

MEETING MINUTES
FOLCROFT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

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

Council President Papaleo noted that Folcroft Council previously held an executive session prior to the beginning of this meeting.

Council President Papaleo said 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 absent, Solicitor Patrick Hitchens is standing in for Alex Baumler, Secretary/Manager Andrew Hayman) were present.

Audience Participation there was no audience participation

Engineer's Report:

Borough Engineer Lisa Catania said that 2019 road program was submitted and thanked Joe Possenti for sending checks out. She said we would see an email and then a check from the County for aid. The 2020 road program – she spoke to AF Damon and is looking for bonds for the contract. Once this is completed, we should be ready for mid-October when she began that program. She and Andrew Hayman met with the office of HUD for the sanitary sewer project that we were awarded a \$239,000 block grant for sanitary sewer repairs. A signature card must be signed and the CDBG contracts (she would like to remind him that this is a HUD contract so much of the language in it cannot be changed. We are looking at beginning construction on the new complex, shortly. She spoke to Matt Bohler and they ran into a slight delay, but they are going to get the plans over and that soon we will be able to put together a final resolution for Self Storage. She believes they are two to three months out for FEMA approval for the floodplain. She says we can give them conditional, final approval at the next meeting. This concludes the report.

Council President Papaleo asked about the traffic triangle at Delmar and Primos ave and wanted to know what the process was to get the ball rolling. She said there is a greenway grant that gives a maximum of \$10,000 for this work and it is matching, so we would need \$10,000 to do it. It is not “major dollars” and the biggest thing is getting the concrete out. She said she would be able look into this soon. Councilman Waters asked about people across the street and asked what we would have to do to move it. Council President Papaleo said we could enclose it and it might look nicer. Lisa Catania said that we could go to PennDOT for a ramp application meeting ADA standards as she does not believe it is currently up to ADA standards.

Public Finance & Administration - *Mr. Papaleo*

- Council President Papaleo said that we have a total of four volunteers for a potential parking permit program. He said that he would like to visit this at our next meeting. He said this would need to be started at our next meeting.

- Council President Papaleo discussed a timekeeping policy. He said there are some edits, specifically typos, that need to be done related to this. He asked if Council Members would like to vote on this at the next meeting and expressed concern that there was not one previously but should be one now.

Public Works Committee - *Mr. Willis*

- Councilman Willis had no new business.

Public Safety Committee - *Mr. Ruskowski*

- Councilman Ruskowski had no new business.

Public Health and Literacy - *Ms. Isaac*

- Councilwoman Isaac had no new business.

Municipal Planning and Zoning – *Mr. Waters*

- Discuss any new business.

Public Parks and Recreation – *Ms. Daly*

- Councilwoman Daly said that the movie night would be 9/18 and the rain date would be 9/25. Manager Andrew Hayman said it would be called catching with fire with John Cena, or something like that. Councilwoman Daly said that she would like the Borough to advertise it even though we are partnering with True Love Church. She said she is setting up a committee meeting to do Halloween and she wanted input from Council about it. Council President Papaleo said asked how Council felt about doing Halloween at Borough Hall. Councilwoman Daly said she didn't know how she felt about hundreds of kids indoors on the same night. Councilwoman Daly said that we had also talked about doing a Youth Advisory Panel and that she would like it to get up and running. She said we need to find out what the kids are interested in. She said lots of kids are getting in trouble because they don't have anything to do or anywhere to be and they should have a place to be heard and to get their opinions. She said she would like to create a Youth Advisory Committee. Councilwoman Isaac agreed. Council President Papaleo wanted to recommend Sierra Coleman from Folcroft to head this program up and to bring more of her peers in who show leadership qualities and want to get involved in the community. He said we could decide this at the regular voting meeting.

Municipal Legislation – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan said there was no new business.

New Construction Committee – *Mr. McGuigan*

- Councilman McGuigan said he objected to having a Zoom meeting for a new construction meeting and believed it was not outrageous to have an in person meeting. He said that there was an outdoor area under cover overlooking the site at the Library and he believes this is a good site. Lisa Catania said she didn't know if this was Michele Wheeler but there are several people who usually do this via conference call. She does not believe there should be any reservations about coming out to the site. She said the best part about this is that for everyone on the site if something isn't clear on a plan we can discuss it and get it resolved, there. Councilman McGuigan mentioned that Council President Papaleo said that we should do time-lapse photography. He asked if members of Council had any ideas about what should be addressed at this time. Councilman Willis said he has a drone that could be used. Lisa Catania said that every so often it would be good to do an picture of the site. It was discussed that there could be kids in the playground and getting into the work area. Councilman McGuigan said that we can put the national fence that is supposed to be around the area, anyway as it is part of the project. Council President papaleo said that this is already.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Bair said that we had a Black Lives Matter march on Saturday and it went well and was peaceful. He also said that the Delmar Pharmacy issued a point and shoot thermometer for the officers that was very nice.

Solicitor's Report

The fill-in solicitor Patrick Hitchens, who noted that he is a partner at Kilkenny Law and that Alex is in Pittsburgh helping his mother with family issues. He mentioned that we had discussed a nepotism ordinance which had been discussed internally. Council President Papaleo said he intended to bring this up during new business. He said that he wanted to see what the Governor would say regarding Halloween, concurring with Councilwoman Isaac on this matter.

Finance Director's Report

Finance Director Joe Possenti said he needed to set up some meeting with the finance committee for the budget process and he has reached out to Keystone and some of our vendors about budgeting and that he would like to discuss with Council. Council President Papaleo asked members of Council to contact him this week, as late as Friday, to provide a "wish list" of expenses. Councilwoman Isaac asked if it was her wish list or the library's wish list. Council President Papaleo said that it was any expenditure that should be considered by the Borough. Council President Papaleo said he does not believe a wish list was submitted by the library last year.

Borough Manager's Report

Borough Manager Hayman noted his computer was frozen and asked Steve Giancristoforo to contact him after. He said that he was contacted by the Board of Elections seeking to move a precinct to Borough Hall from St. John's Lutheran Church. He said that they Board had already put signs out front of Borough Hall and that tomorrow it will be determined whether or not the precinct will be in the gym or

hallway. He said he could open up and close up at reasonable hours. Council President Papaleo said he would like it to be in the gym so there is one door in and one door out. Manager Hayman said he would relay this request tomorrow when possible. Councilwoman Isaac asked to clarify as she is in this precinct. Councilman McGuigan asked why we are getting involved with this, to which Manager Hayman explained that he was asked by the County. Council President Papaleo explained that there were some mishaps last time and that it seems that St. John's didn't seem to want this any more. Councilman McGuigan said that they County should be calling party leadership about things like this. Council President Papaleo said he needed people to understand where they will be voting now and not three days before the election. Councilman McGuigan said it should not be our decision and that it should be up to the leaders of both parties. The Solicitor stated that it might not be advisable to discuss election law and the sole focus of this discussion should be to whether or not the elections board can use this location, along.

Manager Hayman noted that at our last meeting he was asked to put together a code enforcement report but it was not sent out as it has personal information, though it can be provided to Council members upon request. He stated a total of 284 code enforcement violation fines were issued in the month of August for a tentative value of \$9,000. He said it's hard to compare but we have compiled data from previous years and that it is hard to compare previous months since some issues like tall grass or garbage fluctuate between months. Manager Hayman said that 26 tickets were issued in August, 2019 compared to this month's total. Council President Papaleo sought clarity, ensuring that we had issued 284 tickets in August, 2019. He expressed that he would hope this would encourage people to resolve issues faster and hoped that this wouldn't go on much longer. Manager Hayman noted for any resident watching that we do not want to fine you, so please address any issues you may be having to the Borough so that they can be resolved without a fine, though he could not guarantee that a fine would be removed. He noted that resources to divert issues to groups like Habitat for Humanity, which has extended it's deadlines for their home repair program. Council President Papaleo reiterated that we are not looking for the revenue, we are looking to have the issue resolved and encouraged residents to call the Borough.

There was no old business.

New Business

Council President Papaleo said we had a format for what other municipalities had done for an anti-nepotism ordinance. He said it was not exclusionary and it would define what was and was not appropriate for hiring purposes. Manger Hayman said that we had discussed this in a previous meeting and it was not clear, Council Members need to be clear and direct our solicitor to draft and publish an ordinance – a consensus, not a vote. Patrick, our temporary solicitor noted that he is the primary solicitor for Norristown and he is familiar with the ordinance. He said he shared the version of the ordinance from Norristown. He said it is always good practice to make a formal action to direct the solicitor to draft and present an ordinance and then advertise. Council President Papaleo said this is what he was seeking. He asked if anyone objected to directing the solicitor to draft and present an ordinance. Councilman McGuigan asked if he was clear that we were asking him to advertise an

ordinance before they've seen it. Manager Hayman explained that councilmembers were probably not sent a copy of the ordinance. Council President Papaleo said he should have disseminated this document to Council, maybe in time for the next meeting. Councilman Willis asked if he could direct him to draft the ordinance or if there should be more work. Council President Papeleo said he would be happy to accommodate any changes that we would be allowed to have if there was a consensus. Councilman McGuigan asked what the total population of Norristown was. Manager Hayman said he believed that it was about 23,000 people. Councilman McGuigan said he wanted to be clear that this did not pertain to unpaid committees as sometimes family members of members of Council must participate. The solicitor noted that he would advise they look at the language of the ordinance as it only pertains to paid positions. He then clarified that Council could choose to make changes if and when they see the draft and sometimes changes are made. He said anything more than minor changes requires Council to readvertise the ordinance and wanted to note this procedural change. Council President Papaleo said he believed he could go ahead and direct the solicitor to draft this ordinance.

Council President Papeleo thanked Patrick for participating,.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman McGuigan and seconded by Councilwoman
The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.