

MEETING MINUTES

FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2020

PRESIDENT – Joseph Papaleo: Called the Council Meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Council President President Papaleo congratulated Borough Manager Andrew Hayman for recently getting engaged, noting that the news was circulating around town. He noted that the meeting started late as a result of technical issues. He also noted that an executive session was held directly prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mayor Frey took a moment of silence to remember those who have perished as a result of COVID 19, he then led the pledge of allegiance.

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:

Mr. Bob Kehler submitted the following comment, which was read into the record by Borough Manager Andrew Hayman, verbatim:

“Greetings, Andrew.

My neighbors and I have an issue with the filthy people at 1004 Taylor Dr. They are constantly feeding feral cats, that leave their disgusting droppings all over our yards. Currently, they have an abandoned vehicle in the back of their house, that is surrounded by trash cans and other items to shield anyone from seeing (Manager Hayman opted not to release the name of the resident) feeding these dirty animals. They in turn are attracting other animals such as foxes, raccoons and possums from the wooded area, out to her house. They eat any remaining food. We have voiced our displeasure with this woman previously, and next to nothing has been done! What she is doing is illegal, and it needs to be stopped! As soon as it's permitted, we will be at a borough council meeting to voice to council in person. Please feel free to contact me at this email address, as well as my cell phone: 609-980-3575. I hope to discuss this awful situation, as well as steps to be taken soon.

Thank you, Bob Kehler, 1018 Taylor Drive”

Manager Hayman noted that the code enforcer was sent to this location and that tickets were written and that he had personally inspect the location but that it still needed some work. Manager Hayman noted that this was not originally intended for the record however due to the severity, the resident suggested that this comment be included. Manager Hayman then read the following comment into the record, verbatim:

“Hi Mr. Hayman. It's Sandy Adams at 736 Bennington Rd. First, I want to thank the borough for getting the street sweeper back out. However, borough residents do not seem to be aware that they are to have their vehicles off the streets on sweeper day. The sweeper has not been able to clean my side of the street yet. It desperately needs it. Also, we have been having a lot of illegal parking issues. I don't think our residents fully know some of the borough rules. We have people continually parking parallel up and down in our common driveways. Overnight, etc. People are constantly parking on the wrong sides of the street out front now, causing narrower streets and safety hazards for us drivers. The newest thing is they are parking up on the sidewalks. Damaging sidewalks. I encourage borough council to re-communicate to our residents the safety rules and codes, and the consequences. Can we give our residents new reminders, warnings, then start enforcing these rules. On sweeper day, maybe we can we have the police department put a warning note on all cars, that effective the next sweeper day, they will be ticketed. Can we do that with cars parked illegally, too? This makes our residents aware of safety rules. The parking in the back alley is a real concern, as first responders cannot get by these cars. My side of Bennington has a real problem with this on the weekends, starting Thursday or Friday night around 5 p.m. it is difficult for us to get up and down our driveway. I truly believe, many of our residents are not aware of these rules, codes, laws. Also, we need to have them enforced more often for all our safety. I realize with Covid 19, everything has been difficult. Now may be the time to work on this. Thanks, Sandy Adams”

Manager Hayman noted that he had already followed up with Sandra Adams and that he would personally inspect this location with her. He invited Chief Bair to participate as they had done this in the past. Council President Papaleo asked if the Police are allowed to enforce traffic laws in the common driveways that residents own as for the purpose of emergencies safe passage in this area is critical. Solicitor Alex Baumler was not aware of the specific verbiage of the ordinance, however vehicles could likely not be ticketed unless the vehicle is blocking access to an emergency vehicle. Otherwise, it would likely not be enforceable. Council President Papaleo asked how residents felt (regarding street sweeping) how Council felt about just issuing warnings and not issuing tickets. Councilman Willis noted that part of the consideration previously was due to the inconvenience and now the issue was that the timing of street sweeping could not be confirmed. Councilwoman Isaac said that if residents have already been warned then tickets should be issued. Council President Papaleo said that he didn't believe that streets currently under construction were not being swept. Councilwoman Daly said that the concern is that vehicles are already being moved due to the work and that there is already limited space. She noted that she had met with residents who complained that tickets weren't being written, but that she had also met with Shawn Payne and that he believed that he was able to sweep a majority of streets without ticketing. Councilman Ruskowski suggested a robocall to residents. Council President Papaleo said that while residents might complain, residents might complain less if they receive a call prior to a ticket. Councilman Ruskowski said that given the time of year it might not be worth writing the tickets. Manager Hayman noted that due to the PECO work in the Delmar Village and that debris has accumulated on the street slowing down the speed of sweeping (and limited capacity) we cannot guarantee the timing of sweeping as posted. Council might as residents to move vehicles and then vehicles might return only to find that the streets had not yet been swept. A warning to residents in the form of a mailer or other way. Council President Papaleo said he hoped that next year the parking

permit program might be under way and that this would hopefully compensate for these issues. He further noted that exceptions might have to be made.

Councilwoman Daly suggested that Council might want to consider preparing a new, welcome to Folcroft mailer that would give residents needed information about parking, trash, street sweeping and other ordinances that they might not be aware of. Council President Papaleo said that there would have to be some way to intercept information about what new residents have come to a rental property, although this might be able to be found from the U&O department. Engineer Lisa Catania said that PECO is doing the final trench restoration on their project. She said that it might be advisable to let them know to street sweep as an intermediate solution. She said a lot of the resident's concern is construction debris like stone within the gutter line. Chief Bair said that his officers on the PECO detail six days per week and he can confirm that they have a vehicle that brushes debris and gets everything up most of the time, so there isn't much construction stone out besides cold patch. He suggested a robocall after the work is done to let residents know that the street sweeper is coming out prior to the winter and then starting fresh in the spring. Chief Bair confirmed that the name and address of the resident and then offered to step up the enforcement of tickets for vehicles parked on the wrong side of the road. Mayor Frey said that if a car is blocking the shared driveway they are going to push or drag it out of the way and that they should ticket cars in the drive, regardless of whether or not it is legal. Chief Bair said this is private property and that he will take down license plates and knock the residents doors to ask residents to move their cars. Chief Bair said there is a section in the vehicle code which gives officers leverage and allows them to sometimes ticket vehicles. Council President Papaleo and Chief Bair confirmed for Solicitor Alex Baumler that there is no posting that access needs to be available for emergency vehicles.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Lisa Catania said that she and manager Andrew Hayman met with Joe Damico and Lee Brahin regarding a proposed Popeyes drivethru at this site. She said it has already been approved for land development. She said she believed Mr. Damico had already moved out to the solicitor. She said there is language in the initial development which says what needs to be done in the second phase. She said she will take care of this once plans are submitted to the Borough. She said that in her initial report, she planned to have the basin back to a workable, functioning condition. She said that the basin behind the property needs to be returned to a workable, functional condition. She said that because the School District is not in session we have not received complaints about flooding or wetness that we received, previously. Safestor has begun demolition and we are still waiting for FEMA approval for work within the floodplain. She said this would take the form of an approval or review comments which could take several months, though right now they are able to do demolition. The DEP will not allow them to do any earth moving as of yet. Lisa said she would like authorization for a bid at the pumping station at the next meeting – which came in high, previously – for delaying the project until now and see if we can get better numbers. In the meantime, seeing if there is any chance of receiving an increase to the previous grant allocation.

The road program is expected to start on October the 12th, however it has now been delayed to the end of October. It is expected to be a three day project. They are still on the previous project due to rain delays. The walkway to the Amtrak station on Primos Ave work should begin within the next week or week and a half. She said the cost estimate to the road program for PECO has been forwarded to members of Council. They will do the trench restoration and then the Borough would be responsible for milling and paving the street. The cost estimate is over \$800,000 so it would be advisable to put this out to bid so we can let PECO know where we stand. So far as Lisa Catania is aware, the Borough will be paid with a fee in lieu with the remainder coming out of liquid fuels and or the General Fund. Street sweeping is required by our MS4 program and we are required to do this every quarter. She did not believe that the DEP would cite any violation as a result of COVID 19. She said the pollution reduction plan is currently out for public comment so any members of the public can come and review the plan and then make comments to the DEP. She asked if members of Council were interested in a PECO green region \$10,000 grant for open space improvements. She said these funds could be used to do work in the area between the two new buildings, however she reiterated that the amount is limited to \$10,000. She said the deadline for the grant is October 31st.

Manager Andrew Hayman confirmed if engineer Lisa Catania would like him to send out the report early as he typically does not do this until prior to the monthly voting meetings. She requested that he do this and then elaborated how it would be helpful.

Public Finance & Administration - Mr. Papaleo

- Council President Papaleo discussed the PECO restoration and how it relates to the road program. Council President Papaleo said he was unclear whether this is a reimbursement or a fee paid in advance and asked Lisa Catania to clarify this point.
- Council President Papaleo discussed renewing insurance and asked Manager Andrew Hayman to discuss what this meant, including the possibility of an RFP. Manager Andrew Hayman noted that he and Councilman Willis have been working on this, stating that this is about the potential of decreasing costs and not about getting rid of our provider. He noted that he believes our collective bargaining agreements probably preclude the Borough from decreasing the quality of coverage or increasing the cost and that on a personal note he would not tolerate doing this. Council President Papaleo said he was fine with this being put out on the market. Councilman Willis asked how the insurance procurement process works for the broker. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that it is similar to how you choose your electric supplier – the broker does not receive any commission from the Borough for this action, they simply find the best possible rate and then they provide the finders fee. He said that most municipalities choose to do this and that many municipalities keep the same provider. He said that the Borough could authorize an RFP at the next meeting. Councilman Willis clarified if the RFP is for the insurance or for the broker. He said you can RFP it out in a timely manner. Councilman Willis could go and get us new quotes in this event. Council President Papaleo asked what the consensus was. Council President Papaleo asked Manager Andrew Hayman to put this on the agenda. Councilman McGuigan asked for a list of all employees on insurance and the pension. Council President Papaleo asked for a list of all vehicles that are insured to this date.

- Council President Papaleo discussed a plan to install Chief Tom Weber as Borough Fire Marshall. He said he became aware suddenly that the Fire Chief had resigned suddenly and without much notice. He said he had this vacancy to fill and understood that Chief Tom Weber had expressed interest in filling the gap. Councilman McGuigan said that Chief Weber was Fire Chief in the past so he does have a record to go off of.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis said he would like to extend his congratulations to Dan Falcone and thanked him for 46 years of service to the Borough of Folcroft but wished him an exciting retirement. He also noted that bulk trash has begun through H&H and despite some pains restarting the process it has been functioning. He said as previously noted that street sweeping is starting, though we are not ticketing.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Councilman Ruskowski recognized Chief Tom Weber's 30th anniversary of service with the Folcroft Fire Department, to which Council President Papaleo extended his congratulations.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac noted that the mailbox for voting (ballot drop box) is out front of the Library. They are also doing a five day lunch giveaway in partnership with a nutrition company.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters had no new business.

Public Parks and Recreation – *Ms. Daly*

Before beginning this section, Council President Papaleo recognized the success of the recent street cleanup organized by Councilwoman Daly in the Borough. Councilwoman Daly thanked him and noted that at least a dozen residents had signed up to be street captains and gave notes and facts about the volume of refuse that was collected. She said that it might be advisable to have trash cans put in trouble locations noted during this event. She said we should look into this if it is financially feasible. Council President Papaleo noted that Manager Andrew Hayman is working with Mark Manfre in the Parks Department with the County to obtain more trash cans. Manager Hayman said that he met virtually with Mr. Manfre last week and is hoping to obtain some free cans and possibly other items as well to beautify our parks and streets. Council President Papaleo asked what these cans look like. Manager Hayman said they are heavy, metal brown cans.

Councilwoman Daly said that we cannot do the haunted hallways this year because of COVID 19, however we just did a flyer release today with all events on it that will be done instead. She said a common occurrence is to find residents who do not know what events are going on around the Borough as many residents do not listen to robocalls, flyers nor use social media. She said she was hoping to post flyers in strategic locations around the Borough. She said she also had an event "getting Boo'd by the

Borough” which she is creating an electronic signup for. She said there will also be a pumpkin carving event so that residents can participate in the carving contest. Lastly, she said that prizes will be awarded. She said she is getting a lot of positive feedback on facebook about these events.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. Waters*

- Councilman Waters discussed a land development resolution for Formcraft, which was overviewed by Solicitor Alex Baumler. Alex said that in the midst of completing the land development agreement for Formcraft, Borough Council did not conclude a land development resolution for Formcraft in November of 2019 and that no copy could be located. Lisa Catania said she had written a resolution but was not aware if it was acted upon or whether it was signed. Solicitor Alex Baumler said that if it was not signed it could be reentered later. He said Council would be voting on this in two weeks.

New Construction Committee – Mr. Papaleo

- Council President Papaleo said that we did have a preconstruction meeting with Arianna with Bob Linn and several others and that minutes will be typed and submitted to the Borough and that there is a checklist of things that must be completed. Councilman McGuigan clarified that this was about the disbursement of the grant and that the Borough has not yet received the grant.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Bair mentioned that there was a shooting on Carter road and between Bennington and Delview and said these were the same people shooting at Monroe and Taylor. He said the Darby Township Police helped us with this. Three adults and one juvenile were taken into custody and four guns were sent out.

He said the aerobic watches are done and the lines are painted so they will be ready for traffic control and calming. He said he worked on getting vehicles out of the Borough – specifically several from Delview Drive as there is a homeowner is sending vehicles to Africa in containers as part of a business.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Alex Baumler said things were quiet except Formcraft.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Andrew Hayman started by taking a moment to talk about one of our officers who was lightly injured in an incident last week – giving a shoutout to that officer and all of our other officers who put themselves in danger every single day. He said that he believes we have the best department in the county, pound for pound.

He also said that Denise has been filling in in a part time capacity for several months and that she has performed well and residents love her. He advised that she should be made full time. He also said that 150 boxes of food will be delivered to residents for free in the lot directly across from Borough Hall every Wednesday in October. The boxes contain 20 pounds of meat, dairy and vegetables.

Monthly code enforcement has been going well. Manager Hayman had initially understood that there were 225 tickets for the month of September. There were actually 204 tickets written as well. There is a dropoff in the number of tickets being issued but this may be due to cooler weather slowing grass from growing. Councilman McGuigan asked how many tickets were written in March, April, May, June, July and August 2020. Manager Hayman said that we were roughly averaging about 60 per month in the previous months but in August of 2020 284 tickets per month. Councilman McGuigan asked what Denise DiPasquale's title will be. Councilwoman Isaac asked the timing of the food giveaways – Manager Hayman stated 12:00pm to 3:00pm every Wednesday through October. Manager Hayman also noted that assistance may be required

Old Business

New Business

Councilman McGuigan asked if HR consultant Mike Diaz is on the call. He followed by asking that a dress code policy should be created for our next meeting. Council President Papaleo asked if one was put into place prior to this meeting. Councilman McGuigan said we never had an HR consultant before and thought this would be a good idea. Councilman McGuigan specified that he not reference the Police Department as they have their own dress code.

Council President Papaleo discussed the idea of renaming Montgomery Park. He said that there aren't too many people familiar with General Montgomery and that he isn't important to modern life or relatable, though this should not detract from his contribution to the American Revolution. He said this was not synonymous with any part of our history. He would like to reconsider the naming of the park as opposed to Delmar Drive to be named after President Obama. He said he won't be proposing it at the next meeting. Councilman McGuigan asked if other parks are going to be added to this list, to which Council President Papaleo confirmed that this could be done with majority consent from Council. Councilman Willis said that suggestions could be made to the Parks and Recreation committee. Councilwoman Daly said that Engineer Lisa Catania had advised that Montgomery Park had been added to a list of parks that need work and this is a good idea to overhaul them. Council President Papaleo said it might be worth soliciting for private donations as well.

Councilman McGuigan asked if any private donations had been given to the successful movie night. Councilwoman Daly stated that this had been fully funded by the Borough.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Willis and seconded by Councilman Willis. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.