

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2020

MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD ON ZOOM WITH THE PUBLIC
AVAILABLE BY ZOOM AUDIO

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 Andrew Knox; 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 Ferguson to Approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of September 16, 2020. 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 August 19, 2020 Workshop / Regular Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Workshop / Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser 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.

David Caracausa, the developer of Edinburgh Square Road addressed Council and asked to come before you in regards to the Edinburgh Square Preconstruction Meeting and requested that the meeting be held prior to all documents and plans signed and recorded.

Solicitor Andrew Knox stated that all documents need to be filed with the court house and tax identification numbers need to be assigned prior to the project moving forward.

Mr. Caracausa stressed that he did not want to complete anything related to construction still all documents were signed and resourced but simply just wants to hold the preconstruction meeting to keep this development moving.

Councilmembers asked about the final plans, escrows being up to date, and agreements funded. Mr. Caracausa stated that anything outstanding he would bring to the preconstruction meeting and thanked Borough Council for considering this proposal of moving forward with the preconstruction meeting prior to all documents and plans signed and recorded.

Owen Wilcox, 32 East School Street addressed Council regarding the proposed NMCRC Resolution on for discussion and consideration this evening. Mr. Wilcox stated that he doesn't see any recourse listed for the alleged violator and what it would be hard to regulate this as there are many contaminates that go into waste. Mr. Wilcox added that he was unsure if this was something that the Borough should be enforcing or giving the NMCRC permission to enforce.

Mr. Wilcox also addressed the Towamencin Avenue speed study and added a general comment with any work proposed there that he would agree with the travel disruptions and possible collisions as people do not even realize there is a speed limit change when entering into the Borough.

Caren Segal the owner of 8 N. Market Street addressed Council and stated that she is looking to sell the property and the potential buyer is here this evening and has a few questions regarding signage and parking.

Nick and Gene Corelli, the potential buyers of 8 N. Market Street stated they are looking to turn this location into a takeout and delivery pizza restaurant, no dine in services. The Corelli's added that in order to move forward with the sale they would need to install an outside walk-in freezer refrigerator which will cause them to lose two parking spaces. How can we move forward with addressing the parking issue of losing two spots? Also, would like to put a free-standing sign on the property, like the one across the street at the Doctor's Office, how can we move forward with this? The Corelli's stated that there was a time frame of five days to get these issues settled to move to settlement.

President Weierman stated that this was the first time that Council has been informed of these issues and it will be difficult to react in this time frame. President Weierman

suggested to put all requests in a formal letter to the Code and Zoning Officer and the Borough Manager will have him review the requests as a priority.

Manager DeFinis stated that he is aware of email communications back and forth between the applicant and the Code and Zoning Officer. Manager DeFinis added that the sign in reference would not be permitted on this property, as it was an existing nonconforming prior to the updated sign ordinance for the Borough.

A discussion ensued about the parking spaces and correctly documenting them on any submission to the Code and Zoning Department as this is crucial to understand for approval. Manager DeFinis went on to state that there is lieu in parking fee which is \$5,000 per spot.

Ms. Segal stated that she believes there is a discrepancy with the number of parking spaces and would like this addressed and the fee reconsidered.

Manager DeFinis stated that he will get with the Code and Zoning Department tomorrow to go over in detail any submitted plans and communicate all findings to Caren and the Corelli's.

Councilmember Ferguson added that there is CARES ACT funding available for small businesses and encouraged the Corelli's to look into this funding which may help aid the parking fee.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- Hatfield Chamber of Commerce will be doing ZOOM programs in the near future, dates yet to be determined
- HMHS Meeting September 22nd @ 7:00PM via FaceBook Live
- HERC is scheduled to meet Wednesday, September 23rd @ 8:00AM via ZOOM
- MCBA Dinner Meeting September 24th 6:00PM Has been Canceled due to COVID-19 Guidelines / Future Meetings are Being Planned
- FALL FESTIVAL Saturday, September 26th / CANCELED due to COVID-19 Guidelines
- Planning Commission is Scheduled to Meet Monday, October 5th @ 7:00PM via ZOOM
- Borough Council Workshop October 7, 2020 @ 7:30 via Zoom
- Borough Council Regular October 21, 2020 @ 7:30 via Zoom
- Movie Night in the Park October 29th @ 6:00PM Halloween Theme

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Committee Meetings Schedule

Manager DeFinis asked Council to review and let him know if these dates and times work.

B. Resolution 2020-22 DCED MTF Grant West Broad & Towamencin

Anton Kuhner, from McMahon Associates, talked about the DCED MTF Grant with Council. Anton stated that this grant is based off of the traffic calming study completed on W. Broad Street / Towamencin Avenue. Anton added that the concept that is presented eliminates the shoot-off onto Towamencin from Broad, creates a right turn and a deacceleration lane, and adds crosswalks for accessibility to surrounding schools.

Councilmember Kroesser spoke to Council about his thoughts on this concept and that he believes it will cause more accidents coming off of Broad Street onto Towamencin and that if the goal is to slow traffic down on Towamencin he would rather see stop signs placed on Towamencin.

Councilmember DiLisio added that he agrees with Councilmember Kroesser but would like to mention that he does like the idea of the sidewalk aspect for easier accessibility to schools.

Councilmember Stevens added that he appreciates all the concerns about the design and perhaps they are valid. Councilmember Stevens added that he does agree with Councilmember DiLisio that looking into sidewalks for school accessibility would be beneficial for all Borough residents.

Councilmember Ferguson understands the concept but is mostly concerned with the placement of the pedestrian crosswalk due to the sight-lines and pedestrian safety.

C. Resolution 2020-23 DCED MTF Grant South Main & Liberty Bell Trail

Anton Kuhner, addressed this concept with Borough Council of adding an illuminated pedestrian mast arm crossing with flashers to the Liberty Bell Trail crossing on S. Main Street similar to the one suggested on W. Broad Street.

Borough Council talked about this concept along with the Towamencin Avenue, W. Broad Street addressing the cost proposals. It was decided that Borough Council was interested in supporting the DCED MTF Grant only to address the pedestrian mast arm crossing with flashers for both Towamencin Avenue, W. Broad Street and S. Main Street and not the road reconstruction concept for Towamencin Avenue, W. Broad Street.

President Weierman Thanked Mr. Kuhner for all his work on these proposals.

D. 122 ½ Towamencin Avenue Driveway Easement

Manager DeFinis stated that the Easement Agreement was secured and placed in your packet and is on for consideration this evening. This also included the bill for the pole relocation in relation to this easement.

E. NMCRC Policy Resolution

Solicitor Andrew Knox addressed Council and stated Solicitor Harper went back to the NMCRC and provided all comments that Council addressed at the Workshop meeting and the NMCRC agreed.

President Weierman and Councilmember Ferguson stated that they thought this would eliminate residents.

Councilmember Kroesser added that he did not think this is something that the Borough should regulate and be involved with. A discussion ensued amongst Council and that as of now, this is not something that the Borough is willing to support.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Thank you Letter for Senator Collett
- B. Thank you Letter for Representative Malagari

Council acknowledged the support from both Senator Collett and Representative Malagari.

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

- A. Motion to Consider Resolution 2020-20 Recognizing Public Power Week

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve Resolution 2020-20 Recognizing Public Power Week. 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 unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

- B. Motion to Consider Resolution 2020-21 Recognizing Fire Prevention Week

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve Resolution 2020-21 Recognizing Fire Prevention Week. 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 unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

C. Motion to Consider Resolution 2020-22 Applying for the DCED MTF Grant for West Broad Street and Towamencin Avenue as well as South Main Street to Address Pedestrian Safety Crossings

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve Resolution 2020-22 Applying for the DCED MTF Grant for West Broad Street and Towamencin Avenue as well as South Main Street to Address Pedestrian Safety Crossings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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

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

D. Motion to Consider Resolution 2020-23 Applying to the DCED MTF Grant for South Main Street at the Liberty Bell Trail Crossing

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to TABLE Resolution 2020-23 Applying to the DCED MTF Grant for South Main Street at the Liberty Bell Trail Crossing. 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 unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

E. Motion to Consider Approving the Grant of a Driveway Easement to the Property Located at 122 1/2 Towamencin Avenue over Borough Property

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve the Grant of a Driveway Easement to the Property Located at 122 1/2 Towamencin Avenue over Borough Property .The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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

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

F. Motion to Consider Approving the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission Policy Resolution

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to DECLINE Approving the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission Policy Resolution. 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 unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

G. Motion to Consider Sending Thank You Note's to Senator Maria Collett and State Representative Steve Malagari for their Efforts Securing Grants for Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure Projects

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Approve Sending Thank You Note's to Senator Maria Collett and State Representative Steve Malagari for their Efforts Securing Grants for Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure Projects. 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 unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

8. 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 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.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

President Weierman announced that Borough Council held an Executive Session of Council prior to the meeting this evening to discuss Real Estate, Litigation, and Personnel.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to adjourn the Regular Meeting September 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime E. Snyder
Assistant Manager