

MEETING MINUTES

VIRTUAL FOLCROFT BOROUGH COMMITTEE MEETING

June 9, 2020

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

Mayor: 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.

Audience Participation from Email or Calls:

Borough Manager Andrew Hayman read the following comment into the record from David Knight, who lives at 830 Taylor Drive in Folcroft:

Not in Favor of proposed Parking Permits.

For too long now, Folcroft Borough has not been effectively enforcing its ordinances, leading to the current situation of common driveways, abandoned cars, boats, overgrown vegetation and properties in disrepair.

If you can not effectively enforce current ordinances that are already in place, how are you going to enforce parking?

What is the time frame driveways will be repaired, if the parking permits are implemented?

Will there be any type of rebate for homeowners who responsibly maintain their property/driveway, if parking permits are required?

Not fair to impose parking permits, for the sole purpose of repairing common drives, on residents who maintain their properties and driveways.

Public Finance & Administration - Mr. Papaleo

- Council discussed a proposed parking permit program in Folcroft Borough. Council President Joe Papaleo suggested that council provide input. Councilman Willis proposed a program which would involve borrowing money and using the funds collected to repay the loan. Council President Papaleo asked if the Borough could borrow the funds and the pay it back slowly, asked Engineer Lisa Catania if a largescale plan such as this could be done in a single project for a specific cost. Lisa Catania said she did a mapping of all alleyways in the village and didn't have them mapped elsewhere but was aware of others. We could do something similar to the roads program and go block by block for a cost estimate. Lisa wasn't sure if this was necessary at this point. She noted that Manager Andrew Hayman had

requested a budget amount for the plan. Lisa said costs estimate went by length and width. Engineer Lisa Catania compared this to driveway reviews that she no longer does.

Council President Papaleo asked about the projected savings incurred from the Borough Hall project. Treasurer Joe Possenti explained that it still isn't clear if the Borough would need to borrow but that this could theoretically be done. The program should work so long as residents actually pay. Council President Papaleo asked if members of Council had concerns about there being a collective fund for violations and parking permits, to be dedicated to collective repaving. Solicitor Alex Baumler said this would be allowed. Councilman Willis noted that once estimates can be received, special "public information meetings" should be set up to make sure residents are aware and allowed input. Council President Papaleo believes that most residents generally seem supportive of the plan, but noted that there are residents who are against it.

Councilman McGuigan said that residents who don't have driveways don't want to participate and that this is legitimate. Parking permits would solve this issue by making residents collectively pay for them and not taxing those who would not benefit. Council President thanked him for this.

- A proposed ordinance related to fencing in Folcroft Borough. Council President Papaleo noted that the issue was brought to him by some members of Council and said there were strong opinions. Noted that he believes cyclone fences look unseemly and he thinks other options make the neighborhood look better. Council President Papaleo stated that he would vote no on a plan allowing cyclone fences but is willing to compromise. Mayor Frey said that he has fences with a gate for his dogs and it looks like an open yard. Councilman McGuigan said "drive through any neighborhood with front yard fences and then drive through Darby Township and say which one looks better. Councilwoman Daly noted that Briarcliff already doesn't have fences and this will not be a clean look unless we make all residents remove fences, which isn't realistic. She believes the issue is residents putting out "not real fences" to contain pets. Specifically, Councilwoman Daly noted that there are some sections of Taylor Drive where this occurs. Councilwoman Daly said she has a neighbor who's fence was knocked down and they weren't allowed to replace it, speculating about how many residents would be effected by this plan.

Council President Papaleo speculated about specifying about a style of fence. Councilwoman Daly disagreed, saying that we are not a homeowner's association. Councilman McGuigan said that a neighbor putting out an unseemly fences lowers all home values and that this justifies an ordinance. Councilman Willis said he would like to see proof of this and was skeptical, is not confident that fencing is the issue. Councilman Willis believes other factors such as home size, bedrooms etc have more to do with home value and that fences do not. Council President Papaleo asked what he thought effected property value. Councilman Willis said "location, location, location" to which Council President stated that he believed it had to do with school district. Council President Papaleo said he isn't opposed to someone having a fence and is ok if he isn't in the majority on this issue. Council President Papaleo said he was so averse to the idea of cyclone fences that he would like them removed upon the sale of a home, but understands this is divisive. Councilman Ruskowski said he believes one of the problems is un

maintained cyclone fences and that they are frequently broken, rusted or hanging open. An ordinance to require residents to maintain cyclone fences would be acceptable.

Council President Papaleo asked if our ordinances do not allow residents to replace fences if they get damaged, noting Councilwoman Daly's previous comment. Councilman McGuigan said that this ordinance did not allow residents to replace the poles for a fence but that they could be repaired. Councilman McGuigan said this was in part because residents do not clean up animal waste in their front yard. Councilwoman Daly said that her dog is tethered out front and that the waste is routinely collected within a "day or two" and it has nothing to do with her ability to clean up after the animal. Councilman McGuigan said this was probably more related to her cleaning up after the animal. Council President Papaleo said that while he agreed with both points, his concern is still property value and that other people should be have a right to be freed from the property decisions of others. What is responsible for the price differential between Briarcliff and Folcroft. Councilman Willis asked what the difference in home values was, of which Council President Papaleo was unaware. Mayor Frey asked whether someone would rather live in Westbrook Park or Folcroft, to which Councilman Willis said he would rather live where he lives – stating this is circular logic. Council President Papaleo said that if "I do something that affects you negatively, that's where my right ends. Rules are in place for a reason. Council President Papaleo believes we are trying to turn things around and we should not entertain ideas that threaten this but he will call it to question. Council President Papaleo said that he believes a compromised could be reached and that an ordinance could be drafted. Councilwoman Daly said we are currently acting on assumptions without date, suggested we delay action and vote on a potential ordinance at a later date. Borough Manager note that an ordinance could not be drafted and posted in time to vote on for the next meeting, to which Alex Baumler agreed. Councilman McGuigan noted that this has been a point of concern for a long time. Alex Baumler noted that requirements are embedded in zoning ordinances so we would need alter every section of zoning regulations to see standards and designs allowed and amend as needed. This would be a simple idea in theory but is a massive project in scope – there is no uniformly applicable standard, which would differ between residential districts.

Alex pointed to a section which prohibits barbed wire fencing but that this would take months to resolve. Council President said he was ready to explore as needed; questioned whether there was any prohibition on fences currently. Alex Baumler stated that there is no current prohibition on fences. Council President Papaleo asked if the ordinance is not valid. Alex Baumler said this was probably an amendment to code but isn't currently certain. Councilman McGuigan noted residents could go before the zoning board if they choose, to which Alex Baumler agreed, noting that residents can apply for a special exception. Councilwoman noted that the Borough (notably Andrew Hayman) should let residents know of their ability to apply for a special exception in the future. Council President Papaleo did not believe it was fair to ban residents from replacing fences in the event of an accident. Ended by saying he was open to a compromise.

- Council discussed policies and procedures related to reopening Borough offices (I explained procedure)

Councilman McGuigan asked if there was a buddy system for when employees go outside with residents to make sure they are safe. Andrew Hayman suggested this was a good idea.

- Council discussed the police crisis differential. Council President Papaleo discussed that police officers are getting an extra bonus for hours worked (and have been since the beginning of the pandemic) but that this could come to an end. Treasurer Joe Possenti said that the Borough is paying between \$1,200 to \$600 per officer, so \$4,000 per month, not counting social security – most officers get \$600-800 per month. Deputy Chief Eiserman believed this would be the last week as per Joe Possenti. Council President Papaleo believed there might be a “second wave” in which hazard pay could be restarted, asked if Council had objections or thoughts about suspending hazard pay.

Councilman McGuigan said he was glad that the differential was given and that there would be a second wave. Councilman McGuigan said that if it's safe for employees to come back then hazard pay can be relaxed. Chief Bair thanked Council for the hazard pay and that he and the department appreciate the thoughts and that they appreciate that this is the “new normal.” With regard to Alisha giving out items or helping residents, she should have an officer escorting her. Andrew Hayman clarified that this may be a one or two time thing. Chief Bair said he would rather have an officer go outside and that he would take care of it. Council President Papaleo thanked the Police department for their service and noted that he believes we have the best department in the County.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Council discussed the current bulk trash status and future. Councilman Willis said we may want to consider current Borough operations and things change – we are still not doing pickups and we still have a large, shared dumpster behind Borough Hall. Councilman Willis said he would let Andrew Hayman speak about costs but that there could be some benefits from allowing the current system to continue. (I explained numbers) Councilman Waters asked if we need the dumpster (I explained) Council President Papaleo noted that Councilwoman Daly had previously stated that some residents could not access the dumpster. Council President Papaleo would be open to having the highway department pick up some trash. Andrew Hayman explained concerns about residents relying on the Borough again but that it would quickly devolve into the old system. Councilman Willis said that a long term solution should be found. Councilman McGuigan said that once per month the highway department could pick up bulk items once per month and place them in the dumpster in it's current location. Councilman Willis was concerned this would exceed the volume of the dumpster but this could be looked at. Councilman McGuigan asked whether a robocall could be placed to let seniors know about assistance on a monthly basis. Mayor Frey asked that Council provide the highway department with long gloves and N95 masks – Councilman Willis and Council President Papaleo agreed that PPE is a “must.”
- Discussing hiring a part time code-enforcer was tabled. Councilman Willis explained that initially there were thoughts about hiring a part –time enforcer to fill a void that might be created by U&O inspections, however those inspections are not being done. Andrew Hayman explained that there had been a change in expected procedure.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Councilman Ruskowski congratulated the Police Department and said we have an exceptional department in Folcroft. There is a great relationship with residents and Council.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac was not present and had no comment. Council President Papaleo had no new business to discuss.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters noted that Andrew Hayman had sent him the traffic study for the intersection of Elmwood Ave and Garfield Ave. As per the study, a stop sign was probably not needed and speeding was not found. Councilman Waters believed a crosswalk and/or signage might slow down traffic and make vehicles stop – there are lots of children in this location.

Council President Papaleo believes that the current location of Borough Hall should be explored for redevelopment once the new building is completed but that there should be a short term solution. There could be other things done in this location. Chief Bair suggested a painted crosswalk, to which Council agreed. Council President Papaleo asked Alex Baumler if an ordinance might be required to create a crosswalk. Alex said a regular vote would be allowed.

Public Parks and Recreation – *Ms. Daly*

- Councilwoman Daly noted that the Fourth of July committee met and decided that a parade would not be beneficial at this time. Some groups might be excluded to do safety and /or income issues. Councilwoman Daly suggested a collective day of celebration, beginning with a family scavenger hunt at Borough Hall with trophies and gifts for residents. At 11:30am a “drive by barbecue” would be at Borough Hall, done by Council and the Mayor. There would also be a yard decorating contest with three Judges (including the Mayor) and a patriotic photo contest that would be on the Borough page with three Judges – winners would get a gift basket. True Love Church is interested in doing a “drive in movie night” in the Borough which could be added to the day’s events. Council President Papaleo noted that this was resident Julia Ford’s idea and he liked the idea and the Delcroft Shopping Center would be the perfect location – can street lights be shut off? Council members were not aware if this could be done. Mayor Frey noted that this was done at Montgomery Park in prior years and that a film was projected at the baseball field. Council President Papaleo suggested meeting with Julia Ford to explore details. Mayor Frey noted he would be out of town over the 4th of July.

Councilwoman Daly said she has been receiving calls to plan a community cleanup day and she intends to meet with her committee to plan an event, including one getting kids involved. She sought input and participation from other members of Council for this event and would report back with any financial needs.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan had no new business.

New Construction Committee – Mr. McGuigan

- Councilman McGuigan had no new business, but said he would have information to save the Borough money after the next meeting, but speculated that several hundred thousand dollars could be saved.

Borough Manager notes (I gave) Alex Baumler noted a release should be put together for this event.

Old Business

Councilman Willis noted that after our previous Council meeting he has been working on a blood drive. An email was just sent out. It would be on July 2nd and that 52 spots for donations would be available – if possible these should all be filled. Councilwoman Daly suggested she draft a flyer for this event. Councilman Willis thanked Detective Dan White for putting this together.

New Business

Council President Papaleo said that he spoke with members from True Love Church and Folcroft Union Church regarding the recent death of George Floyd. He would like to put together a “community day” of actions, noting he has discussed this with Councilman McGuigan about listening to the community and that clergy would be interested in participating. This would not exclude people who are not of faith and is looking for thoughts and feelings.

Councilman Waters said he is nervous about this event, that a problem could be caused that the Borough does not currently have, as he said he discussed with a member at True Love Church. He believes that this is well-intentioned but that this could start a problem we “don’t need” and it will create a problem. Councilman Waters believed that it only takes one or two people to start a problem. Councilman Waters does not want to express his personal opinion on the general matter. Councilwoman Daly asked whether or not residents could create an art project of some sort “an active piece of art.” Councilman Waters does not want to do this event. Councilman Ruskowski believes Councilman Waters point about “awaking a sleeping giant” and that a problem could be created that does not exist and that soon other events may take precedence. Chief Bair noted that during this time period officers have been stationed at strategic locations and reported “no issues’ and that he was personally at the Wawa and personally observed Officers receiving positive information from the entire community, regardless of race. One officer took it upon himself to give out masks to residents who did not have masks. Councilman McGuigan who mentioned that some residents and leaders would love to have the platform to have the discussion and that this is what Council President Papaleo was discussing. Council President Papaleo said that if residents would like to have a demonstration they can do so, he would not want them to feel like a pariah.

Chief Bair said that he is aware of a peaceful walk from Glenolden Park to neighboring police precincts, including Folcroft. This would be a far walk and it was made clear that this may not happen. Other communities could be involved. If he is informed of more he will let Council know.

Councilwoman Daly said a friend runs a food program in Norwood and received 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and that Council could receive 500 Of them. Council discussed the logistics of rushing out a robocall and doing a giveaway outside Borough Hall, sandwiches will be picked up at 10:00am. The giveaway would be at 2:30pm. Council President Papaleo said that he could bring the sandwiches to a homeless shelter afterwards.

Councilman McGuigan said that 2020 so far has been a rough year filled with curve balls, but that he thinks everyone is doing a good job, even though this is unprecedented. Council President Papaleo thanked Councilman McGuigan and said that he is part of the good work. Mayor Frey

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Ruskowski, seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.