

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 17, 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.
- ( ) Jason Ferguson - arrived at 7:33PM
- (X) Lawrence G. Stevens
  
- (X) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that four members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Solicitor Catherine M. Harper; Timoney Knox LLP, Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis, and Assistant Manager Jaime E. Snyder. Councilmember Ferguson arrived to the meeting at 7:33PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Workshop & January 20, 2021 Regular Meetings

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Workshop & January 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. The Public was allowed to comment from Zoom audio during this time. No Public Comment. No Media Present.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- HERC is scheduled to Meet Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00AM  
VIA ZOOM Registration Required
- Next Planning Commission Meeting is Scheduled for March 1, 2021 @ 7:00PM VIA ZOOM and In-Person Registration Required
- Next Borough Council Meetings are the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Meeting & March 17th Regular Meeting both at 7:30PM via ZOOM Registration Required

President Weierman read retired Public Works Director, Fred Leister's Thank You Card.

5. Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance No. 539 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Hatfield Authorizing for the Incurrence of Non-Electoral General Obligation Debt in the Amount of \$1,955,000.00

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: Opened the hearing at 7:38PM.

SOLICITOR HARPER: Would like to mark some exhibits B1 is the Ordinance and B2 is the advertisement for the Ordinance that was run in the North Penn Reporter. Jaime, please include the advertisement with the meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR HARPER: This Ordinance would have the Borough borrowing \$1,955,000.00 through the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority for at a significantly low rate for Capital Projects. I am going to have Manager DeFinis highlight the projects at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER DILISIO: Was this called a tax anticipation loan at one time?

MANAGER MICHAEL DEFINIS: No, this is a borrowing loan because of the projects we have, the capital improvement program and the projects and items that are being funded including the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge, Orchard Lane, Cross Walk Project, Fire House Alert Signal and Vehicle Loan. Due to all of the projects that are associated with grants being reimbursable projects, we are borrowing the funds to complete the projects then paying the loan off in two different ways; short-term when the reimbursable funds are given back to the Borough for the completed projects and long-term will be the Borough required matching funds. If you look at the two sets of payments both are leveraged out over twenty years but one is Series A fixed rate, the Borough matching costs for the projects including the vehicle and the second is the Series B variable rate which is the variable rate that will be repaid with the reimbursements from the grant funds we receive once the project is complete.

SOLICITOR HARPER: Can you go over the loan amounts again?

MANAGER MICHAEL DEFINIS: \$1,955,000.00 which covers the DeVal costs, insurance for the loan, DCED application and other charges, such as legal fees and advertising. Those costs are \$21,500.00 of the loan.

SOLICITOR HARPER: Does the Borough have enough room to borrow these funds?

MANAGER MICHAEL DEFINIS: Yes, we have plenty of room for borrowing.

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: Any questions or comments from Borough Council or the Mayor?

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: We talked about having funds on March 1, 2021 but I assume our goal is going to be March 25<sup>th</sup> as we don't have any need for the funds at this time. Is this correct?

MANAGER MICHAEL DEFINIS: Yes, that is correct.

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: I suggest we have a separate bank account for these funds to make them easier to track. They should be kept separate.

MANAGER MICHAEL DEFINIS: Yes, agreed and we have done this in the past with Harleysville.

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: One technical thing in the loan agreement, exhibit E should be D as marked.

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: Any questions or comments from the Public?

OWEN WILCOX, 32 EAST SCHOOL STREET: Since solicitor mentioned it, what is the limit of borrowing thus would trigger voter approval?

SOLICITOR HARPER: It is a calculation based on revenue and borrowing but the Borough is nowhere near it. Millions of dollars is the state law limit.

PRESIDENT WEIERMAN: We currently have two obligations outstanding one going back to 2003 and one that we just refinanced for a total around 6 million and our non-electoral debt is 18 million available meaning the Borough could borrow up to an additional 12 million.

OWEN WILCOX: The projects that were read aloud by the manager as part of this Ordinance, I am assuming the actual project amounts for each of those can be found in the budget?

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: Yes.

SOLICITOR HARPER: They are publicly funded bid projects.

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: Hearing no other questions, the hearing is now closed at 7:54 pm.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### A. 43 Roosevelt Avenue Preliminary Land Development Resolution

Solicitor Harper stated she prepared this resolution and would like to point out all the listed conditions as the law has been if you don't specify in preliminary, it is hard to ask for it later.

Manager DeFinis stated that Borough Council may want to consider that the MCPC letter has not been received by the Borough yet.

President Weierman asked to just make sure the correct date is on the plans and we have the most recent changes.

Manager DeFinis stated this set of plans was the most recent submitted for preliminary review. Manager DeFinis added that he will make sure all review letters and concerns are addressed prior to final submission. Manager DeFinis stated since the Borough is waiting on the final review letter from the MCPC, it is ok to wait till March for preliminary approval.

### B. Revised 2021 Roadway Resurfacing Project Schedule

Manager DeFinis stated due to some comments the Borough received from PennDOT bid specs we did not advertise immediately after the meeting. Manager DeFinis stated once the Borough received the comments, Chad incorporated them and it was advertised but this pushed the schedule back a few weeks.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS: (NONE)

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

A. Motion to Consider Ordinance No. 539 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Hatfield Authorizing for the Incurrence of Non-Electoral General Obligation Debt in the Amount of \$1,955,000.00 (one million nine hundred fifty-five thousand dollars)

Motion:

A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Ordinance No. 539 Amending the Code of

Ordinances of the Borough of Hatfield Authorizing for the Incurrence of Non-Electoral General Obligation Debt in the Amount of \$1,955,000.00 (one million nine hundred fifty-five thousand dollars). 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 TABLE the Preliminary Application of ABP Investments Inc. for a Four-lot Subdivision at 43 Roosevelt Avenue with Conditions**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to TABLE the Preliminary Application of ABP Investments Inc. for a Four-lot Subdivision at 43 Roosevelt Avenue with Conditions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DiLisio.

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

**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 Ferguson to Approve payment of the bills. 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.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion:

A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Regular Meeting February 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaime E. Snyder  
Assistant Manager