

MEETING MINUTES

FOLCROFT BOROUGH COMMITTEE MEETING

March 3, 2020

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

Mayor: Flag Salute and Invocation given by Mayor Frey.

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, and Secretary/Manager Andrew Hayman were present.

Audience Participation:

Marina Mullery (712 Taylor Dr) complained about a noted increase in trash around the neighborhood. She asked what could be done to combat this, noting that she had only recently received assistance about this. She was adamant that this makes the neighborhood look bad. Council President Papaleo, Manager Andrew Hayman and others discussed the possibility of hosting a cleanup day (with Councilmembers present) sometime close to Earth Day.

Ms. Mullery said that 794 Taylor has been a trouble house, with trash and that Manager Andrew Hayman had managed to resolve the issue within the past two weeks.

Council President Papaleo discussed the possibility of increasing code enforcement fines for residents who leave refuse on their property. Council President Papaleo then discussed the proposed ordinance for a graduated increase in these fines to encourage residents to comply with code. Council President Papaleo also noted that he believes residents should fix broken storm doors left flapping in the wind.

Ms. Muller also discussed the degraded state of the shared alleyways in the Delmar Village section of Folcroft, noting that she had spent over \$1,000 to repair her driveway a year ago but that no other neighbors, specifically renters, had done the same. Council President Papaleo discussed the possibility of parking permit program with the funds reserved to repair the shared driveways. Ms. Mullery reacted positively to this plan and further noted that some neighbors have been driving over yards to avoid a specific, large pothole near her home. ‘

Ms. Mullery concluded this exchange by noting that she has become so tired of the issue that she is considering moving, though she doesn't want to.

Lastly, Ms. Mullery requested that a Police Officer be placed near the intersection of Taylor Rd and Carter Rd as she says she routinely sees cars speeding through this intersection, ignoring the stop sign. She said this typically occurs after 9:30pm.

Ray Burtler of Ray's Automotive (1899 Delmar Drive) inquired about providing towing services for Folcroft Borough. He explained that he can tow two abandoned vehicles. Councilman McGuigan noted that the Borough already works with Cerinos Auto to do such work. It was noted that this would be discussed in the public works section of the agenda.

Public Finance & Administration - *Mr. Papaleo*

- A discussion to engage with Maillie for our 2018 and 2019 audit and costs associated was had. Councilman McGuigan discussed the need to do this, inquiring as to whether or not previous years had been completed. Manager Andrew Hayman explained that the 2018 audit had been started, but never completed. Further, Andrew Hayman noted that the 2019 audit had not begun. Joseph Possenti explained that the given approximate price of \$15,000 for both years was reasonable and that while the Borough is not at risk of losing County funding, it would be advisable to engage with Maillie in the interest of expediting the process. Councilman McGuigan stated that he believes it would be best to complete both years at once.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis asked why some bills are being paid late. Mr. Willis asked Joe Possenti how/why bills were paid when they were paid. Mr. Possenti explained that some bills may appear late and others are inadvertently paid late.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Council President Papaleo discussed a recent traffic study which found that upwards of 25% of vehicles were substantially above the speed limit (i.e. could be ticketed). The study was done on the intersection of Delmar Drive and Ashland Ave. Council President Papaleo discussed plans to reduce speed as vehicles enter Folcroft on Delmar Drive.

Councilman Ruskowski noted that previously there had been traffic control along Delmar Drive and that he has encountered residents who miss when traffic control was done here.

Council President Papaleo noted that for the next agenda an item should be included to empower Catania Engineer to prepare a "speed trap" measurement for this location.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Jennifer from the library mentioned that there is an abnormally large drop behind the Library building and that a step should be built in so that no residents might fall off of it. Currently, she keeps the gate locked so this doesn't happen. The drop was noted as being approximately 3 feet.

Council President Papaleo and Manager Andrew Hayman discussed that we have lost out on funding for the Amphitheater project as the Borough is not in compliance with the LWCF. Councilman McGuigan asked how this was possible.

Manager Andrew Hayman explained that as the Borough had built over several projects that were at least partially constructed with LWCF funding without replacing the projects, we would not be able to access more funds for the amphitheater.

Councilman McGuigan asked how we could be in compliance to fix this issue. Manager Andrew Hayman noted that this would require the Borough to allocate new areas to replace the old projects and remove squatters from Borough property at Montgomery Park.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters said that a new stop sign is needed on Garfield Road at Elmwood Ave, explaining that this intersection is very dangerous due to low visibility and many residents in the vicinity. Solicitor Alex Baumler and Manager Andrew Hayman mentioned that a PennDOT traffic study would not be required as these are Borough streets but that a safety study should be commissioned.

Public Parks and Recreation – *Ms. Daly*

- Councilwoman Daly explained that the proposed garden should be delayed or cancelled for the year until a more permanent location can be decided upon. Manager Andrew Hayman discussed working with the Library to create a demonstration plot for the time being.

Also, Councilwoman Daly said that the new Easter Bunny would be Manager Andrew Hayman

Councilwoman Daly noted that the state has tabled an EIT tax relief bill. This would allow the EIT to be waved. Solicitor Alex Baumler can put together parameters for this. Councilman McGuigan mentioned this came up last year but there was no movement.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan discussed an ordinance amending code to revise civil fines. Solicitor Alex Baumler explained the guidelines for this program and that there were some inconsistencies which need to be corrected with Folcroft Borough Code. Alex explained that there would be graduated increases in fines for code violations (with fines increasing if violations are not corrected) Council President Papaleo also noted that he would like there to be an increase of warnings. This tool would be used for offenders who refuse to remedy problems.

Council President Papaleo asked whether it would be advisable to hire another code enforcer. Manager Andrew Hayman said that to increase enforcement of fines, it would be best to hire a new person. Council President Papaleo said he would like to advertise this position. It was noted to include this in the next meeting's agenda for advertisement. Mark Possenti noted that this person should not be a resident from Folcroft or we would risk them giving favors to some people. A newsletter to promote the new rules in the event that it was passed was suggested by Council President Papaleo.

- Councilman McGuigan discussed an ordinance decriminalization of Marijuana in Folcroft. Solicitor Alex Baumler explained that this rule would empower police officers to give tickets for small amounts of Marijuana (up to 8 ounces) instead of arresting those in possession. This would not apply to

those operating moving vehicles or in a school zone. Mr. Baumler explained that this would still give officers probable cause to search offenders when asked by Councilman Ruskowski.

Councilman McGuigan asked if violations would be documented and tracked – Mr. Baumler explained that they would be.

Council President Papaleo asked Mr. Baumler to draft a new piece of legislation which would adjust the fine structure for possession violations.

- Councilman McGuigan discussed the establishment of a human relations commission in Folcroft. Mr. Baumler explained that this would be simply an added protection and that violations of civil rights would be reported to the Borough Manager. Those who report violations could completely ignore the municipal commission if they so choose. Councilman McGuigan believed that this was the last the Borough could do.

Mr. Baumler explained that this would be a 5 member, unpaid commission with 3 year terms. They would only meet if a complaint were to be filed. This was asked to be included in the agenda.

New Construction Committee – Mr. McGuigan

- No new business was discussed.

Old Business – No old business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.