

Hatfield Zoning Hearing Board Announcement: Meeting is scheduled for December 7,  
2021 at 7:00PM at the Hatfield Borough Office

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 17, 2021

MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON  
BOROUGH HALL 401 S. MAIN STREET, HATFIELD  
THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
- (X) John Kroesser, Vice President
- (X) Salvatore DiLisio Jr.
- (X) Jason Ferguson
- (X) Lawrence G. Stevens
  
- (X) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that five members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Solicitor Catherine M. "Kate" Harper; Timoney Knox LLP, Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis, and Assistant Manager Jaime E. Snyder.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember DiLisio to Approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of November 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Minutes of the October 6, 2021 Workshop and October 20, 2021 Regular Meetings

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve the Amended Minutes of the October 6, 2021 Workshop and October 20, 2021 Regular Meetings. The motion was seconded by

Councilmember DiLisio and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

3. PUBLIC INPUT: President Weierman asked if there was any Public Input. No Media Present.

Owen Wilcox, 32 E. School Street addressed Council to again object to the opinion that committee meetings do not have to be advertised and stated that he believes the Borough is in violation of the Sunshine Law due to the definition of Agency and asked Council to please take another look and consider opening all committee meetings to the public.

Mr. Wilcox then addressed the 2022 draft budget that was scheduled for discussion during the meeting. He expressed concern regarding the proposed tax increase and asked Council to please consider looking at budget item expenses that can be cut such as uniform clothing, administration costs, summer maintenance, web design, equipment purchases, and police contract costs. Mr. Wilcox spoke about North Wales Borough and their administration and police services cost as a comparison.

Solicitor Harper gave her opinion on the language in the Sunshine Law.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- HMHS Meeting November 23rd @ 7:00PM at the HVFC and on FACEBOOK Live
- The Borough Office will be Closed Thursday & Friday November 25th & 26th in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
- Next Council Meetings December 1st Workshop and December 15th Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM in Council Chambers
- HERC is Scheduled to Meet Wednesday, December 15th @ 8:00AM via ZOOM Registration is Required

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Personnel Issues Discussion. Meeting was adjourned and reconvened after executive session at 8:22PM

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Christmas Tree Lighting Announcement (see attached)

President Weierman stated that the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce previously hosted this event and now Grace Lutheran Church has taken this over. President Weierman added the event is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

B. Resolution 2021-28 Transferring Funds for the Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$167,173.20

President Weierman stated that this resolution is to transfer funds from savings to the general fund checking to make payment on the East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project.

### C. Advertising Requirements

Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder outlined the advertising requirements for the budget, taxes, and meeting dates.

Solicitor Harper stated that the incoming elected officials will have time to review the budget and can make changes, if advertised, until February 15, 2022.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### A. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4

President Weierman stated that this is payment Application No. 4 for the East Lincoln Avenue Bridge. President Weierman noted that one previous change order for \$31,000 was not listed but the contractor was notified.

### B. Orchard Lane Forest Way Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project Revised Schedule

Manager DeFinis highlighted the revised project schedule.

### C. 2022 Meeting Dates

President Weierman highlighted the 2022 meeting dates and added that any conflicts should be communicated with Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder.

### D. Ordinance No. \_\_\_ Keeping of Animals

Solicitor Harper stated that included in the packets was the second version of the of the Ordinance. She added in this version it limits the cats to six and defines nuisance.

A discussion ensued amongst Council regarding the limit of six cats.

Councilmember Kroesser asked who is the Animal Control officer listed, is it a Borough employee, and what is the role of the Police Department.

Manager DeFinis stated that the Animal Control Officer is located in the County and the Police Department does not get involved or enforce.

A discussion ensued amongst Council about this Ordinance and any fees that would be associated with this for the TNR program and the Animal Control Officer through the County. It was discussed to leave this item on for further discussion.

#### E. EPPG Capacity Letter

President Weierman explained EPPG to Council and Manager DeFinis and stated that the vendor has not yet secured capacity pricing and is still working through opportunities that could help assist in lowering the capacity charges on the monthly electric bill. Manager DeFinis stated that this letter, if authorized, would allow the Borough to participate in pricing costs if favorable to help with capacity charges.

A short discussion ensued amongst Council about capacity.

Councilmember Ferguson stated that the Utilities Committee recommends authorizing the Borough to participate in this initiative.

Manager DeFinis added that if the letter is signed and the numbers do not work, the Borough is not liable to participate.

#### 7. 2022 Budget Preliminary Presentation

President Weierman stated that this was the first time all of Council has seen the budget though staff and the Budget, Finance, and Labor Committee have been working on it for a while. President Weierman stated that tonight would be small snap shot of the budget focusing on Capital Projects to allow Council time to review the entire budget. President Weierman stated a detailed presentation would be given at the December 1, 2021 Council Meeting.

Weierman had Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder review the Capital Projects section of the budget, highlighting the projects in which monies were borrowed or would need to be borrowed for future projects.

President Weierman went over the past borrowing in detail describing the debt service for the Borough moving forward and stated that the Borough Treasurer completed a debt sheet that can be included in the next Borough packet.

President Weierman added that the Borough is at a major disadvantage due to PennDOT not taking ownership of infrastructure under state owned roads in Borough's. President Weierman added that as you heard many of the projects deal with infrastructure under state roads that are part of the Capital Projects Budget in 2022.

President Weierman stated that in this proposed budget there was no increase in electric or sewer rates or fees but it does call for a 2mill tax increase bringing the total proposed millage in the Borough to 4.25.

President Weierman encouraged all of Council to look at the budget and come to the December 1, 2021 Workshop Meeting with questions.

#### 8. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Motion to Consider Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4 in the Amount of \$167,173.20 (one hundred sixty-seven thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars and twenty cents)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4 in the Amount of \$167,173.20 (one hundred sixty-seven thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars and twenty cents). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

B. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-28 Transferring Funds for the Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$167,173.20 (one hundred sixty-seven thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars and twenty cents)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-28 Transferring Funds for the Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$167,173.20 (one hundred sixty-seven thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars and twenty cents). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

C. Motion to Consider Authorizing Michael J. DeFinis, Borough Manager, to Sign the EPPG Installed Capacity Letter on Behalf of the Borough of Hatfield

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Authorizing Michael J. DeFinis, Borough Manager, to Sign the EPPG Installed Capacity Letter on Behalf of the Borough of Hatfield. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

D. Motion to Consider Personal Issues, if any

President Weierman explained when in executive session this evening Borough Council received a letter of resignation from current Borough Manager, Michael J. DeFinis.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve Accepting the Conditional offer of Resignation and General Release Exhibit of Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis effective January 3, 2022 at 4:30PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DiLisio.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

9. MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

President Weierman and Manager DeFinis reviewed and answered questions regarding the bill list.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

President Weierman asked for any questions or comments.

Owen Wilcox, 32 E. School Street asked if there was a process for billing vehicles for accidents. Manager DeFinis stated Yes, and explained the policy.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Regular Meeting November 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaime E. Snyder  
Assistant Manager