

MEETING MINUTES
FOLCROFT BOROUGH WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 6, 2021

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

Council President Papaleo noted that Borough Council held an executive session directly prior to the meeting relating to potential litigation and Borough matters.

Mayor Frey was absent. Council President Papaleo led the pledge of allegiance.

Council President Papaleo took a moment of silence to remember those who've died of COVID 19 and the Police Officer who lost his life at the Capital.

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

Audience Participation

Manager Hayman read the following comments into the record, verbatim:

“Yes, I would. Hello! How are you? My name is Solomon Maxwell III I live at 722 school lane in folcroft. I was wondering if maybe we can get some rims and backboards on the court down by Montgomery park and maybe have a blacktop and maybe make another court in a spaced area if that's alright with yall? I miss hooping there and I'm only 10min from there. I used to go ball everyday from 4-10 and they always have a timer on the lights. I know when I was there I kinda control the crowd some of the police officers I know from playing basketball with and some I know from football. I'll be nice to have the basketball courts open again. I forgot to mention if we can get a glass backboard like philly got. Thank you.”

Council President Papaleo said he was interested in this idea and that there is no ability for community residents to play basketball. Councilwoman Leigh Daly said that she had already spoken to Manager Hayman about this and that she intended to discuss this at the meeting. Chief Bair said that other COVID 19 is still active and that other municipalities are not putting up backboards. Councilwoman Daly said that the playgrounds are open and that this should not be separate from that issue. Councilwoman Isaac said that team sports are now open as well. Chief Bair said that those issues were watched and that basketball would not be watched. Council President Papaleo said this would be addressed under Parks and Recreation.

Council President Papaleo said that the Borough could pay to paint small “t’s” to delineate parking spots. He said that he would be willing to address this in the repaving plan. Council President Papaleo directed Chief Bair to search for wrong-faced parking and illegal parking. Councilwoman Isaac said that

some people just park in the street in her neighborhood and leave the vehicle. Ms. German said that some people double park in their driveway and that parking after 10:00pm is nearly impossible. Council President Papaleo asked to speak with Ms. German in private about some matters outside the meeting. Chief Weber said that the amount of illegally parked cars on the wrong side of the street is getting out of control. He said this had been getting better but that it was getting worse, again. He also noted that some tickets had been issued to cars parked illegally at the Delcroft shopping center.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Lisa Catania said that she wanted to mention that the contracts for the roads program are with Manager Hayman. She said not to sign them until a check is received from PECO and that she had reached out to PECO today. She claimed that all of the signatures that were needed to release the funds had been received and the Borough is waiting for the check. Engineer Lisa Catania said that the CDBG project for 2021 had been sent in and Council should know by the end of the next week or by the next meeting whether the Borough's project is on the list. Engineer Lisa Catania said the entryway is going to be cleaned up and will beautify the area.

Engineer Lisa Catania said that she reached out to DELCORA to see if they would install a flow meter as part of their maintenance. She said that this was part of a grant that was received and once approval from DELCORA with the numbers was received the Borough would be made aware. She said that the money was supposed to be expended by the end of June.

Engineer Lisa Catania said that there is a subdivision on Folcroft avenue that she had mentioned awhile, the previous Settembrino property. She said that four homes would be put on the property – two lots turned into four. She said that she would need to take a look at the plan again as this was considered years ago. She said this was the same plan as the Settembrino plan which was already reviewed in the past and there are no changes to the ordinances. Council President Papaleo said he had a few questions and concerns about this but it would be better discussed later. Council President Papaleo said that he believed this was the most beautiful street in Folcroft with older, Victorian homes. Engineer Lisa Catania said this was already allowable in the ordinance and wasn't aware of how this could be stopped.

Public Finance & Administration - Mr. Papaleo

- Council President Papaleo discussed greenscaping the concrete features at Hook Road from Greenhill Rd to Primos Ave. Council President Papaleo said that this area looks hideous and he would like to beautify it. He said he would like to discuss this with Council and Engineer Lisa Catania about this project as it might be very affordable. Council President Papaleo suggested a greened up traffic triangle, perhaps with a sprinkler system. He speculated that this might compel some businesses to make their properties look nicer. Councilwoman Isaac and Councilman Waters agreed with this plan. Councilwoman Isaac suggested an archway, similar to that found in Norwood. Councilmembers reviewed where exactly this area was. Council President Papaleo reiterated that this was the concrete traffic triangle and that it could be turned into a boxed garden but said that he did not want to do this at the expense of the outdoor garden or other projects.

Engineer Lisa Catania said that Prospect Park Program has a beautification committee and suggested Folcroft form the same group. She said that there is a welcome to Prospect Park sign in Prospect Park off of route 420. She said that the beautification committee raises its own funds from gardening to help support these projects. Council President Papaleo asked where this project begins. Engineer Lisa Catania said that permission must be given from PennDOT as this is part of their right-of-way. She said that she has a meeting with PennDOT in another Municipality next week and that she would discuss this matter.

- Council President Papaleo discussed closing all Borough accounts with M&T bank and consolidating finances.

Council President Papaleo made a motion to close all Borough accounts with M&T Bank and consolidate Borough accounts. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Papaleo directed Manager Hayman to trace all direct deposits into those accounts. Donna Stilwell said she could assist.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis said that the crossing signal at Ashland Avenue and Delmar Drive was no longer functioning. Councilwoman Daly said that this might also be because the painted line was too close to the light. She said that it was sometimes hard to tell which signal was lit. Manager Hayman said he thought this could go through Signal Services. Engineer Lisa Catania said that there have been lawsuits when the line was even four inches off. She said that PennDOT could consider moving this location and that they should be called. Engineer Catania also said that she did not believe that the Borough had done anything with their streetlights. She said that all street lights and traffic signals could be replaced with LED lighting. She said that this would save money for the Borough as energy rates increase regularly even if taxes do not. She said this would be good to review for safety and also to save funding and that the Police could be involved in this process.

Councilman Willis said that the improvements across the Borough should be undertaken if this would be a significant savings. Councilwoman Isaac said that not acting could potentially cause a vehicle accident if the lighting is out. Engineer Lisa Catania said it sounded like the loop detector is not working. She said there is a mechanism in the street under epoxy which directs the light to change. Engineer Lisa Catania said that manager Hayman should call Bill Dunn from Signal Services for an annual inspection report as she has not seen one for years.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis took over to discuss purchasing a new fire truck for the Folcroft Fire Department. Council President Papaleo said that this was essentially a \$972,000 firetruck to be financed. Chief Weber said that there were plans ranging from 7 to 10, 12 and 15 years. Council President Papaleo said that he understood the Borough to end the year with approximately \$522,000. Donna Stilwell said this did not count loan services. Council President Papaleo asked for a new repayment schedule to be sent over. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that Council had not decided how to address the increased funding

for the loan. Donna Stilwell said that the delayed Borough audits could delay receiving the funding. Donna Stilwell said the current loan is \$4.6 million dollars. Councilman Willis confirmed that there would be a new DCED approval for the increased loan amount. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that Council had not yet decided how to pay for the loan. Mr. Baumler said that the audits were not a hindrance for the previous loans. Councilmembers discussed how much money was actually in hand and how the process could begin. Council President Papaleo asked what the total cost of the new building. Manager Hayman said the new cost was \$1.3 million higher than the previously quoted amount. Council President Papaleo said he needed to know what debt servicing and payments needed to be on the new amount before borrowing more money. Council President Papaleo asked what needed to happen to get the additional \$1.3 million from Republic Bank. Ms. Stilwell said that she would have to first get Borough records in shape and ensure that cash forecasting is correct prior to moving forward with the loan. Councilmembers discussed how the RACP grant works. Council President Papaleo had some technical difficulties and left the meeting.

Council President Papaleo reentered the meeting. Councilman Willis said that members had discussed getting all loan information needed to Brinker Simpson and Manager Hayman. Council President Papaleo said that he wanted to make sure things were being done responsibly and that he personally had learned these matters over years. So long as there is a sound and responsible financial discussion Council President Papaleo said he would support it. Chief Weber said he had sent manager Hayman an email now which covers the repayment for the truck. Manager Hayman said he sent this over to Donna Stilwell immediately.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

Councilwoman Isaac said that President Biden has just announced that by April 19th all US adults should be eligible for the COVID 19 vaccine.

- Councilwoman Isaac discussed Clocktower repairs as per her discussion with Council President Papaleo. She said that she believed the clock itself was not working. Council President Papaleo said he believed that Manager Hayman had sent over quotes over for consideration. Manager Hayman elaborated and explained that there were quotes for a repair for the chime tool which would allow the clock to play music and then also another repair for lighting. Manager Hayman noted that these would be LED lights and that would save the Borough funds. Donna Stilwell noted that there are \$470,000 in the clocktower fund and that these expenses should be able to come from that fund.

Councilmembers discussed whether funds were taken from the clocktower fund to purchase lighting and holiday ornaments. Council President Papaleo said this was inappropriate. Councilwoman Daly said that she was open to selling off Halloween ornaments and reimbursing the fund.

- Councilwoman Isaac discussed adding and replacing signage at the Library although she acknowledged that she had not spoken to the Library director in some time due to a medical emergency.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters had no new business to discuss.

Public Parks and Recreation – Ms. Daly

- Councilwoman Daly discussed erosion on the road to the fishing hole at Montgomery Park. She said this was stone road and that she would love Shawn Payne to fill in some of the holes. She suggested making the road more accessible for seniors and creating a parking area off to the right. She said that some residents were upset that bleachers had been moved to block the roadway.
- Councilwoman Daly discussed Montgomery Park improvements in general, noting that there was an understanding that the Borough might be coming into some funding. She said that she expected quotes to mulch Llawellyn Park, Ashland and Montgomery Parks. She said that since mulching hadn't been done in some time that this required more work and soil must be removed. She said she believed basketball nets and backboards should be emplaced and that a pathway around the park, part of Engineer Lisa Catania's plan, should be installed regardless of grant funding.

Councilwoman Daly said that removing brush would be a bad idea as it would cause erosion after conferring with Councilman Willis. She said that cleaning some of the overgrown plants and trimming them would be appropriate so long as roots are not removed. Engineer Lisa Catania said that there are grants available for streambank restoration. She said that this is not emplacing stone, but placing in brush but there has not been matching money for it. She said to do anything to upgrade the drive into the park DEP permits are needed. She said that proposed work to the driveway should be possible with millings from the roads program to use in some areas, though she advised not to take them all the way to the creek. Engineer Lisa Catania said that large rubber mats are also used under the mulch to avoid holes.

Councilwoman Daly said that basketball nets should be put up. She also said that she had been told that there was a private party, later determined to be a gender reveal party, at the park. Councilwoman Daly said that the Borough does not have a permit program to rent the park which would help identifying who left the refuse at the park. She said it would be helpful to have the Police patrol as well as the park was evidently entirely closed off for the party. Councilwoman Daly said that she understood it was a priority to get the road fixed but some brightening up of the fishing hole area and the rest of the park would be helpful.

Engineer Lisa Catania said that the Borough is seeing permits for new construction and advised that the Borough could create an open space fee. Those who cannot fulfil the open space requirement must pay a fee in lieu. As some businesses might not want to have some of that area be retained as an open space, a fee can be paid instead. Funds received from open space funds could be used as match money for parks and grant funding. Councilwoman Daly said she understood that the Chief was concerned about the basketball courts being opened but that there were 25 to 30 people playing and that a basketball court was not going to make things work. She also noted that there already is a basketball court functioning at the elementary school. Council President Papaleo asked if there were any other concerns about the seclusion of Montgomery Park and members not being monitored. Chief Bair said

that this was not a concern but that he would have to monitor complaints if people were not socially distancing. Chief Bair said he would love to have the park open but that he wanted to consider safety.

Councilwoman Isaac suggested looking at having the basketball courts opened by the end of the school year, which is in June. She said Council could revisit this in May. Council President Papaleo said that the court likely needed to be resurfaced anyway. Councilwoman Daly reiterated that children are already using our playgrounds and people are just playing basketball in random places because of the bleachers being on the blacktop and noted that Council wants people to be outside. Council President Papaleo asked if there needed to be a motion to be resurfaced. Councilwoman Daly said that she was unaware of this and that it was not in bad shape. Councilwoman Daly said she did not believe that any kid would complain if the nets were up. Councilwoman Daly said that if the Borough does receive some pandemic funding she would love to use some of these funds for the parks.

Councilwoman said Easter was a major hit and that 252 kids were egged by the Borough. Councilwoman Daly said that the fire department had pulled off a fantastic job and thanked everyone who assisted. She said email addresses were also retained so that a good list of Folcroft families could be reused for future events.

Council President Papaleo asked where the backboards to the basketball courts are. Councilwoman Daly said that she believed Shawn Payne knew where this was. Council President Papaleo asked if a motion was needed. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that Council did not need a vote but that Councilwoman Daly could be authorized to act to find out what everything costs.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters had no new business.

New Construction Committee – Mr. Willis

- Councilman Willis said that a large amount of time had been utilized to discuss the financing portion. He said the contract is with the contractor's attorney before being signed so that once this is signed sitework can begin. Once the contract is signed a discussion of groundbreaking can be considered.

Council President Papaleo asked if the Borough is paying interest on the loan currently in the bank. He said that the longer this takes the Borough has more interest to pay. He wanted residents to know that he would cancel the project if it accumulated more interest than needed.

Parking Permit and Paving Committee – Mr. Willis

- Councilman Willis said that the members are finalizing the ordinance for a parking permit program and hopefully an estimated value for the easements will be available in a week or two. Councilman Willis said that the ordinance should be ready in July. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that the ordinance should be available in final form sometime this week with a targeted goal of voting on the ordinance in the first week of May.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Bair said that everything is going well in the Borough. He said that Officer Tuttle found over a pound of meth and cash. He said that Officer Tuttle and McTigh found a handgun, marijuana and money on Easter. He said he will get on the parking matters mentioned previously to make them more consistent.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Alex Baumler said that as mentioned previously, there is a land development application for 540 and 542 Folcroft Ave but as there may be some potential legal concerns he is not at liberty to discuss them previously. He said he would be glad to discuss these later in public. He said he did enter his appearance as per his authorization and if there is a settlement with the Court and that this case should be resolved in 6 months. He said that a member at his firm is working with Chief Bair relating to the current suit against Purdue Pharmaceuticals relating to the opioid epidemic and gave some background on this case.

Council President Papaleo said that he believed Councilmembers should shorten their reports to only for the final voting meeting of the month.

Finance Director's Report

Donna Stilwell said she only had one matter to discuss but that it could be discussed offline. She said that she has no escrow and asked that it be discussed at another time. Engineer Lisa Catania said that she didn't know anything about the escrow, neither did Solicitor Alex Baumler. Council President Papaleo asked if the developer could put a tracer on the check to see where it was deposited. Donna Stilwell said there's a \$33,000 escrow in the account but believed there might be an \$88,000 escrow as well. Engineer Lisa Catania said there were several escrows for improvements and that legal fees incurred could not be part of the engineering estimate. She said that typically the municipality asks for the engineering and legal costs and asks for another check. She said the cost estimate was around \$800,000 for Dollar General and another \$80,000 for legal and engineering fees which was escrow. She said some funding had not yet been released because of problems with the basin. She did not believe there was any money taken out of the escrow for engineering and inspections. Donna Stilwell said there was a \$33,000 deposit in May 2018. Engineer Lisa Catania said she believed the escrow was initially in a bond but she had not found it yet but said that it would have been in an escrow release although she wasn't aware of when it was. Solicitor Alex Baumler said there was money in the account to begin construction and the rest would be sorted out later.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman said that many of the items had been discussed already but that the Highway Department rented a brush mower to mow the areas along Delmar Drive and Ashland Avenue to trim back weeds and brush and also in Montgomery Park. Manager Hayman said the trees in front of Borough Hall had been trimmed back and the material would be mulched tomorrow morning. Manager

Hayman said that a full code enforcement report would be provided at the end of the month but that six to nine fines for tall grass were being issued each day. Manager Hayman suggested a robocall to let residents know that fines will be issued for tall grass. Manager Hayman said that street sweeping would start at the end of the month, beginning with two weeks of warnings and then fines would be issued. Councilwoman Daly asked if a robocall could be sent out about this and noted that she would create a flyer for residents as well. Lastly, Manager Hayman said that \$300.00 in donations for the upcoming cleanup and that the neighborhood-wide cleanup would go up once holes for wind were cut. Manager Hayman concluded by saying that businesses have until April 10th to contribute to the cleanup.

There was no new business.

There was no old business.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Daly and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously at 8:46pm.