

MEETING MINUTES
FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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

Mayor Frey took a moment of silence for all those who have died as a result of COVID 19 and then led the pledge of allegiance.

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.

Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

Engineer's Report

Borough Engineer Lisa Catania stated that there isn't much action this past month. She noted that Safestor has its elevators up and the parking lot done. The stormwater management is done as well. She said they did give an ok for Popeyes and that the information was given to our solicitor from Joe Damico for land development approval. She said that they contacted PECO with regard to the fee in lieu for trench restoration and received word today that they are preparing the check so we should have that shortly, in the amount of \$403,000 that would go in the General Fund and not Liquid Fuels account.

She said that this evening she has the County Aid application, which is money from the Liquid Fuels program distributed to the County. The County then distributes those funds to municipalities based on road mileage and population. She said that a corresponding resolution and application have been provided to Council. Once the application is complete, PennDOT submits to the County that they can release funding, which typically happens in September or October. Once bids for the road program have been received, hopefully by the committee meeting in March, she hopes to be able to give a breakdown of the distribution of these funds.

Council President Papaleo said he thought he was seeing changes on the Folcroft Avenue turnaround. She said that she doesn't have any direction from PennDOT as to when they'll demolish the bridge. Lisa said that anything that the Borough created in this location would be destroyed once the bridge is demolished. She said that Council thinks that if we want to use it for a different, eligible project that it might be worth considering. She suggested looking into this if Council is so inclined.

Public Finance & Administration - *Mr. Papaleo*

- A motion to approve the bill list for the month of January, 2021 was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion approve the Treasurer's report for the month of January, 2021 was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the January 5th, 2021 Workshop Meeting Minutes and January 19th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to accept engagement letter from Brinker Simpson was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McGuigan asked what the old numbers for the salary resolution were. Manager Hayman said that the numbers represented a three percent raise for all crossing guards, the supervisor and the

- A motion to approve Resolution R2021-2 - a Salary Resolution - was made by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by Councilman Ruskowski. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis asked to make a motion to authorize an application to Delaware County Council for an allocation of liquid county fuels funds for the municipal street improvement program of 2021 was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Willis thanked the Highway department for keeping our roads clear and said that in his experience their work is excellent.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- A motion to approve the Police Chief's Report for the month of January, 2021 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the Fire Chief's Report for the month of January, 2021 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the Fire Marshall's Report for the month of January, 2021 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Ruskowski said that Chief Bair had requested another supervisor as one Corporal is currently in the "drop" program and that an officer should be promoted so there's always a supervisor on each shift. Councilman Ruskowski said that the position of Corporal is a promotion but it's the lowest paid rank. Councilman Ruskowski said he would be happy to support that motion.

Council President Papaleo asked if approval would authorize Manager Hayman to advertise the promotional test. Council President Papaleo said he supported it.

Councilman Ruskowski made a motion to post the Corporal Position Exam for the Borough Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac said that she believed we should be looking for testing sites and she knew that the pharmacies were taking them. She said she believed Councilwoman Daly had posted information about this. She said she believed Rite Aid, CVS and Walgreens were providing shots. Councilwoman Daly said that Giant Pharmacy is providing shots as well but only to those categorized as 1A, though she noted that this is an extremely large category. Councilwoman Daly said that her mother received a shot in Upper Darby. Councilwoman Daly suggested providing rides or uber to senior citizens who need shots. Council President Papaleo said he would support renting a bus. Manager Hayman reminded Councilmembers that getting that many slots/reservations at this time is unlikely. Councilwoman Daly said that most senior citizens are getting information from their doctors and that she has experienced how hard it is to secure a spot to get the vaccine. Council President Papaleo and Councilwoman Isaac agreed to revisit this discussion at a later time.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters made a motion to appoint resident Brian Hines to the Planning Commission.

Council President Papaleo said that this was a good pick and explained that the Planning Commission is essential to development to the Borough. Council President Papaleo said that he has lived here all of his life and he owns a successful business.

Solicitor Alex Baumler said that Mr. Hines would have to be appointed to a four year term and that the remaining members would stay on the board.

Councilman Waters made a motion to appoint resident Brian Hines to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Parks and Recreation – *Ms. Daly*

- Councilwoman Daly said she met with her committee last night and that like the “Booed by the Borough” event she is going to have a “Getting Egged By the Borough” for Easter. She explained how this event would be completed and noted that she will make kits and goodies. She said that she contacted Chief Weber about possibly having the bunny going around to the Fire Truck. She said that TNT Cleanups reached out to her about doing a Borough-wide Cleanups. She said that TNT Cleanouts would provide dumpsters and supplies. She said the one in the Fall was successful and this could make a major impact and reiterated that TNT would emplace dumpsters around the Borough for this event. Councilwoman Daly concluded

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. Waters*

- Council President Papaleo said he would like to discuss a schedule of fees. Councilman Willis confirmed that this needs to be done in the future. Solicitor Alex Baumler said he sent along a document from Norristown and it may be double the amount of fees that the Borough will have. Councilman Willis said that he was having a discussion about the fees in the driving committee. Solicitor Alex Baumler said this was comprehensive.

New Construction Committee – Mr. Willis

- Councilman Willis said we had received some detailed information from the contractors that list increases. Engineer Lisa Catania said she had looked at it but had no perspective as it was all lump sums. She said she knew that the price of stone had gone up drastically, however she said she needed detailed information for the justification for a change order. Councilman Willis said there was no item for labor and he was aware that the prevailing wage had increased. Councilman Willis said that we had received more information. Council President Papaleo said that he believed some expenses were 25% higher. Engineer Lisa Catania said she needed a return phone call from Bob Linn, Borough Architect. She said that most of this would involve the building but she could sit in. In some cases, through value engineering she was able to significantly decrease prices.

Council President Papaleo said he did not want to pay another \$1.35 million and then get a request for more money. Engineer Lisa Catania said that she would have to look at the contract language and specifications as she does not have them, however they may not be able to increase labor or material costs depending on how specifications were written. She noted that once the contract is seen, barring an unforeseen condition, that is the finalized price. Councilman Willis confirmed that Engineer Catania's firm is going to verify fees. Engineer Lisa Catania said that Linn Architects would verify the design and that her firm would verify and then Council would vote on this. She compared this to the roads program and how council takes action. Councilman Willis directed Manager Hayman to schedule the meeting immediately.

Parking Permit and Paving Committee – Mr. Willis

- Councilman Willis said he hoped that all members had a chance to look at items that went out in the packet. He said he put together a report of the proposed parking permit plan. He said this did not require action at the moment and that this was the step we were at, currently. He asked if members were on the same page. Council President Papaleo asked about the overnights for guests. Councilman Willis said that his committee discussed a number of options and that the application we were getting would not be able to accept these payments. He said that monthly guest passes could be through Jackrabbit and that overall guest passes would cost twice as much as a regular permit. Guest passes/hangers could be purchased and would be on a monthly basis for those staying overnight. He said that every household that needs a guest pass.

Council President Papaleo said that this should be like a parking lot near the shore. Council President Papaleo said that parking passport takes a cut and before giving away these funds to Passport it might be best to start with paper hangers. Councilman Willis explained that if you used three emergencies for actual emergencies then a resident could call in and purchase a hanger instead of getting a ticket.

Councilwoman Isaac asked what would be done in the winter. Councilman Willis said that any time an emergency arises in the Borough any rule can be waived and that when the emergency concludes enforcement of the rule can be enforced. Councilwoman Isaac asked if she would get a ticket for briefly parking on the street in the event of a snow storm. Councilman Willis described emergencies like mechanical issues that make a vehicle immovable as being exceptions to the rule. Councilman Willis said that right now the proposal is \$60 per year with a limit of four permits per household. Councilman Willis said that a hardship option could be included on the application and then these hardships would be individually approved by Council as categories could become dangerous, constitutionally speaking. Exemptions would be considered on a per situation basis. Council President Papaleo asked if residents have to provide insurance and a valid registration to purchase the permit. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that residents would have to provide a valid registration but it doesn't have to be registered to that property. Councilman Willis clarified that the license would be a proof of residence. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that a bill could also be used. Councilman Willis said that like a bank account, many documents could be used. Council President Papaleo asked if individuals who reside in the Borough but are residents in other areas could obtain a permit. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that a letter from the landlord would be how this was done. Council President Papaleo thanked the committee and members for their work. Councilman Willis noted that public hearings will be held prior to the implementation of this plan.

- Councilman Willis said that the driveway portion of this program is underway. Manager Hayman has been empowered to get a quote from an appraiser for this portion of the program. He advised that the Borough tighten up fees around driveway maintenance which will be the other part of this program. He said that if residents do not give access to their shared driveway then they will be given significant fees for not maintaining their portion of the driveway. Councilman Willis reiterated that he is going to push for residents to opt into the driveway program. Councilman Willis said that these are his recommendations for now.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Bair thanked Council for approving the test for his Corporal. He said the anticrime unit took a large amount of meth and thousands of dollars off the street. He said the anticrime unit is also working on a bigger item but cannot comment more at this time.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Alex Baumler had no other commentary.

Finance Director's Report

Mike Hill was ill and absent. Manager Hayman said that the bill list and checks are included.

Fire Chief Tom Weber said that last year, his team responded to 608 emergencies in and around the Borough which is a record. He said this year they have already responded to 86 calls and there have been a few series incidents this year, including a brush fire behind a business on Delmar Drive. He

thanked Officer Dorman for directing him to the correct side of the block for the fire. He said there was a small fire in a bedroom on Glen Avenue this month which was resolved quickly.

Chief Weber thanked Council for the gift cards provided to the members last year. Chief Bair said that he tried to comment on the Easter Bunny but he just needs a date. Councilwoman Daly agreed to provide a date.

Lastly, Chief Bair said he had a request that he would like to read out. He said that while firefighting is not cheap, he wanted Council to begin the process of replacing Telesquirt 1, which is a 12 to 14 month process. He said there is a two stage price increase happening this year beginning in March and then a 2 percent increase in September or October, increasing the current estimated price by \$40,000 or \$50,000 and said that maintenance costs have increased. He said that Telesquirt 1 was out for a total of 27 days with only four of those days for routine maintenance. He said there needs a repair to the aerial ladder and testing. He said the new design would be similar and needs to be able to fit into tight streets and alleyways. He said the only difference would be a larger ladder for three story buildings and the new Safestor on Chester Pike. He said that the cost of refurbishing the new truck is \$700,000. He said that he did background checks with community leasing, a finance company, and plans range from a 7 – 10 – 12 and 15 year loan. Once a contract is signed the first payment isn't until 12-14 months out. The company would pay up front to get additional discounts. If something could be signed in the next month there would be an additional discount lowering the loan number. There would be no penalty for prepayment and it would go into next years budget. Chief Weber said he could forward numbers to Manager Hayman. Chief Weber described different financing scenarios.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman said that he has been working with an appraiser and that the scope of the appraisal is apparently uncommon. Manager Hayman said that he was hoping to have some information sooner but that unfortunately nothing has been provided yet. Council President Papaleo reiterated from a previous meeting that this is a complicated process as there are several types of easements. Manager Hayman said there was a noticeable increase in the number of residents who shoveled their snow and 25 fines were issued for failing to shovel snow. Manager Hayman noted that a resident who received a fine recently and shouldn't have had one issued was found over \$2,000 in unclaimed property. Manager Hayman said that the Highway Department has done an incredible job responding to the snow storm. Highway staff also took down the old office in the garage to make more space for tools. Manager Hayman said that the Thursday food giveaways have been fantastic and consistently given out hundreds of boxes of foods and said that an average of three boxes per minute were given out for the entire event. Manager Hayman said these events are almost exclusively attended by Borough residents. Manager Hayman said that there has been an increase of 23 cases of COVID 19 in the Borough and another Borough resident has regrettably passed away as a result of the virus.

Lastly, Manager Hayman said the roof is still leaking and that a roofer has come out and will patch the roof for \$800-\$3,000 and that there has been a serious roof collapse in the old weight room. Manager Hayman said the changing temperature and pooled water is tearing the rubber on the roof. Councilman

Ruskowski said that a collapse on the inside could be a serious problem. Council President Papaleo directed Manager Hayman to do whatever needed to get the roof fixed. Councilwoman Isaac asked if officers can be stationed out of Sharon Hill Borough as an alternative. Council President Papaleo said that the Police could be stationed out of the Fire Department instead if needed since the hall is open but that the cost of doing this would be substantially more. Council President Papaleo thanked Manager Hayman for his work.

There was no old Business

There was no new Business

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously. Members stayed on for an executive session.