

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo: Call the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Mayor Frey lead the Flag Salute and Invocation.

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

**Audience Participation**

Ms. Yvonne Marr – 19 King Avenue – asked if anyone had been hired to write violations on 10/1. Councilman Willis said that currently at least temporarily having the Police fulfill this service. Ms. Marr said she thought this was a good idea. Ms. Marr asked if fines should still be paid even if the problem is resolved. Manager Hayman said yes, generally under most circumstances. Mr. Joseph Donnelly said that fines did have to be paid. Ms. Marr asked when the street sweeper would stop. Manager Hayman said the middle of October.

Mr. Amir Youssef – 505 Charmont Avenue – said that his problem with his driveway is getting worse. Mr. Yousseff said he hired a professional to fix his driveway, the professional was approved and then the Borough Engineer said that Mr. Yousseff had a second driveway and that he would have to remove one of them. Mr. Yousseff asked why he was not told this before and he had already done the work. Mr. Yousseff was upset about the potential solutions offered by the Borough engineer – either remove the other driveway and have the other one or remove the originally approved work back into a sidewalk. Mr. Yousseff said that this would cost him \$4,500. Mr. Yousseff said that he would not pay for this work, the engineer would have to. Mr. Yousseff says he believes his contractor was sold something contradictory. Mr. Yousseff asked why he was approved if he had a driveway and speculated this may have been intentional and alleged discrimination.

Council President Papaleo said that if this mistake happened he apologizes and that it was not meant to be discriminatory. Engineer Lisa Catania said that she was not aware of the specifics but that Folcroft Borough only allows one driveway as the code is read. Ms. Catania said she would speak with Bill Gavin, an employee, to find out how this could have transpired and what actually happened –whether or not a permit was even issued. Mr. Papaleo speculated that this could be resolved. Ms. Catania said she wasn't sure if it was a code that could be waived, though she cautioned against doing this as it could happen again. Ms. Catania said that if it was in the code it would have to go to the zoning hearing board. Ms. Catania said there was a plan that would have to be submitted by the applicant. Ms. Catania confirmed that the plans did not come before the zoning officer. Mr. Yousseff said he was just trying to fix what was happening with the sidewalk. Mr. Papaleo asked if the driveway could be extended towards the rear

of the property. Mr. Yousseff said he was just trying to fix the matter with the sidewalk as the old concrete has been removed. Mr. Yousseff said that this was not his responsibility to handle as the engineer had approved this. Mr. Yousseff speculated that this was the result of a neighbor report and that the neighbor is trying to cause problems for him. Mr. Yousseff asked if this conversation was on the record and if he could have a copy. Manager Hayman said that he is preparing meeting minutes and all meeting minutes are on the record.

### **Engineer's Report**

Engineer Lisa Catania said that as members know, applications for the greenways grants have been submitted – the first, a mini-pros, an open space and recreation plan borough-wide which she hoped to hear more about in October. Ms. Catania said the second was an enhancements plan for an outdoor classroom and the third is a master plan for Llanwellyn Park. Ms. Catania said the Borough would hear about that sometime at the end of October and that some resolutions had to be adopted tonight. Ms. Catania said she took bids for the CDBG, sanitary sewer rehab at Grant Ave and Delview Drive. Ms. Catania said 5 bids were received from \$130,000 on down. Ms. Catania said that the lowest bidder had done a lot of good work in the area and she recommended awarding the contract at the next meeting to this bidder after concurrence from OHCD. Allway restoration would be on the next agenda as well.

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

- Councilwoman Daly made a motion to approve the bill list for the month of August, 2021. Councilwoman Fyffe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilwoman Daly made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of August, 2021. Councilman Ruskowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Waters made a motion to approve the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 workshop meeting and August 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 Council meeting minutes. Councilman Ruskowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve the 2022 MMOS Police expense of \$567,363.00 approve a Non Uniform MMO expense of \$10,295. Councilman Waters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Council President Papaleo discussed committee adjustments and appointing Lorna Fyffe to head a committee. Mr. Papaleo said he would discuss this in private but that he intended to give the committee from Councilman Waters originally assigned to Councilman McGuigan to her, instead. Ms. Fyffe thanked Mr. Papaleo.

Mr. Papaleo announced that he was going to start the budget process with the Finance Director and that he had directed the Borough Manager to ask for wish lists from councilmembers for their wish lists.

Mr. Baumler reminded councilmembers that a preliminary budget must be advertised at least 30 days prior to the vote on it which would necessitate the budget being voted on not later than November,

initially. Mr. Hayman said that he advised the first meeting in November to ensure timeliness of advertising and that a minimum of 30 days can be reserved for advertising. Mr. Baumler advised having a final budget in November.

**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 August, 2021. Councilwoman Daly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve the Fire Chief's Report for the month of August, 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 August 2021 Councilman Waters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion of approving a purchase of a replacement Police vehicle from Cerinos Auto for \$11,500 contingent upon the sale of the Borough Manager's vehicle for \$1,500 and the old Police vehicle for \$1,500. Councilman Waters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to approve a purchase of seven SC-920-5 Universal Rail Gun Racks for AR 15 storage in Borough Police Vehicles for a total expense not to exceed \$2,500. Councilwoman Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Ruskowski considered of quotes to purchase body cameras for Folcroft Police. Mr. Papaleo said there was a specific grant from the department of justice funding police body cameras that expired on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bair said that there was a state grant as well that the Swarthmore Chief was looking at. Mr. Bair said that maybe waiting until next year with a grant to soften the blow might be advisable. Mr. Papaleo said he understood that this could run into the \$70,000 to \$80,000 range. Ms. Daly said the total price was \$75,660 for one and the other was \$59,000. Mr. Bair said it depended on the monthly price for five years – either \$9,000 or \$12,000. Mr. Papaleo said it would be great if he could apply for both grants. Mr. Bair said he let members know that watchguard seemed best as officers currently do not have any cameras. Mr. Papaleo said there was always the option of doing it without the grant and asked members what they think. Mr. Ruskowski asked when the grant would open exactly. Mr. Bair said a state grant would be available early in 2022 and he could do that instead.

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

- Councilwoman Isaac had no new business to discuss but mentioned she had just asked the library director to have a wish list sent to her by Friday. Mr. Papaleo said that it should just be sent to

the Borough Manager. Ms. Isaac said she wanted to get it. Mr. Papaleo said the process is that this gets reported to the Borough Manager. Ms. Isaac said she would ask if she could have a copy.

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

- Councilman Waters said that he intended to consider a grant of final land development approval for the property located at 1498 Delmar Drive in Folcroft. Councilman Waters made a motion to table the grant of final land development approval for the property located at 1498 Delmar Drive. Councilman Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Councilwoman Daly said that Delmar Drive would be close from Grant to Taylor and that there would be COVID vaccines, food trucks and then read a list of donations received from vendors and local businesses to support this event. Ms. Daly said there would be raffles for a Nintendo switch, an air-fryer and an instapot combination and a \$200 walmart gift card and asked all residents to participate. Mayor Frey said that the Fire company would be unable to attend fully due to a wedding. Mr. Papaleo thanked Ms. Petty for her hard work and that she had done a fantastic job.

#### **Municipal Legislation** – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilwoman Daly made a motion to pass a resolution authorizing a Delco Greenways Grant application for a master plan at Llanwellyn Park. Councilwoman Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of a resolution authorizing a Delco Greenways Grant application for an outdoor classroom at the Giles Cannon property. Councilwoman Daly made the motion. Councilman Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration of a resolution authorizing a Delco Greenways Grant application for a mini pros planning for a wide open space plan. Councilwoman Daly made the motion. Councilman Ruskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Construction Committee** – *Mr. Willis*

Councilman Willis asked solicitor Baumler to confirm creating a project labor agreement out to bid, but that it was not a contract itself. Mr. Baumler said this empowers the authorization of starting the process.

- Councilman Willis made a motion to authorize Borough Manager's office to engage in negotiations for a potential Project Labor Agreement for construction of the new Borough Hall project. Councilwoman Daly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilman Willis reminded members that these were individuals who were on SSI and that while he did not want to go into details that this had been discussed previously.

- Councilman Willis made a motion to approve a parking permit payment exception for Elizabeth Elvanian. Councilman Waters seconded. The motion passed unanimously
- Councilman Willis made a motion to approve a parking permit payment exemption for Kevin Boone. Councilwoman Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Police Chief's Report

Chief Bair said that he appreciated the support and that he would look into more grants for body cams and thanked Council for the vehicle and locks for the AR 15s along with the vehicle safety devices already approved which are currently being installed. Mr. Bair said that Officer McClean is going to be out until November 1<sup>st</sup> for an injury sustained off duty. Mr. Papaleo asked Manager Hayman to see if he could save the Borough money in insurance with the new safety lock.

#### Solicitor's Report

Mr. Baumler said that the school district has 18 appearances for challenges to the new appraisals. Mr. Baumler said that any time a settlement is brought forward and that so far, one had been brought to council. Mr. Baumler said that 99% of reassessments are settled out of court and that property owners think the values of their properties are too high.

#### Finance Director's Report

Ms. Stilwell said that

Ms. Stilwell said that the Borough had not applied for a refund from the School District since 2015 and that she had contacted the business manager to see what we can do. Ms. Stilwell said that the money is budgeted and thanked Ramona Petty for her assistance. Ms. Stilwell said she spoke to the secretary and the business manager is on vacation. Mr. Bair said he could call as well. Mr. Papaleo said

#### Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman said that so far, for the month of August 87 code enforcement violations had been issued to residents for various matters, thanked the Highway Department for their service in cleaning the storm drains prior to the recent hurricane and noted that updates to the Llanwellyn Gardens park had been completed. Manager Hayman also gave updates for COVID 19 related developments in and around Folcroft Borough and concluded by noting that he would soon be applying for a new grant for recycling equipment.

Mr. Papaleo congratulated Mr. Hayman on his recent wedding.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ruskowski. Councilwoman Fyffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 7:46pm.