

*****DRAFT*****

MEETING MINUTES

FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 21, 2020

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo: called the Council Meeting to order at 7:06 PM

Mayor Frey gave the Flag Salute and Invocation.

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

- **There was no audience participation**
- **Motion to Approve the Minutes for the February 4th Committee Meeting, February 18th Council Meeting and March 3rd Committee Meeting were approved unanimously.**
- **Engineer's Report was given by Lisa Catania:** Lisa listed the streets that would be repaired for the upcoming roads program. She explained that bids up to 88/ton for materials were expected. Bids will go out right away. She will call PECO to confirm the status and progress of the gas line repair work currently going on in the Delmar Village section of Folcroft between now and the next meeting.
- Lisa believes the two week window could save the Borough more money due to the current COVID 19 crisis.
- Councilman McGuigan asked to discuss the roadwork outside the village, noting that there were no roads scheduled for work outside this area. Engineer Lisa Catania mentioned that there would be roads repaired outside of the Delmar Village, however none were slated for immediate repair. She explained that particular attention must be paid to this area as PECO is only obliged to repave one half of a roadway. Council President Papaleo noted that roads with only one repaved lane typically do not seal well and fracture. Councilman McGuigan noted that his own street (Cricket Lane) was degraded and that while he was not specifically pushing for this to be repaired, he was aware of other streets in a similar condition. Engineer Lisa Catania noted that her firm prioritizes roads based on yearly reviews. Councilman McGuigan then concurred that he did not want to solely pave single lanes in the Delmar Village but also did not want to do work at the expense of other areas.
- Engineer Lisa Catania noted that contractors must be made aware that we may not ready to start until July or August.
- Engineer Lisa Catania discussed the results of the pub station work and that it may need to be rebid. She noted that \$34,000 was received from a DEP grant, but prices for work have generally been between \$100,000 and that our low bid was \$79,000. She explained that we need a flow meter as we do not know what the current volumes of water flowing through the pumping

station are. She will notify Council if there are any other issues with the pumping station. She also noted that the bypass that crosses the creek increases the cost of pumping significantly as the flow is directed to Norwood. A valve could be inserted into the manhole cover which would be able to adjust the flow of sewage. Lastly, she advised that work should begin if funds are available. The total amount needed is debatable depending on the option chosen.

- It was noted that Council may be allowed to request work from a specific company as bids have been put out three times and rejected.
- Councilman McGuigan noted that Delcore had been unresponsive to inquiries about bills paid from Folcroft Borough. It was understood previously that maintenance and repair fees had been paid however Delcora still considers these unpaid. Council President Papaleo asked if the sewers are or ever have been theoretically for sale. Councilman McGuigan explained that Delcora suggested taking over and doing a study, however they had not responded to further inquiries. Council President Papaleo asked Council how the remaining members felt without commitment about the possibility of selling our sewers to Delcora – Councilman McGuigan explained that prior Council members had raised sewer fees two years in a row to account for increased costs, however these costs continue to skyrocket and that we are still two years behind on repaying repair costs.
- Councilman McGuigna noted that EIT funds are behind. Treasurer Joe Possenti said that rates are still low compared with other communities. Engineer Lisa Catania suggested (re: the pumping station) that we not wait a year to rebid, recommending action.
- Engineer Lisa Catania noted that the engineer for Safestor was working with FEMA but there is still more work to be done on this project.
- A motion to reject the pump station bids was made by Councilman Ruskowski, seconded by Councilman McGuigan and passed unanimously.

Public Finance & Administration - Mr. Papaleo

- Council President Papaleo had Borough Manager Andrew Hayman discuss the considered proposal to end a contract with MRRS for municipal Business Tax Collection (BPT) and opt for a contract with a company called “E Collect” as Mr. Hayman noted that it was discovered that perhaps \$1,000,000 in Borough funds had not been collected over proceeding years. Treasurer Joe Possenti asked how this number was obtained. Borough Manager Andrew Hayman explained that as he does not have the personal expertise, he was relying on the advisement of E Collected but that such evidence can and should be provided. Treasurer Joe Possenti noted that the Borough had a relationship with MRRS dating back at least 9 years and that he wanted to ensure that this information is correct. Borough Manager Andrew Hayman and Council President Papaleo advised that a representative from E Collect should be brought in to advise on this topic.

- Treasurer Joe Possenti noted that at least 90% of Borough property taxes had been paid thus far along with \$900,000 in sewer fees for the year. While EIT had not yet decreased due to the COVID 19 outbreak, a significant drop was anticipated beginning in August or September of

2020. It was expected that eventually some residents might forego taxes to pay for other expenses. Currently, the Borough has \$450,000 in Liquid Fuels Funds on hand for work. Lastly, it was noted that all due bills have been paid.

- A motion to ratify all votes made by phone during the Emergency (an extension on the 2% property tax discount from 3/31/2020 to 6/15/2020, PECO work and the emergency declaration) was passed unanimously.
- Councilwoman Leigh Daly motioned to reduced PECO's permit costs for road openings in the Delmar Village, related to the work being done to repair gas lines, so long as the payment was made immediately. Seconded by Nick Waters. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to table the incomplete March, 2020 Bill List was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- A motion to put the 2020 roads program out to bid was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilman Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Chief Bair gave his report, noting that we had complaints of speeding in the vicinity of School Lane and Delmar Drive along with several points in the Delmar Villiage. Chief Bair then did a study utilizing a tool given by Nether Providence, which determined that there was a significant issue with speeding in the vicinity of School Lane and Delmar Drive. Upwards of 23% of vehicles traveling past this location could have been ticketed. Chief Bair explained that a vehicle could be posted and that Catania engineering could demarcate a distance to calculate average vehicle speeds. Councilman Willis asked what other roads had been surveyed – Chief Bair noted that a site on Bennington had also been studied.
- Lastly, Chief Bair explained that there had not been an obvious increases in crime (thefts, etc) which could be attributed to the COVID 19 crisis. Chief Bair explained that officers had been directed not to go on medical calls and took appropriate steps. Further, our Department is coordinating with the County to avoid locations with confirmed COVID 19 cases without releasing the personal medical information of residents.
- A motion to approve the Police Chief's Report for the month of March, 2020 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to empower Catania Engineering to begin work surveying for a traffic study on Delmar Drive near the Delcrott Shopping Center was put made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- No new business was discussed.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- No new business was discussed.

Public Parks and Recreation – Ms. Daly

- No new business was discussed.

Municipal Legislation – Mr. McGuigan

- No new business was discussed.

New Construction Committee – Mr. McGuigan

- Councilman McGuigan noted that while bids would not be opened until the end of the month, it was felt with some confidence that the bids would come in lower than previously anticipated as a result of the COVID 19 crisis. No specific information was known at that time. Engineer Lisa Catania that site development bids had come in lower than expected, possibly as a result of abnormally low oil prices. Waivers would be needed to do this work. Councilman Willis clarified about exactly when and how the bids would be opened at the end of the month. Council President Papaleo explained that they had been delayed from an initially anticipated date of April 3rd. Councilman Willis asked how they would physically be opened. Engineer Lisa Catania noted that they were being submitted electronically and would be opened virtually. No members of council nor employees need be present for this process.

Solicitor Alex Baumler had nothing to report.

Borough Manager Andrew Hayman discussed a vacant, dilapidated property at 1 Tura Lane. This property had been leaking water from a flooded basement into 950 Henderson Boulevard. TNT cleanouts had estimated that there were 120,000 gallons of water in the basement of 1 Tura Lane. Attempts to contact the owner had failed and the Borough is now stepping in to complete the work.

No old business was discussed.

No new business was discussed.

Councilman McGuigan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilwoman Isaac seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.