

## MEETING MINUTES

### VIRTUAL FOLCROFT BOROUGH COMMITTEE MEETING

May 5, 2020

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

Mayor Bob Frey gave the Flag Salute and Invocation. They Mayor skipped the prayer and took a moment to reflect upon all those who lost their lives due to COVID 19.

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:**

Manager Hayman noted that a resident had released a public comment but did not want to give her address. Solicitor Alex Baumler said the comment could be read first before determining if it would be included in the record.

The resident noted the following:

This resident (later noted as being Mary Ann Laverty, 1068 Taylor Drive in Folcroft) could not park out back because of resident youths playing basketball. She was concerned that youths were not being monitored and that marijuana was being smoked and the resident heard cursing. This resident noted that they have been a resident of the Borough for over 60 years and took care of her 80 year old parents. Children were playing chicken with bikes, especially after 4:00pm. Broken down vehicles are in people's yards and there is not code enforcement. She said there should be better code enforcement like "15 years ago" and that people had respect a prior code enforcer. Taylor Drive from 7/11 is "a disgrace to all of us in this community" but to accomplish improvements code enforcers need to do work.

Mayor Frey asked if this issue was reported in the 6000 block of school lane – if so, he had already spoken to Chief Bair about this matter. Council President Papaleo noted that he has previously contacted the school district about the way children were behaving to no avail. Councilman McGuigan inquired as to the reason for concern about kids playing basketball, noting that he also used to do this. Mayor Frey said these are not "kids" and are generally 20 or older. Councilman McGuigan said that kids do these activities and that this shouldn't be a concern. The Mayor suggested that this may be similar to previous reports of kids riding their bikes directly at cars. Alex Baumler agreed to admit the name from the record but that in the minutes, the resident must have their name and address included.

Sandy Adams (736 Bennington Rd, Folcroft) wanted to take this opportunity to thank Council and the Mayor for all of their work. Thank you for partnering with Miller's Café to provide meals and thank you for the robocalls. A concern she had was the shared driveways, specifically on the even side of

Bennington. Ms. Adams believes this is due to landlords and tenants. She must now go via a different route to enter her driveway as the road is particularly degraded. She is concerned about damaging her vehicle. Neighbors park their vehicles parallel in the shared driveway, potentially blocking trash pickup, ambulances and fire. Lastly, she would like to confirm that the 2% tax discount has been extended to June 15<sup>th</sup>. Manager Hayman noted that he had already let her know about the 2% discount extension.

Council President Papaleo, speaking directly to Sandy, noted that Council had been prepared to act prior to the outbreak of COVID 19 but that this had so far thwarted the plan. He then explained how a parking permit plan could raise funds to repair the shared driveways en masse. Council President Papaleo said he is still negotiating with Council and he intends to revisit this as soon as is feasible.

Pat Casey (400 block of Charmont Ave) thanked us for our message inviting residents to voice concerns. She noted that a street light in the vicinity of the 400 block of Charmont sometimes shuts off and makes the street extremely dark. Manager Hayman noted that he had just received the message but that he would report it to PECO tomorrow.

Fire Chief Tom Weber said that Council President Papaleo asked that telesquirt 1 needs repairs and that this is an 18 month process and that another vehicle should be acquired. Council President Papaleo asked Solicitor Alex Baumler if there could be an executive session about this matter after the meeting. Alex Baumer confirmed, noting that the meeting minutes must reflect that executive session was called after the meeting.

#### **Public Finance & Administration - Mr. Papaleo**

- Council President Papaleo discussed the current state of Borough Finances and Affairs as relevant due to the COVID 19 Crisis and theoretical Borough programs. Council President Papaleo noted that he had a program he would like to pilot that might cover the bills of those who do not qualify for LIHEAP. Unfortunately, it was later noted that this might prove unconstitutional as per solicitor Alex Baumler.

Councilwoman Mindy Isaac asked about the PECO CAP program, encouraging residents to get on a budget. Council President Papaleo noted that while PECO has this program, many residents might be very close to the limits but not qualify for assistance, especially considering that many are now out of work. Utilities may have skyrocketed now that residents are home more than before. He noted that this was brought to his attention by a resident but that unfortunately he could not act. Councilman McGuigan stated that the Borough pays PECO a significant amount of money, would they be willing to adjust funds for residents because of this? Alex Baumler noted that this request would not be legally out of line to do, however the Borough could not donate money directly to residents. The concern is that the Borough is bound by the federal and state constituent to provide equal treatment under the law, this program must either be made available to all or none. There can be no restrictions. Council President Papaleo then asked how the county could make grant funding available to some businesses but not others if we were unable to do this. Council President Papaleo said that he understood, regardless, but would like to work with Councilman McGuigan to continue to investigate.

- Council President Papaleo discussed H&H trash pickup renewal – possibility of contracting for bulk pickup. Councilman McGuigan noted that while having the highway department doing it was not easy, we are seeing the reason why this system was set up (referring to refuse near the bulk trash dumpster) specifically mattresses. Councilman McGuigan said we are not a cleanout service and should be doing less bulk trash, not more. Council President Papaleo believed the restrictions on bulk trash and the confusion is starting to junk up the neighborhood and homes. This “back flow” over time has worsened. His concern was that helping residents take care of it “all at once” for a period of time we could go back to a regular schedule, though he understands that we are not a cleanout service. Council President Papaleo believes Glenolden is able to pick up trash and make decisions at that moment. Councilman McGuigan noted that trash truck drivers have not always been the most respectful to our residents.

Manager Hayman noted that he believes H&H has not always been perfect, however they have been very responsive to requests. There have been concerns about residents making a mess and that there are limitations with confirming residency but that it was working. He noted that there were serious concerns with the way bulk trash was being done, previously. Many residents received tickets or were confused by the system or otherwise could not access it. The system was not efficient and not providing the best service to residents. Tickets were frequently dropped after consulting with residents and much time was wasted. Perhaps moving to a borough-wide system with fewer items and not more than one or two days per month to decrease volume. Councilman McGuigan asked about the cost for this service, however Manager Hayman said that this cost had not been prepared yet. Councilman McGuigan wondered whether it would be easier to hire seasonal help instead of contracting through H&H – perhaps hiring kids during the summer to also help cut grass. Council President Papaleo did not think this was a seasonal issue and it was year round. He asked what volume for this program was like in January. Manager Hayman explained that volume was very high. Council President Papaleo was concerned there would be labor contract issues because of this. Mayor Frey said that this has historically been an issue and that the program should be limited to not more than one item per month or charge for extra. Councilman McGuigan noted that with regard to organized labor, they would rather have seasonal help rather than losing the contract. Council President Papaleo asked for this to be included in the executive session, Alex Baumler confirmed this was acceptable. Council President Papaleo asked if this was being prepared for us and what it meant. Manager Hayman noted some towns charge up to \$25 per item but that he did not want to do this because it would be a logistical nightmare. Council President Papaleo asked if these costs could be included with the tax bill, however Treasurer Joe Possenti said this would be impossible – Council President Papaleo speculated this would create more clerical work and would not be efficient, asking Manager Hayman to pursue many options. Manager Hyaman noted he was not advocating for any specific plan.

Council President Papaleo asked if we had an option to open up an offer for other contractors. Alex Baumler agreed that this was possible but it would depend on what the contract was said. Manager Hayman did not believe the terms had changed since at least 2015.

- Councilman Willis discussed work adjustments being made due to the COVID 19 Crisis. Councilman Willis asked Manager Hayman to describe what the highway department is currently doing. Manager Hayman explained that employees are currently cutting grass, though the “0 turn” lawnmower is out of service until tomorrow. Besides this, employees are picking up trash at parks but not much more. Mayor Frey said that the highway department had picked up the mattresses left near the bulk trash dumpster as well. Councilman Willis believed this was more than enough for right now. Council President Papaleo directed Manager Hayman to have the highway department mow a patch of grass at the culdesac at the end of woodland avenue as highway may have been unaware that we need to maintain it. Mayor Frey asked if this is a piece of land that was recently taken over last year. Councilman Willis was unaware if this was the case. Council President Papaleo was unaware as well, asking if we recently took over it. Mayor Frey said that the previous neighbor had been maintaining of it but that this was not being done any more. Council President Papaleo reiterated to let the highway department know – Manager Hayman agreed.

**Public Safety Committee** - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Councilman Ruskowski had no new business to discuss.

**Public Health and Literacy** - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac had no new business to discuss.

**Municipal Planning and Zoning** – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters had no new business to discuss.

**Public Parks and Recreation** – *Ms. Daly*

- Councilwoman Daly had no new business to discuss.

**Municipal Legislation** – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan had no new business to discuss.

**New Construction Committee** – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan said that after putting the bids out over a long period of time, the expectation was that a bid of \$7 million could be expected. Confirming with Alex Baumler that he could discuss this prior to a vote, he found that a bid of \$4.689 million, which was significantly lower than expected even when this plan was created over 3 years ago. He noted that this was a reputable company. Council President Papaleo said this is a company located in Folcroft, with offices across from the Borough. Council President Papaleo asked if he builder could negotiate with the contractor for some parts to save even more money. Councilman McGuigan noted that he could cut some expenses and is shopping around to save money. Council President Papaleo asked what the next move is. Councilman McGuigan said that in two weeks time we would vote for the new bid and that if “Everything is up to pa” we could formally accept this bid. Engineer Lisa Catania asked to have Councilman McGuigan make sure

her firm gets the bids as she has not received them. Councilman McGuigan said that all parties should have the bids, currently. Engineer Catania said she already has the bid tab but nothing more. She said that since this was expected to be the lower bidder, the architect might be able to do things not to compromise the quality of the project but to get us a “better number” and that a change order to the final number could be the formal contract number. Councilman McGuigan noted that the site work was also a Folcroft resident and so this is an “all Folcroft project.” Engineer Catania noted as an example that for a project in Norwood she was able to find a different material for the roofing for a project which was included in the change order and saved money. This should not be done after the contract because bargaining power could be lost. She believed this would be possible. Councilman McGuigan said it would be a good idea to set up a conference call with our engineer, architect, solicitor and treasurer as well as Council President Papaleo and Manager Hayman.

### **Borough Manager notes**

Manager Hayman discussed the way the Borough has been functioning and what his and Council’s vision for the future would be. As noted, Borough offices are closed. He had recently had Steve Glancristofaro get a laptop so that more work could be done. Code enforcement is being done about two days per week at random to prevent patters. Temporary Use and Occupancy permits are being issued with a caveat that they must get an inspection once things are done. Manager Hayman is in the Borough one or two days a week to sign/scan documents, complete the business plan and other necessary things. He has been working with Officer White to obtain 2,500 face masks for residents for a future drive-by mask giveaway event. It is still unclear when these will arrive. Council President Papaleo asked what business had made this donation. Manager Hayman noted it was a local Chinese restaurant but wasn’t sure which one. Manager Hayman said he believed it was close to Miller’s. Council President Papaleo thanked the business if they are watching.

### **Old Business:**

Councilman McGuigan said he wanted to discuss something in detail in executive session to go into more detail. He did not provide more commentary on this. Council President Papaleo inquired what this meant. Councilman McGuigan wanted to discuss work being done at the training center.

### **No new business.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm and executive session began immediately afterwards.