

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
March 3, 2021

MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD ON ZOOM WITH THE PUBLIC  
AVAILABLE BY ZOOM AUDIO AND VIDEO  
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, Mayor, Robert L Kaler III, Solicitor Catherine M. 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 Kroesser to Approve the Workshop Meeting Agenda of March 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DiLisio and was unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

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

Owen Wilcox 32 E. School Street, apologized for misunderstanding the registration requirements. Mr. Wilcox went on to discuss his concerns with the Agenda item addressing the Sewer Later Ordinance. Mr. Wilcox stated that he believes this would be a large burden in today's market as it would require an additional step to sell your property and could be a burden in today's market. Mr. Wilcox added that he couldn't find an adopted Ordinance in Hatfield Township or any local municipality and believes there has to be a better solution for the infiltration of ground water.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Council Meeting March 17, 2021 Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM VIA ZOOM Registration Required
- HMHS is scheduled to Meet Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00PM VIA Facebook Live
- HERC is scheduled to Meet Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00AM VIA ZOOM Registration Required
- Next Planning Commission Meeting is Scheduled for April 5, 2021 @ 7:00PM VIA ZOOM or In Person Registration Required

#### 4. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND MAYOR:

President Weierman asked about the curb and sidewalk replacement project status for Borough Residents.

Public Works Director, Stephen Fickert, stated that sidewalks will be marked this week, weather pending.

#### 5. MANAGERS REPORT: General Report and Project Updates. Manager DeFinis reviewed the reports and made the following announcements:

##### 1. Land Use & Development Updates:

- A. St. Mary St. Kyrillos Coptic Church / Use Under Review
- B. Hatfield Auto Museum - Nothing New
- C. 122 ½ Towamencin Ave - Demo Permit Pending Recording
- D. Salter's – Bought Old Firehouse – 90% Renovation Completed
- E. Edinburgh Square Subdivision – Grading Permit / Utility Installation
- F. SEPTA Property / License Agreement
- G. 43 Roosevelt Avenue – Plan Under Review waiting MCPC
- H. Bennett's Court – Preliminary Plan Under Review
- I. 127 Penn Avenue - Plan Under Development

##### 2. Utility Billing Update:

- A. Staff continues to monitor past due Electric & Sewer accounts. Residents are being sent reminders for PAST DUE ACCOUNTS.
- B. I encourage all account holders to take advantage of the cost-effective billing delivery opportunity.
- C. Electric Customer Portal now available.

##### 3. 2021 Projects:

- A. East Lincoln Avenue Bridge - bid opening held on February 25<sup>th</sup>
- B. ADA Curb Ramp - reviewed and awarded
- C. Roadway Resurfacing - bid opening March 11<sup>th</sup>
- D. Stormwater Projects - scheduled around Public Works Schedule

4. AMP R.I.C.E. BTM Peaking Project - Electric work completed / Site Visit / Fiber Cable being installed
5. PMEA Update - Website
6. AMI UPDATE – 1156 Meters installed / in-house prep for billing
  
7. HERC Update:
  
8. Conference Updates:
  - A. PSAB Annual Conference virtual June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>
  
9. Items of Interest:
  - A. PSAB Pod Cast
  - B. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Façade Example
  - C. Hatfield Borough Borrowing Base Certificate

Councilmember DiLiso asked about the AMI update and Manager DeFinis explained how the Borough is operating on two different systems until all meters are installed. Councilmember DiLisio asked if any issues have come up with the new system. Manager DeFinis stated a few glitches but nothing major.

6. ASSISTANT MANAGERS REPORT: Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder reviewed the following items:

1. LCAP Steering Committee Request Letter (attached)
2. 309 Connector Route [www.pa309connector.com](http://www.pa309connector.com)
3. Meeting with County Administration on COVID-19
4. PEMA/ FEMA PPE Grant Update - Awarded \$4,959.04
5. Statement of Financial Interest Forms
6. Borough Website Update (attached)

7. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Feral Cat Ordinance / Chapter 2

Manager DeFinis stated that in your packets was a draft of a Feral Cat Ordinance. This Ordinance was established due to complaints about the number of feral cats in the Borough especially at one specific location.

President Weierman asked to define sponsor in the Ordinance and Solicitor Harper stated that this would be the person who is feeding the cats, they would then take responsibility to trap, neuter, release. Local organizations were discussed for possible outreach.

Councilmember Kroesser asked where this draft originated from and Manager DeFinis stated that research was done from other municipalities in the area.

President Weierman addressed some clerical corrections needed on the Ordinance.

Councilmember Ferguson asked what's the process by which someone would report an issue and what would the township police do when receive the report? Lieutenant Robertson addressed the question and gave details on how the Police have handled this type of complaint in the past.

It was decided that the Borough will continue to talk about this Ordinance at future meetings and also hear what the Planning Commission has to say about it.

#### B. Sewer Lateral Repair Ordinance / Chapter 18

Manager DeFinis stated this Ordinance is being considered by Hatfield Township. In collaboration with Hatfield Township Municipal Authority (HTMA). Manager DeFinis stated that the Borough can make all the connections and repairs we want but have 60/70-year-old pipes in the ground that haven't been addressed causing I&I issues in our system which is traveling to the HTMA.

Solicitor Harper stated that historically the Borough was asked to reduce I&I into the sewer system that is processed by HTMA. The Borough has in the past televised all the mains and repaired any problems, including the interceptor project. Solicitor Harper stated that the Borough does a good job maintaining their own pipes but individual private pipes are the issue we are talking about with this Ordinance.

President Weierman stated that he would like to see additional background information from other municipalities who have adopted similar Ordinances and how it might have impacted the sale of the property.

A discussion ensued amongst Council regarding time frames for televising, the process of which the televising would address a crack vs. a full repair, time frames for future inspections, and the potential costs to the homeowner.

Councilmember Ferguson suggested that the Ordinance address if there was a dispute Who would handle it? Councilmember Ferguson stated he understands the concept just questions the process.

Solicitor Harper added that DEP is coming down hard on municipalities addressing I&I.

Councilmember Ferguson asked if there was a target area that could be focused on instead of a blanket Ordinance for the entire Borough. Solicitor Harper stated that she thinks that will be tough and Manager DeFinis added that the problem is across the entire Borough.

President Weierman asked why this Ordinance did not address commercial properties and it was stated that those could be added.

Councilmember DiLisio gave an example of this process that he personally went through it in a neighboring municipality.

Manager DeFinis stated that we will continue to talk about this proposed Ordinance and that he will gather information from local municipalities.

#### C. Resolution 2021- 05 PMEA Voting Delegate

President Weierman stated that this is just making a change that Assistant Manager, Jaime Snyder will be the PMEA Representative and voting delegate and Borough Manager Mike DeFinis will be the alternate.

#### D. 2021 Montgomery County Millage Rates

President Weierman reviewed the MONTCO tax rates for 2021. Manager DeFinis added that this does not include the School District.

#### E. East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Bid Results

Manager DeFinis reviewed the bid results from the East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project.

#### F. 461 S. Main Street Zoning Hearing Board Application

Solicitor Harper stated that Borough Council doesn't usually weight in on the ZHB unless if strong feelings occur, you would send letter or solicitor on the Borough's behalf. Solicitor Harper stated that this one is different as it is a straight code enforcement case. Solicitor Harper outlined the case involving a sign dispute at 461 S. Main Street for Council and discussion ensued if Council would like to send the Solicitor and or send a letter to the ZHB.

President Weierman stated if we don't challenge it and let them keep the sign what precedent does that set for future signs?

Manager DeFinis went over the Zoning Code for signs in the Borough and Councilmember Stevens asked if the ZHB approves the application, would they still need a conditional use from Council?

Councilmember Kroesser asked about the liability of the Zoning Officer.

Solicitor Harper addressed the question and stated that he would not be liable and you can't sue him for the cost of the sign. Solicitor Harper stated that she would keep Council

updated and send out a draft of compliances based off of the current Ordinance requirements and look into a Conditional Use Haring.

#### G. Pool Advisory Board Member

President Weierman stated that Mr. Sweet was interested in serving on the Pool Advisory Committee and this would be on for consideration at the next meeting.

#### 9. OLD BUSINESS:

##### A. Resolution 2021-04 Considering the Preliminary Plan for the 43 Roosevelt Avenue Land Development Project

President Weierman stated that he has the same question with North Girard Terrace or just Girard Terrace. It was decided to talk to the developer and work with what the tax duplicate states for 2021.

#### 10. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager DeFinis and President Weierman updated and answered questions regarding the Reports and Correspondence. Lieutenant Robertson answered questions regarding the Police Report.

- Monthly Investment Report
- Monthly EIT / LST Report
- Police Department Report
- Fire Department Report
- Public Works Department Report
- Engineering Report
- Zoning Officer, Building Code, Property Maintenance Report
- Fire Marshal / Fire Safety Inspection Report
- Pool Advisory Board Report

#### 11. ACTION ITEMS: (public was taken off mute for any comments)

##### A. Motion to TABLE Resolution 2021-04 Approving the Preliminary Plan for the 43 Roosevelt Avenue Land Development

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to TABLE Resolution 2021-04 Approving the Preliminary Plan for the 43 Roosevelt Avenue Land Development motion was seconded by Councilmember DiLisio.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions. No vote was needed.

B. Motion to Consider Awarding the East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project to AJ Jurich, Inc. in the amount of \$964,117.00 (nine hundred sixty-four thousand one hundred seventeen dollars)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Award the East Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project to AJ Jurich, Inc. in the amount of \$964,117.00 (nine hundred sixty-four thousand one hundred seventeen dollars). 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.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of March 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:51PM

*Executive Session Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaime E. Snyder  
Assistant Manager