

MEETING MINUTES

FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 22, 2021

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo was absent. Councilman Willis called the Council Meeting to order at 7:11PM

Councilman Willis called the Flag Salute and Invocation.

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

Audience Participation

Mary Ann Clarke – 821 Delview Drive – asked when street sweeping would begin. Councilman Willis said this would be complete when the roads program is completed. Councilwoman Daly said that this would be complete once repainting concludes.

Kathy Kelly – 712 School Lane – asked about the parking permit plan. Councilman Willis said only a few, quick motions would be made. Ms. Kelly said that school lane should require parking permits. Mr. Willis said that some streets were left off as it is on the borderline of where people would parking, something he said was done intentionally so that it could be expanded later. Mr. Willis said that council was already trying to limit the number of people who have to pay for permits to those who will be subject of the repaving plan. Ms. Kelly said that there already is a problem with people coming over and parking on her street and most owners have more than two cars. Mr. Willis said he would look into the issue. Mr. Willis said that eventually they might reconsider school lane. Ms. Daly said that Council was required to charge for permits. Mr. Baumler said that this was due to the doctrine of uniformity, explaining that this would defeat the purpose of the program. Mr. Baumler said that the streets initially named were the ones which would be subject to repaving. Mr. Willis said that they would add it on so long as the bulk of residents on the street were in support of it. Ms. Kelly said she understood this.

Joseph Donnelly – 1528 Llanwellyn Ave – said that his shared driveway isn't in the same shape as the ones in the Delmar Village. He asked if the Borough would scarify the back alleyways, noting that this was not done previously. Mr. Donnelly said that they just repaved over the previous alley and that it caused flooding in his garage. Mr. Donnelly said that he thought the plan was great but that the old material must be removed first. Engineer Lisa Catania said that she didn't recall the composition, noting that some alleys were concrete and some were macadam. Ms. Catania said that concrete could not be milled. Mr. Donnelly said one house on Llanwellyn had a concrete driveway. Ms. Catania said that adding macadam ponds water and can cause flooding. Ms. Catania described the process for repaving. Ms. Catania said she believed that most inlets were on the sides of the alleyways but that in Llanwellyn

Gardens they may be in the center of the alley. Mr. Willis said the intent was to do it well and not quickly so it lasts a long time.

Mr. Donnelly asked if the Borough would coat the driveways every few years so they don't fall apart. Mr. Willis said that as of right now he was only interested in the initial repair and that revenue must first come in before repaving begins. Mr. Willis explained that this was only a temporary takeover of the driveway but that their maintenance would still be the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Donnelly asked who would be responsible for repairs in a few years. Councilman Willis said he did not want to promise a specific outcome until revenue comes in. Mr. Donnelly asked why things couldn't be kept the same as before and said that people just aren't maintaining their properties. Ms. Daly said that this isn't working now and that many families cannot afford the repairs. Mr. Donnelly said that this should not be considered and that homeowners are responsible for the work and that it should stay that way, that this should not be the Borough's responsibility. Mr. Donnelly asked if he would receive a tax break. Mr. Willis said the parking ordinance has already been passed. Mr. Donnelly said that an in-person meeting should have been held before the decision was made. Mr. Donnelly said that 90% of people do not know how to use zoom. Mr. Willis said he disagreed.

Mr. Donnelly said that the Borough is setting food on the back alleyways and that the Borough should now be responsible. Mr. Donnelly said that if he sells his home and the potholes haven't been fixed before sale, would the Borough be responsible for repaving? Mr. Willis said that this would not be the case. Mr. Donnelly asked what the Borough's warranty is for his property. Mr. Willis said that this is a temporary construction easement and does not transfer ownership of the property in any way, reiterating that it was not required to allow access to the property. Mr. Donnelly said that he took care of his driveway, he bought the house and he was responsible for it and it was not his problem that some residents choose not to maintain their properties. Mr. Donnelly noted several instances in which people did not maintain their properties in his neighborhood. Ms. Daly asked how someone could be forced to fill a pothole. Mr. Donnelly suggested tickets. Ms. Daly said that there are people in the community who are not in this situation. Mr. Donnelly said the potholes took years to appear and that they didn't happen overnight. Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Daly debated the specifics of the process for fining and liens. Mr. Willis thanked Mr. Donnelly for his input and asked if he had any other comments. Mr. Donnelly said he would pay whatever the amount was and that he didn't believe the back alley would be scarified. Mr. Donnelly said that the Borough would get sued. Ms. Isaac said that she was aware of a lot of potholes in the back alleys. Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Isaac discussed the location of several large potholes. Mr. Willis reiterated that there were elements of the plan that had not fully been decided yet and this is why he was not committing to whether there would be continued maintenance.

Mr. Donnelly asked why his streets hadn't been repaved. Mr. Willis and Ms. Daly clarified that PECO had not installed new gas meters on these streets. Mr. Willis said that there was not infinite money for repaving. Mr. Donnelly said he felt like Llanwellyn Gardens had been ignored for 40 years. Mr. Willis said that the current councilmembers have not served for 40 years. Ms. Daly said that repairing Llanwellyn Gardens is on her list to be repaired tonight, to be completed this summer and noted events that would take place in that neighborhood as well. Ms. Daly said that Juneteenth was at Montgomery Park because it was larger.

Mr. Donnelly said that the Police and Fireman have to slow down and he did not appreciate commentary on facebook against potholes. He said that he understood speeding was bad everywhere but that he wanted to purchase speed bumps and put them in from March until October at the bottom of King Ave and the start of Llanwellyn, the end of Llanwellyn and half way up Folcroft Avenue to stop speeders from blowing stop signs as there are kids in front of his house. Ms. Isaac said she had seen this. Mr. Donnelly said he was willing to personally purchase these and he would emplace and remove them each season. Mr. Donnelly said he was going to spend \$600 on speed bumps instead of watching a coroner come and take them away.

Dorothy Fulcher – 956 Grant Road – said that she was here for the same concerns, noting parking driveways and holes. Ms. Fulcher said that she was warned about getting tickets for parking on grass but asked why there was so much effort put into fining parking but not the holes. Ms. Fulcher said that when she reads the citations she had to google the reasons as there has been an issue of parking for awhile and said these are 60 or 70 year old situations. Ms. Fulcher said cars are parked everywhere and noted that her daughters got tickets today. Ms. Fulcher said she could not see potholes at night and that she could fall and break her ankle and said that ticket prices had increased dramatically in the 17 years that she has lived here. Ms. Fulcher mentioned several situations that she had encountered related to potholes, parking and other matters. Mr. Willis said that the point of the \$60 was specifically because not every resident has a driveway in the Borough that would be repaved and that there had been lots of pushback from people not receiving the benefit. Mr. Willis said that only people with common driveways would pay for parking permits. Ms. Daly said her hope is that more people try to fit their cars behind their homes and would opt to park out back instead of on the street and noted that currently she parks three cars out front but that she would be parking two cars out back. Ms. Fulcher mentioned several interactions with neighbors and car related incidents. Ms. Daly explained that residents have to be allowed to park up to four cars on the streets and reiterated that she believed there would be a decrease in parking on the street from this plan. Ms. Fulcher suggested that the Borough split the cost of repaving with residents 50/50. Ms. Daly said that this way the people who are benefiting from the plan would exclusively be paying for it. Ms. Fulcher said she got nails in her tire and that she bought gravel to fill a pothole personally. Ms. Daly mentioned that the Borough gave out asphalt. Ms. Isaac said she knew of other Boroughs that had permits and noted Norwood. Ms. Isaac said that she and her husband park behind their house as they are both able to do that. Ms. Fulcher suggested creating a lottery or raffle to raise funds for repaving. Ms. Daly said that would be illegal. Mr. Donnelly said that coming down Ms. Isaac's alley the trash truck makes a lefthand turn and then backs up and the trash truck runs over the curb. Mr. Donnelly said the owner of this property is a rental and never fixes anything.

Councilwoman Daly made a motion to approve the bill list for May 2021, seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of May, 2021 was made by Councilwoman Daly and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the May 4th, 2021 Workshop Meeting Minutes and May 25th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilwoman Daly and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac.

Ms. Catania said she had two invoices for \$565,230.38 and that she recommends approval of this invoice and payment. Councilwoman Daly made a motion to approve this motion. Seconded by Councilman Waters. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Catania said she wanted approval for an invoice for \$12,355.44 to satisfy a grant for small sewer and water. Ms. Daly made the motion and Ms. Isaac seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, Councilwoman Daly made a motion to post two positions for parking enforcement officer, one full time and one part time. Ms. Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Daly made a motion to purchase up to \$1,500 for signage for the parking permit plan. Ms. Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Daly made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Ms. Isaac seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As four members could only briefly be in attendance, a motion to adjourn was made by Council and seconded by Council