

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
March 6, 2018**

The meeting was held in Council Chambers with the following members present;

Mike Ruttelle	Ryan Berry	David Bria	Caroline Thompson
Matthew Ross	Bryan Marshall	Sandi Brady	

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Assistant Borough Manager Paula Johnson, Chief Joseph Kelly, Solicitor E. Closser and Borough Engineer Leanna Colubriale. President Ruttelle called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Mr. Bria moves to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

Progress Reports;

Solicitor

Mr. Closser notes that the Borough's property maintenance code is out of date, and that he will prepare a more current version to bring to Council.

Borough Assistant Manager

Ms. Johnson thanks everyone for their efforts during this recent severe storm.

Mayor

Mayor Harding also thanks the Police department and Borough personnel for their teamwork during the storm.

Police Chief

For the month of February, the Police Department handled 441 calls, issued 12 parking tickets, 83 traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citation, investigated 5 accidents, and made 5 arrests, one of which was for DUI.

Borough Engineer

- The North Main Street Sidewalk project is waiting on PennDot for final execution of the contract.
- The Main and Afton Signal project is still in the preliminary phase.
- No Parking signs were installed in Yardley Walk. There were some complaints about the new pedestrian crossing signs being too large. The Engineer for Yardley Walk has provided some samples of smaller signs.
- Yardley Lakeview properties will need a new ADA parking and loading space near the rear of the apartments, and will have to lose a regular parking space to accommodate this. The number of spaces will still fall within the variance that was already granted. Mr. Ruttelle will consult with the Zoning Officer to confirm this.

Council Vice President

No report

Council President

President Ruttle states that John Titterton, a Borough resident, has suggested a moment of silence be observed before each Council Meeting. No motion was made by Council at this time.

Council Committees

Community Development- Mr. Ross

The Committee met last week and discussed the Mary Yardley Bridge. The foundation needs to be inspected, to determine what needs to be done. The bridge itself has been replaced, but the foundation is original, from approximately 1905.

Public Safety- Mr. Bria

The Committee met and reviewed the monthly Police statistics.

Community Outreach- Ms. Brady

Community Outreach Committee will be looking to fill a vacancy tonight.

Public Works- Mr. Berry

No report

General Government- Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson met with John Boyle, Paula Johnson and several others, to go over some changes in the budgeting process. Ms. Thompson thanks Mr. Celentano of 136 N Main St, for his many volunteer hours on this process. Since the resignation of the Borough Manager, there is a vacancy for the position of Treasurer.

Michael Thompson, of the EAC, gives an update on the Growing Greener grant, which is for watershed protection, through the PADEP. Funds would go towards data gathering for the Buck Creek watershed, which is connected to Lake Afton. In-kind matching will be used for this project, so there would be no cost to the Borough. Bucks Creek has been listed by the PADEP as an impaired water body, as far as water quality. The report to be submitted will be finalized and given to Council, and Council will actually apply for the grant.

Meghan Rogalus, from the Bucks County Conservation District, has been assisting with the grant application and will attend a Council meeting in April to answer questions. Permission will be needed from property owners, so volunteers can have access to certain areas. Mr. Thompson has a permission form, which will be reviewed by the Solicitor.

Bill List

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the Bill List dated March 6, 2018, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

Public Comment

President Ruttle turns this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Bria.

John Titterton, 178 N Main St, explains his suggestion for the moment of silence before each Council meeting. He states that there are numerous plaques in the Borough, bearing the names of veterans and other residents of Yardley Borough, and he would like to honor them.

Joe Hunter, 62 Letchworth Ave, asks if there is any report from the Search Committee, to hire a new Borough Manager. There is no report at this time.

Certificates of Appropriateness

1. 18-04 168 South Main St (shed)
Mr. Ross moves to approve Certificate of Appropriateness 18-04, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.
2. 18-05 21 Canal St (fence)
Mr. Ross moves to approve Certificate of Appropriateness 18-05, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.
3. 18-06 27 Canal St (fence)
Mr. Ross moves to approve Certificate of Appropriateness 18-06, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

Old Business

- 1. Adoption of Anti-Discrimination Ordinance No 474.....Mr. Bria**
Mr. Bria moves to adopt Ordinance No 474, which is seconded by Mr. Ruttle. Motion passes unanimously.
- 2. Shade Tree Commission Order (bill).....Mr. Ruttle**
On February 19, 2018, B & T Landscaping, as directed by Yardley Borough, to begin tree trimming and removal at 18 West College Ave, property of Ms. Dawn Perlmutter. Labor and equipment costs were \$2,500.00. Scrapy's Auto Service charged \$330 for the removal and replacement of the construction trailer at 20 W. College Avenue. Public works contractor Ken Smith will be submitting a bill for his services, along with a bill from the Borough Solicitor. Ms. Thompson reminds Council about a motion from the last Council meeting, stating that Council members and Ms. Perlmutter would be provided copies of the invoices for the tree work, so they could be reviewed for this meeting. There are no invoices available as yet for the Solicitor or Ken Smith. Mr. Ruttle moves to direct the Solicitor to pursue enforcement of the legal remedies under the Borough Tree Ordinance, to collect and or lien the property at 18 W College Ave for the costs incurred by the Borough in the amount of \$2,500 to B & T Landscaping and \$330 to Scrapyps Auto Service. The motion is amended to include only the \$2,500 amount. Motion seconded by Mr. Berry.

Dawn Perlmutter, 18 West College Avenue, points out that the Shade Tree Commission never contacted her, and proper notice was not given to her about the tree. Ms.

Perlmutter also states that she was not given a Certificate of Insurance, or shown proof of Workman's Compensation. It is also the opinion of Ms. Perlmutter that the Horse Chestnut tree at the front of her property was trimmed in such a way that it will not survive. It was reported that Ms. Perlmutter tried to stop the work and a policeman was called to step in. Ms. Perlmutter feels that she has been harassed and treated unfairly, and will not pay for the tree work or for the moving of the construction trailer.

Susan Harvey, 141 N Main St, would like to see Council members working together, and being more respectful toward one another.

Brian Welsh, Reading Ave, asks about the authority of the Borough Council President. It is explained that Council President has a supervisory function, and can act on behalf of the Borough Manager, when requested.

Kim Prickett, 20 West College Ave, takes issue with some of Ms. Perlmutter's statements.

Albert Prickett, 20 West College Ave, notes that the tree has been dead for about 5 years and should have been taken down.

Thomas Simonet, E College Avenue, suggests putting a time limit on public comments.

Thomas Cadwallader, 85 W Afton Ave, says that a person is guilty of riot, if they participate in disorderly conduct, with intent to prevent or coerce official action.

Motion passes 4 to 3, with Ms. Thompson, Ms. Brady and Mr. Ross opposed.

Mr. Ruttle makes a motion to direct the Borough Assistant Manager and the Solicitor to collect billing from Ken Smith and from the Solicitor for preparing contracts, and the bill from Scrappys, and to determine whether those bills should be included in the billing or lien of the property. Motion seconded by Mr. Berry.

David Appelbaum, 39 Breece Dr, is disappointed at the time and money spent on this issue. Motion fails.

The check for B & T Landscaping will be signed and sent.

New Business

- 1. Appointment to Planning Commission Term Ending 12/31/2022.....Ms. Brady**
Ms. Brady makes a motion to approve the appointment of Don Carlson to the Planning Commission, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.
- 2. Special Event Permit, Easter Egg Hunt 3/24/18..... Ms. Brady**
Ms. Brady moves to approve the Special Event permit for the Easter Egg Hunt on 3/24/18, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.
- 3. Special Event Permit, Yardley Walk to Run 4/10 to 5/29/18..... Ms. Brady**
Ms. Brady moves to approve the Special Event permit for the Yardley Walk to Run, on 4/10/18 through 5/29/18, every Tuesday, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.
- 4. Special Event Permit and Banner, Yardley Beer Fest 6/2/18.....Ms. Brady**
Ms. Brady moves to approve the Special Event permit for the Yardley Beer Fest on 6/2/18, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

Ms. Brady moves to approve the banner permit for the Yardley Beer Fest, date of installation 5/21/18 and date of removal 6/4/18, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

- 5. Community Connections..... Ms. Brady**
Ms. Brady explains that the quarterly Borough newsletter is funded through advertisements, and as some advertisers have dropped off, the printing company is not able to cover their costs. The company has suggested increasing the number of advertisers, or cutting down the number or the frequency of the newsletters, or for the postage to be paid by the Borough. A suggestion was made to split the cost of the postage, while the Borough makes an effort to get more advertisers. The printer will put out the 1st quarter newsletter for this year, and then wait for the Borough's decision. David Appelbaum would like to see the newsletter paid for with ads rather than use taxpayer funds. He suggests printing the newsletter and also making it available on the internet, and would be willing to help with the process.
- 6. Payment Certificate No 3, 48 East College Ave..... Mr. Berry**
Mr. Berry moves to approve Certificate No 3, 48 E College Ave, to Coolidge Electric Inc., in the amount of \$29,250. Motion seconded by Ms. Brady. Motion carries.
- 7. Payment Certificate No 4, 48 East College Ave..... Mr. Berry**
Mr. Berry moves to approve Certificate No 4, 48 East College Ave, to Coolidge Electric Inc., in the amount of \$7,700. Motion is seconded by Ms. Brady. Motion carries.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held to discuss personnel. No vote was conducted.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.