

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
March 17, 2020**

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

Caroline Thompson	David Bria	Ryan Berry
Kim Segal-Morris	John McCann	Uri Feiner
Matthew Ross		

Council member(s) not in attendance:

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineers Tom Beach and Liz Colletti, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – David Bria, President
The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 7:30.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
All council members and Mayor Harding present.
- IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mr. Bria relayed information regarding Coronavirus preparedness. The Borough will pass on information coming from the county and the state as it becomes available. Restaurants in the Borough are operating on a take-out basis only. Non-essential businesses are closed. The DCED website gives guidance on essential/nonessential services and emergency services and trash removal are working as normal. Borough staff, mayor's office, Council, and police are in daily communication regarding updates and changes and social media and the website will be used to provide community updates.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College Avenue, spoke in reference to an alleged theft and vandalism to her property. The incidents reported to police and she had questions about the chain link fence which was allegedly erected on her property without her consent. She inquired whether the zoning officer gave permission for erection of the fence and did the Borough remove the fence and cut down the trees.
Mr. Bria responded that the Borough did not remove materials from yard and the permitting for the fence was done under the same rules as govern any member of the community. This is a civil matter and needs to be resolved as a civil matter. Proper zoning permits were completed, and zoning office handled things according to the established rules. Mr. Bria asks to table this issue for a future meeting given the forum under which this meeting is being held.
Ms. Perlmutter asked Mr. Berry why she was the subject of a public safety meeting and what was discussed at that meeting. Mr. Berry characterized the mention of Ms. Perlmutter at the public safety as a brief mention not a matter of major discussion.
- VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED March 17, 2020
 - A. Approval of Minutes dated March 3, 2020

B. Bills List dated March 17, 2020

Ms. Thompson motions to approve the consent agenda dated March 17, 2020, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris. The motion passes 7-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Updates

- The COVID19 Task Force agreement has been signed with Yardley Borough and 30+ other police forces in the Bucks County. The agreement provides for mutual aid to assist other communities if any town is understaffed or overwhelmed.
- Creation of an auxiliary police force. Pursuant to State Borough Code we have drafted an ordinance for the creation of an auxiliary police unit which would be composed of volunteers from the community to assist the police for traffic and crowd control, downed wires, and special details. This is desperately needed and the Chief seeks consensus to move this ordinance to solicitor for legal review. Ms. Segal-Morris moves to refer the ordinance discussed to the solicitor for legal review, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. The motion passes 7-0.
- Regarding readiness for coronavirus response all officers are healthy and reporting to work. Personal protective gear has been acquired and disinfecting is happening every day. The Yardley Police Department is highly ready.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Working with Borough Manager on potential appraisal for PECO lot so a decision can be made at the next meeting about whether or not to move forward with that grant application. Also looking for additional grants to meet 50% match, Growing Greener Grant could be used for this project.

B. Yardley Walk – RVE worked with HOA's engineering firm to finalize punch list. They are waiting for word from Lennar for final walk through.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Main & Afton Intersection

RVE investigated option to have a fully red phased pedestrian signal. The response from PennDot was that this type of signal is normally only used in urban, heavy pedestrian areas. Approval for this type of signal would delay finalization of construction. Mr. Bria suggests moving forward with planned construction and addressing the timing of the signal at a later point.

B. Mary Yardley Bridge

RVE is making submittal to PHMC for both types of bridges.

C. 2019 Roads Program

Documents from General Asphalt were received this week for doing quotes. Borough received a letter that Borough owed 8k to General Asphalt. RVE is following up on this and will rectify once the project is done.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

Updates

- Intersection work began this week. Expect delays.
- Office is closed to the public, but work is continuing remotely.
- There has been a good response from the mailing for delinquent trash accounts.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Office is busy addressing legal issues regarding the current emergency situation. The office remains open for business, working mostly remotely. Use e-mail or cell phone to best reach Mr. Closser.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Focus on supporting local businesses getting takeout and buying gift cards.
- Communication is key. Thanks to Mr. Bria, Ms. Johnson, Chief Kelly and Wes Foraker who have done a great job with communication.

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Ryan Berry – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee
Reading Avenue Committee meeting is cancelled indefinitely. They will continue to look into available grants. EAC hasn't met.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission
Public Works has not met.

C. Kim Segal Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, TTN
Airport Updates
Public Safety and Airport Committees have not met.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority
Currently in a holding pattern on Morrisville Authority. There is no commitment from LMT that they would be part of a new plant if it is built which complicates everyone else's planning.

E. Caroline Thompson – General Government Committee, Parks & Recreation
Board
General Government is carefully following interest rates and how they will affect Borough finances, leveraging zero interest rates
Easter Egg hunt cancelled. Keeping eye on races that are planned.

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic &
Architectural Review Board, North Main Street Traffic Committee.
Nothing to report. Thanks to Chief, Mayor, Mr. Bria, and Paula Johnson for their guidance and leadership during these trying times.

G. Uri Feiner – Community Outreach Committee, Experience Yardley, Shade Tree Commission

An application for Human Relations Committee was received and will be followed up on. Improvements are being made to the website regarding COVID 19 and emergency announcements.

Regarding conducting committee meetings to handle business that needs to be addressed Council can use Zoom meeting. If meetings are less than 40 minutes there is no charge. Speak to Paula if you have any questions.

XIV. DISCUSSION

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

Ratification of the Disaster Emergency Declaration

Mr. Berry motions to ratify the declaration as previously discussed, which Ms. Thompson seconds.

A vote was held on the first motion and passes 7-0.

Mr. Berry asks how long the declaration stays in effect. Mr. Closser explained that once the 7 days are up another motion is needed to allow the mayor to extend as he sees fit. Mr. Berry motions to authorize the mayor to extend the declaration of disaster emergency regarding the novel Coronavirus under the circumstances as the mayor sees as appropriate while the emergency lasts, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. Basically, this declaration enhances the authority of Borough officials to take action on behalf of the residents. It also suspends normal bidding and hiring procedures in the short term.

This declaration will be published widely for the community to see.

A vote was held on the second motion and it passes 7-0.

James Jordan, 21 Canal Street. Mr. Jordan is concerned about number of young people out of school and congregating in groups, particularly in the back of Wawa. He is worried about safety and about the danger of spreading the virus.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:30, which is seconded by Mr. McCann. Motion passes 7-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean