

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
November 2, 2016

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
 - (X) Kenneth V. Farrall
 - (X) Stephen E. Keib
 - (X) John Kroesser
 - (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 Secretary Jaime E. Snyder.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Approve the Workshop Meeting Agenda of November 2, 2016 with additions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser and was unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

2. PUBLIC INPUT: President Weierman asked if there was any Public Input.
No Public Input.
Media Not Present.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- Next Council Meeting November 16, 2016 Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM at the Hatfield Vol. Fire Co.
- HERC is scheduled to meet Wednesday, November 16th @ 8:00AM at the Hatfield Vol. Fire Co.
- The Next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, December 5, 2016 @ 7:00PM at the Hatfield Vol. Fire Co.
- The Borough Offices will be closed Friday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day and November 24th & 25th in observance of Thanksgiving

4. New Borough Website Presentation

Lindsay Hellmann, the Borough's Public Information Coordinator went over the design and layout of the new Borough of Hatfield website with Council, Mayor and staff.

Ms. Hellmann walked through the different drop down menu items for the new website including the home page, news, events and meetings, government, resources, parks and recreation, history, HTV and contacts.

A discussion ensued amongst Council about the design and layout of the new website.

Ms. Hellmann stated she will take all comments back to the web designer and send out a link to view when the updates are complete.

5. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND MAYOR:

HERC Committee: Sponsored a Social Media Program for businesses which was attended by about a dozen local businesses.

Public Safety: Lt. Robertson gave the monthly Police Report which was located in the packets and the Public Safety Committee did meet this month.

Councilmember Farrall informed Lt. Robertson about the vandalism on the Chestnut Street Trail Bridge.

The Hatfield Police Department is asking residents / businesses to let them know if they have camera's located on their property that they would be willing to let the police examine if there was ever an incident in their immediate area.

Manager DeFinis added that we will be looking to upgrade our camera system with DVIT Grant funds.

6. MANAGERS REPORT / MUNICIPAL COMPLEX UPDATE: 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 / Sewer Escrow Under Review
- B. GLC (Grace Lutheran Church) / Under Construction
- C. Gambone/Snyder Townhomes / Utility Billing – Resolved Final 6 Construction Permit issued for Borough Portion of the Project
- D. Hatfield Auto Museum / Nothing New
- E. Crystal Rose Catering / Nothing New

F. Hatricks / Waiver of LD Request Granted / Bar enclosure installed under a building permit / Flea Market Approval Pending

G. 122 ½ Towamencin Ave. / Access to Property / Nothing New

2. Utility Billing Update:

A. Staff continues to monitor past due Electric & Sewer accounts. Electric disconnects are scheduled for November 17th.

B. Email Billing available for Electric & Sewer Accounts. I encourage all account holders to take advantage of the cost effective billing delivery opportunity.

3. Utility Review:

A. Two Sanitary Sewer Laterals have been repaired. A third is scheduled for repair in September.

4. 2016 Project Updates:

A. Bid Items for 2016:

Towamencin Avenue Reconstruction, bid ready for advertisement- waiting for Multimodal Grant

Electric Circuit Reclosers installation in progress - installed / 1 defective and being shipped

Centennial Park Sanitary Sewer Repairs reviewed completed, will start next week.

5. Municipal Complex Update

6. The AMP Solar Project II notice of participation deadline has been extended to December 1st. - Waiting to see numbers

7. Attachments:

A. NEXT era Energy Public Power Summit Announcement

B. Chamber Christmas Tree Lighting December 3rd.

8. Items of Interest:

A. HMHS Meeting Tuesday, November 22nd HVFC 7:30PM

Manager DeFinis stated that staff and himself met with the Pension provider to do an asset reallocation.

Manager DeFinis stated that the ZHB Decision has been appealed.

7. 2017 Preliminary Budget Presentation

Manager DeFinis stated that everyone should have received a copy of the Preliminary Budget and the Budget Finance and Labor Committee has been meeting and working on this with staff for the past few months.

President Weierman went over the preliminary budget with Borough Council and addressed real estate taxes, earned income taxes, electric rates, line items in the general, electric, sewer funds as well as capital projects and liquid fuels.

A discussion ensued amongst Council about the budget including the new municipal complex funding and no additional questions were addressed.

8: NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Action Items List for November 16th Regular Meeting & December 7th Workshop

A. 2017 Borough Council & Planning Commission Meeting Dates

President Weierman went over the meeting dates for 2017.

B. Ordinance # 523 Dealing with Solar Equipment, Satellite Dishes and Impervious Surface Limitations

Solicitor Harper stated that at your place tonight is the revised version. She stated that the Zoning Officer / Fire Marshal had comments about the residential uses by zone vs. commercial zone or combination residential / commercial zones.

Solicitor Harper stated we do not want to have solar panels on commercial properties but we do want to allow them on residential this changed the ordinance to make it specific to residential.

Solicitor Harper added that as this reads it must comply with the side or rear yard setbacks but it is allowed on your roof and can be higher than the height requirement.

A discussion ensued about not allowing solar panels in commercial zones and keeping townhomes listed in the Ordinance.

C. Ordinance # 525 Fixing the 2017 Real Estate Tax Rate

President Weierman went over Ordinance # 525 and stated it would be adopted prior to the budget.

D. Ordinance # 526 Amending Chapter 1 Section 121 / Tax Collector's Compensation

President Weierman went over Ordinance # 526 and mentioned that the increase would not occur till January 2018, after the next election term.

The last time this ordinance was enacted was in 2006 and the current rate is \$3,500.

Solicitor Harper stated that with a Borough of more than 3,000 residents salaries commissioned are not over 5% of the amount of taxes collected.

E. Resolution 2016 - 29 Appropriating Specific Funds for 2017

President Weierman stated that his Resolution is the approval of the 2017 budget.

F. Resolution 2016 - 30 Authorizing 2017 Employee Compensation

President Weierman stated this is making specific compensations for Borough employees in 2017. He added that these increases are in line with the Public Works Union contract.

G. Resolution 2016 - 31 Setting Electric Rates

President Weierman stated that this Resolution will allow the Borough to set electric rates for 2017 and set a credit for bulk users.

H. Citizen of the Year

President Weierman went through a list of possible candidates.

It was suggested to talk about this during the Executive Session after the meeting this evening.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager DeFinis and President Weierman updated and answered questions regarding the Reports and Correspondence.

- Monthly Investment Report
- Monthly EIT / LST Report
- Police Department Report
- Fire Department Report
- Public Works Department Report
- Engineering Report
- Fire Safety Inspection Report

- Property Maintenance Report
- Zoning, Building Code Enforcement Officer & Fire Marshal Report

10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Motion to Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance # 523 Regarding Solar Equipment, Satellite Dishes and Impervious Coverage.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance # 523 Regarding Solar Equipment, Satellite Dishes and Impervious Coverage. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keib.

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 Advertise the Availability of the Borough of Hatfield Budget Appropriating Specific Funds for 2017.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Advertise the Availability of the Borough of Hatfield Budget Appropriating Specific Funds for 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keib.

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 Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance #525 Fixing the 2017 Real Estate Tax for Adoption on November 16, 2016.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Keib to Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance #525 Fixing the 2017 Real Estate Tax for Adoption on November 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Farrall.

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 Advertise the 2017 Borough Council and Planning Commission Meeting Dates.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Advertise the 2017 Borough Council and Planning Commission Meeting Dates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keib.

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.

E. Motion to Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance # 526 Amending Chapter 1 Section 1-121 Tax Collector's Compensation.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Set Hearing Date and Advertise Ordinance # 526 Amending Chapter 1 Section 1-121 Tax Collector's Compensation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keib.

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.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of November 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keib and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.

Executive Session Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime E. Snyder
Assistant Secretary