

MEETING MINUTES

VIRTUAL FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 19, 2020

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

Mayor Frey skipped the Borough prayer to take a few moments to think about those who've passed as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak. The Mayor then did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call (Council President Papaleo, Councilman Kyle Willis, Councilwoman Leigh Daly, Councilman Nick Waters (arrived late to the meeting), Councilwoman Malinda Isaac, Councilman Jason McGuigan, Councilman Robert Ruskowski, Mayor Bob Frey, Solicitor Alex Baumler, Secretary/Manager Andrew Hayman) were present. Manager Hayman reached

Audience Participation

There were no audience emails.

**A motion to Approve the Minutes for the April in person Council Meeting was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously

Engineer's Report

Engineer Lisa Catania mentioned that the inlets on Garfield and at Montgomery Park have been completed. There is an invoice in the amount of \$9,500 to be paid. Lisa had not heard back from PECO about the schedule of the road program to determine when the work in the Village would be completed. They could hypothetically do a "fee in lieu" which would mean that they could do the work, instead. There was a request to note other roads in the Borough that should be paved. A list of these roads had not been sent as of yet. Willow ave from Virginia to Warwick, Shalcross, Elmwood, Cricket and Ashland were the streets noted. This came up to \$152,000 worth of work. Roadwork in the village and ravenwood came to over \$450,000 for a total of \$670,000 in roadwork. This is keeping in mind that the total amount needed for the work before PECO reimbursement was over \$800,000. She advised that Council authorize the list so that it can be ready for the June committee meeting.

**Council President Papaleo entertained a motion to put this program out to bid. The motion was made by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Finance & Administration - *Mr. Papaleo*

- **A motion to approve a community mailer, to be printed by SED printing for a quoted approximate amount of \$2,450 with information about resources and assistance in Folcroft Borough was made by Council President Papaleo. The motion was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion to engage with “Jackrabbit” for online permit, ticket and fine collection. Council President Papaleo noted that he would like the Borough to start moving away from having cash as it is filthy and could spread disease. He noted that allowing payment through this application on the website would allow another method. Manager Hayman noted it would be on a link on the Folcroft website.

**The motion was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the month of April, 2020. Council President Papaleo noted that he did not receive a bill list or Treasurer’s report until directly before the meeting. Treasurer Possenti described the process and advised that he could update this process as needed after looking at them at the meeting. Mr. Possenti noted that Toni Melograno would stamp all bills and then they would be provided to the relevant committees for authorization or to answer any questions. Councilman McGuigan noted that you have to do payroll this way and that Council would have to approve payroll. Treasurer Possenti noted that he does not normally do it this way but he can. He said he can do this going forward with redacted names if needed. Council President Papaleo said it wouldn’t be necessary if this was not a requirement. Solicitor Alex Baumler noted that this was not typical practice and that it normally doesn’t happen. Mr. Possenti noted that the bill list is usually very small.

Council President Papaleo said he noticed a bill from a Brookhaven veterinary clinic. Mr. Possenti said this was for a police dog. Council President Papaleo said the bill list was sufficiently small that he could feel comfortable approving. Councilman McGuigan said normally a hard copy was given out directly before every meeting.

**A motion to approve the Bill List for the month of April, 2020 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman McGuigan. The motion passed unanimously

- A motion to approve the drafted RFP for Business Privilege Tax collection in Folcroft Borough . Firstly, Council President Papaleo wanted to allow discussion on this matter. Alex Baumler clarified that we are motioning to send out the RFP and not the document, itself.

**A motion would be to approve the advertisement of the RFP for tax collection was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McGuigan made a note that while he will approve of an RFP if it could save the Borough funds, but he does not want the Borough to get aggressive about tax collection during a pandemic. Council President Papaleo agreed and said he didn’t want to get a reputation of aggressively taxing local businesses.

In consultation with Mr. Possenti, Council President Papaleo entertained a motion to adjust the fund amount for act 205 filing to be more accurate.

**The motion was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman McGuigan. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

Councilman Willis explained that APPI is recommended by the PSAB. He explained that they can engage with suppliers and negotiate for a better rate for energy rates. APPI only gets funds based on the amount of money saved and not if there are no savings. Amounts will be learned after the fact.

- **A motion to allow Councilman Kyle Willis to engage in the free consultation services of APPI/provide them with the Borough's energy account information was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Willis said he had spoken to the Sharon Hill highway department and he had been investigating some numbers.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- **A motion to approve the Police Chief's Report for the month of April, 2020 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion carried unanimously.
- **A motion to approve the Fire Marshall's Report for the month of April, 2020 was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McGuigan asked Chief Bair if James McTighe is already an employee of the department or somewhere else. Chief Bair clarified that this person was not on payroll.

Councilman Waters arrived.

- **A motion to hire James McTighe as a Part Time Police Officer in Folcroft Borough was made by Councilman Ruskowski and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac had no new business.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters had a hard time hearing other members, but mentioned that the small shop at Garfield and Elmwood had asked that a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Garfield and Elmwood but that there had been nothing done. Council President Papaleo gave technological advice and then mentioned that this had been discussed. Council President Papaleo asked how a proper study to get a stop sign at this location, slowing traffic coming from Sharon Hill. He was concerned that this endangered residents, especially senior citizens who might be crossing the street. Lisa Catania said that the police would have to go out and do a study to take a look at the speed and volume of vehicular traffic. They would also have to determine whether or not a stop sign could even be added. If the police feel that this can be done, we could then vote to approve a stop sign for 30 days. At the end of 30 days, Council would pass a resolution that would make this permanent.

She also noted that there are other things that can be done for traffic calming such as grants for increased signage (moving traffic signs) lighting or other things. She said that many people do not care about stop signs or traffic regulations, anymore. The first thing that would need to happen would be a speed study at this location. Council President Papaleo asked Chief Bair to do a speed study. Chief Bair agreed to do this and said it would take approximately 1-2 weeks. Council President Papaleo asked that this be in the vicinity of the Field House, to which Chief Bair agreed. Chief Bair asked whether this would be a week or over a weekend. It was agreed that this should encompass both weekdays and weekends. It was determined that this will start on a Wednesday and then go through the weekend at no cost to the Borough.

Councilman Waters also said that Council had agreed to send vehicles towed by the police to Ray's auto. He asked if a contract had been drawn up. Council President Papaleo agreed that this work should be kept in Folcroft Borough. Councilman McGuigan noted that this was already with a Folcroft Business (Cerinos) as it stands. Chief Bair noted that this was switched from a Glenolden business to Cerinos to keep it in Folcroft. Councilman McGuigan said he agreed with the President to keep this work with Folcroft businesses. Council President Papaleo said that when parking permits begin (as he anticipated this would be soon) would Cerinos be able to handle the work. Councilman Waters said that the vehicles could be towed to a location in the Borough. Chief Bair said that Cerinos had plenty of room and he didn't know where it was coming from. Chief Bair said he was unaware of the previous conversation and believes the work should continue with Cerinos. Council President Papaleo believed this should continue in a private conversation with Councilman Waters after the meeting. Councilman McGuigan noted that previously he had left this work up to the Police Chief to let them determine who was the best business to deal with (fastest, cheapest, easiest etc) and that he had generally considered this to be administrative. He knew for certain that there was a conversation about this but it was never cleared up for members of Council how this process worked. Council President Papaleo believed that there this could be revisited at a later date.

Public Parks and Recreation – Ms. Daly

- Councilwoman Daly mentioned that a conversation should be had about a potential 4th of July parade. She said that if this was going to happen it should start now. Council President Papaleo said he would love to find a way to pull of a way to get around social distancing and that everyone is fed up with it. Councilwoman Isaac agreed with these sentiments, noting we weren't sure where things would be in a few months and that we could have transitioned into green phase. Council President Papaleo said that this could be cancelled if things changed.

Council President Papaleo asked if Councilwoman Daly was making a motion to create a committee to plan the 4th of July. Manager Hayman said we could reach out to J&T fencing to see about borrowing the old military truck outside Borough Hall. Perhaps a drive-by parade so people can stay away from eachother. Councilman McGuigan said that a 4th of July parade is more realistic than a community day, which would be at the end of September or October as the pandemic may pick up again. He said we could reallocate those funds. Councilwoman Daly said her only concern was the close

proximity of homes in the Village and that it would be hard to keep families separate. Council President Papaleo said that residents could be given the choice to participate or not.

**Councilwoman Daly made a motion to create a 4th of July parade committee. Seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan had no new business.

New Construction Committee – Mr. McGuigan

- **Councilman McGuigan made a motion to accept the lowest bid for the Folcroft Police Station, Borough Hall and community center project for \$4.689 million dollars by FX construction inc on solicitor's approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McGuigan said this was a big moment and thanked all members of Council, past and present for doing this. Chief Bair thanked Council for the new station.

**Council President Papaleo noted that Detective Dan White had secured face masks from a local business. Councilman Papaleo entertained a motion to put together an event. Motion made by Councilwoman Isaac and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Bair said that we're getting double the amount of ambulance calls and domestic violence, however burglaries are down. He said that utilities line service had some items stolen but we returned them. A vehicle was stolen but later recovered in Philadelphia. There were shots fired on Folcroft Avenue however police are investigating. Chief Bair thanked Council for approval of the station and for hiring the part time police officer. Council President Papaleo thanked the chief.

Solicitor's Report

Alex Baumler said that while things were mostly quiet, there are rumors that the courts may partly open for the majority of matters in June. His office has been in communication with the Chief for the opioid litigation subpoena and that another, narrowed request had been received. Besides this, there were no new reports.

Finance Director's Report

Treasurer Joe Possenti said that the federal government was attempting to pass another stimulus package. This had passed the House but not the Senate. He was unaware if this would pass. Currently, Andrew Hayman is in the process of attempting to recover some funds from PEMA. He said bills are on time but we are only paying essential spending and that there is no non-essential spending. There has been no stimulus funding directed to municipal governments. He said that he was in communication with local banks that could potentially lend to the Borough in the event that we need it. He said he will

participate in a webinar next week to reassess tax revenues, through a law firm that investigates various forms of tax collection. He said he was concerned that August and September could see a decrease in EIT tax collection. Council President Papaleo asked who was currently reimbursing us. Joe Possenti said PEMA is doing this.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Hayman said Toni Melograno has the phone. He said he has been in touch with Delaware County Council members have agreed to provide groceries to distribute 50-70 boxes of groceries. He said that unfortunately this would be on Friday, June 5th and would coincide with Operation Falcon. He suggested a robocall be done along with social media promotion. Instead of doing it outside of Miller's Café, it would be in the lot across from Borough Hall. He was also in talks with County Council for a pop up, mobile testing site. This may not ultimately occur.

Old Business

Mayor Frey said that he wanted to discuss the dumpster behind Borough Hall for bulk trash collection. He said that we are being taken advantage of and that there is the front end of a car in the dumpster. He asked how a car front end comes out of a house. Manager Hayman said that while he did not want to speak for residents personally, including for personal matters, that it looks noticeably cleaner, though that this cannot be entirely attributed to the dumpster. He did not believe there was a mechanism by which we could police who uses the dumpster. He said we could consider alternatives but that he suspects mostly Folcroft residents are using it. There is a backlog of residents using the dumpster. He said that sometimes 18-20 requests for bulk trash come in per week so there is a backlog.

Councilwoman Daly said that it is her bumper and was in her shed. She said her husband was in a collision with an uninsured driver in January and it's been in her shed, but that she is a resident and she takes credit for it. Manager Hayman said the dumpster is being emptied tomorrow morning and it's been emptied nearly every day. Council President Papaleo asked how frequently it fills up. Manager Hayman said that it has been radically increasing, filling up frequently within a day. Council President Papaleo asked what each dumping costs. Chief Bair suggested he could have officers check and see who is dumping. Council President Papaleo asked what this would cost, to which Chief Bair said it would be either part time or full time salary during specified hours. Otherwise, the highway department could do the work.

Manager Hayman said that while he is certain residents from neighboring communities had used the dumpster but that he was still confident the overwhelming majority is from residents. Mayor Frey asked when most of the items are being dumped. Chief Bair said the majority of items come during the day but it is all day. Councilman McGuigan said that this might be because we are not providing this service to the residents. Councilwoman Daly said that she, like many families, is doing a big cleanout with extra time as a result of the pandemic. Manager Hayman said trash pickups are also increasing, noting that H&H had said that pickups increased something like 50% in neighboring municipalities. Council President Papaleo said he was personally ok with the dumpster staying, though he would only support moving the dumpster if it was noticed that many outsiders were using it. He also said that he

believes the community looks cleaner. Chief Bair said he could have officers identify anyone they catch dumping and that non-residents could be fined if necessary.

Mayor Frey asked about a house with three foot grass on Taylor Drive. Manager Hayman asked about the address. Mayor Frey said he would reveal that off the record. Council President Papaleo said he was aware that a ticket was written. Manager Hayman said that he believed this was a property that was warned to complete work by Friday or otherwise be liened.

New Business

Councilman McGuigan said he was encouraged by discussion of 4th of July. He said that with Memorial Day coming up many people would be outside. He said that he respects that people should stay inside, but he wants to discuss with the Police Chief and Councilmembers to confirm that we won't be harassing residents who are spending time with their families. Council President Papaleo agreed and asked that we just make sure residents are being smart, but that there is a risk. So long as residents are acknowledging there is a risk and being smart.

Councilman Willis said that Officer Dan White had mentioned that he was interested in a blood drive. The idea was that with everything going on people might be more willing to donate. This would be in partnership with the Red Cross. He said that this had been done before at the firehouse and that it has everything needed. Besides finding a suitable location, we would publicize it and recruit a group to come and donate. At least 40 donations would be needed to make it worth their time. They would deal with all other logistical concerns. Dates in June considered were mentioned.

Manager Andrew Hayman wanted to make sure Council was aware that the Delaware County Young Democrats would like to do a cleanup event. As a member, Manager Hayman requested that this cleanup be done at a park in Folcroft. This is not a political cleanup, it's just getting members out doing something nice. He was thinking that a Sunday would work, but there isn't a specific date. This would probably be held at Montgomery Park. Several Councilmembers commented that this was a good idea. Manager Hayman wanted to reiterate that this is not a political event and that everyone can attend. Lastly, Councilman Willis requested thoughts on the blood drive. He said he didn't know what requirements would be since there was no cost incurred to the Borough.

A motion to authorize Councilman Willis and his committee to plan a Folcroft Community Blood Drive was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman McGuigan and seconded by Councilwoman Isaac. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.