitchens advised to table the motion and then explained the process.

Mr. Papaleo entertained a motion to reject this expense until a later date. Mr. Ruskowski made the motion. Ms. Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve 2 part time positions to replace 1 fulltime position in the Borough office was discussed. Mr. Papaleo said that a full-time employee had asked to go part time and said that originally the request was for four hours per day however the request has been changed for three hours per day. Mr. Papaleo said he did not believe this was the institutional need. Mr. Papaleo asked the advice of Manager Hayman. Mr. Hayman said this should be in an executive session on January 18th.

A motion to table this discussion was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to appoint Shawn Payne to the Darby Creek Joint Authority Board was made by Ms. Daly and seconded by Mr. Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to appoint Shawn Payne to the Muckinipates Authority. Ms. Fyffe made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of a PLA for the new municipal complex project was discussed. Mr. Papaleo said that this had previously been approved by Council at an earlier meeting. Mr. Hayman reiterated that this had been discussed at a previous meeting and said that members had approved the concept but noted that the document presented to council was the full draft and had been approved by Mr. Baumler who is absent.

A motion to approve the finalized Project Labor Agreement was made by Mr. Ruskowski and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Committee - Ms. Grayson

Ms. Grayson had no new business.

Public Health and Literacy - Ms. Fyffe

- Motion to reappoint to the Library Board of Trustees for 3 Years

A motion to reappoint Angie Carr was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Casey to reappoint was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

James Williams to reappoint was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat McAndrews to reappoint was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Motions to appoint the following to the Library Board of Trustees for 2 years was

Tynisha Davis for two years was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Grayson. The motion passed unanimously.

Jenna Romansky for two years was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Eileen Jaseena London for two years was made by Ms. Fyffe and seconded by Ms. Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – Mr. Waters

- Mr. Waters was absent. Mr. Papaleo said that Mr. Waters had a procedure today and that he would return for the reorganization meeting.

Public Parks and Recreation – Ms. Daly

- Ms. Daly had no new business to discuss.

Municipal Legislation – Ms. Isaac

- Ms. Isaac made a motion to approve ordinance creating a capital reserve account seconded by Mr. Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.

New Construction Committee – Ms. Grayson

- Ms. Grayson had no new business to discuss. Mr. Papaleo reiterated that the project would now be going out to bid. Mr. Papaleo asked if there was any other bid and what was next. Mr. Hitchens said that there was not and just to receive bids later on.

Parking Permit and Paving Committee – Ms. Daly

- Ms. Daly had no new business. Mr. Papaleo said it would be good to start looking at the potential borrowing power would be afforded including outstanding violations that have yet to be paid. Ms. Stilwell said it would depend on the amount billed. Mr. Papaleo said he understood that \$70,000 per year was needed to service the debt on a million dollar loan. Mr. Papaleo asked if the general fund could loan the funds needed at a lower interest rate. Ms. Stilwell said that when bids come back for the project it might be worth looking at entirely refinancing the debt. Ms. Stilwell said that the loan amount is based on a year ago and the new amount may be higher. Ms. Stilwell said that if the parking permit revenue cannot support the loan the general fund would have to be done. Ms. Stilwell said that before this would happen all DCED audits would have to be up to date which she expected to happen by April. Mr. Papaleo asked what interest rates are doing right now. Ms. Stilwell said they were going to go up but she was unsure. Ms. Stilwell said that the Borough could look into other borrowing options like bonds and advised knowing the scope of all projects before moving forward. Mr. Papaleo said that he believed this would be considered damages for a potential legal matter.

Police Chief's Report

Mr. Bair said that he wanted to thank Council for their recognition of Mr. Benning and thanked Council for the new hires, noting that there are a no applications coming in for most part time positions. Mr. Bair said that the Delaware County Community College academy 9 officers were hired prior to graduation by Amtrak and SEPTA and that this would help fill the void. Mr. Bair said there would be a lot of retirements coming up.

Mr. Bair said that a state trooper did come for a traffic study and that 8 citations were issued in a matter of hours including one individual driving 62 miles per hour. Mr. Bair said some citations were released with warnings. Mr. Bair said this would be done again once warm weather starts.

Mr. Bair said that the individual involved in the fire on Windsor Circle in 2020 received 15 to 30 years in prison and was found guilty. Mr. Bair said a local sexual predator was found guilty and got the same amount of time. Mr. Bair said that this was due to the investigations of Corporal White. Mr. Bair said that Mr. Kesser had an enormous arrest and the Borough is waiting to receive funds for it. Mr. Bair said he appreciated Ms. Daly and Ms. Petty for helping with Christmas and to give out coats and asked Councilmembers to approach him if they need anything.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Hitchens said Mr. Baumler was sorry he could not attend tonight and that he has had health issues as of late and that he was with his cardiologist. Mr. Baumler and Hitchens wished the Borough happy holidays.

Finance Director's Report

Ms. Stilwell said the audit is going to start with 2021 being done on time. Ms. Stilwell said she may need help from the office. Ms. Stilwell apologized for a payroll mishap this month as well. Lastly, Ms. Stilwell said she has more food for the pantry.

Mr. Papaleo said he had seen emails for the interest servicing and asked how much. Mr. Papaleo said he was confused about the sum listed and that looked like only \$500. Ms. Stilwell said that the total was \$69,000 twice per year. Mr. Papaleo expressed discontent. Ms. Stilwell said the RACP grant could start reimbursing the Borough as late as June. Ms. Stilwell said the cost of materials and labor have gone up. Members discussed that there were shortages everywhere and noted nearly 1 million americans had died.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman said he had been away but provided updates about the goings-on in the Borough along with updates related to COVID 19 in and around Folcroft Borough.

There was no old business.

There was no new business to report.

Mr. Ruskowski thanked council for the plaque and said he has served for over 45 years. Mr. Ruskowski thanked members and manager hayman for accepting him on Council and said that he could have been ignored. Mr. Ruskowski said that previous councils would have ignored a member from another political party as he said Mr. Papaleo knew. Mr. Papaleo thanked Mr. Ruskowski for his help and years of service.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Daly at 7:51 pm and seconded by Ms. Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.