

Yardley Borough Council Meeting
May 4, 2021

The meeting was held via video conference with the following members present:

Caroline Thompson	Uri Feiner	Matt Curtin
Kim Segal-Morris	David Bria	Matthew Ross
John McCann		

Council member(s) not in attendance:

Also in attendance were Mayor Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Borough Manager Paula Johnson, Engineer Liz Colletti, Zoning Officer Wes Foraker, and Solicitor Ernest Closser.

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

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 31st -Governor Wolf will be lifting most Covid-related restrictions on 5/31/21 except for masking requirements in certain situations.
- David Applebaum – An application for a permit for Music on Main beginning in late July will come before Council soon.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jim McGrath, 93 N. Delaware Avenue. Inquiry about progress with grants for elevation for homes in the floodplain. An award for approximately 2 million dollars has come through for elevation of eight homes.
- Louisa Flaningam and Paul Brzozowski, 106 S. Main Street. Spoke regarding The Taproom at The Tannery. Loud music and packed crowds are not appropriate for a residential neighborhood and questions what the hardship is that allows these variances to be granted.
Mr. Bria responded that many comments were received at Borough Hall about the music and noise at the Taproom and formal actions are being considered.
- Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College Avenue. Spoke about the noise and crowds at the Taproom and the asked why the code enforcement officer and the police did not stop the event for violations.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED May 4, 2021

- A. Approval of Minutes dated April 20, 2021
- B. Bills List dated May 4, 2021
- C. Recreation Board Corn Hole League

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated May 4, 2021 was made by Ms. Thompson, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police service statistics for April 2021: There were 444 calls for service, 54 traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citations, 6 traffic accidents, and 3 arrests (1 for DUI.)

Drug takeback on 4/24. 33.5 pounds of unused drugs were collected by Yardley Police and over 9000 pounds in the county, illustrating how important this program is and the quantity of dangerous drugs in people's homes.

Reminder for Carry the Load for Wednesday 5/5. Motorists please be mindful of the traffic implications in the afternoon in Yardley and surrounding area.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Updates.

18 Van Horn – A meeting is being scheduling to discuss the remediation plan.

IX. Project Updates

- A. Main & Afton Intersection – Pending closing out Green Light Go Grant.
- B. Mary Yardley Bridge - The Borough was not awarded DVRPC Trails Grant.
- C. PECO Property – No movement.
- D. North Main Street Sidewalks, Phase II - Walkthrough with PECO to go over utility pole relocations, which should not impact overall timeline.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

- New Credit card processing is up and running on the website.
- Error in latest newsletter on date of Memorial Day this year. The holiday is 5/31.
 - A. A/C Unit Replacement – Three quotes were solicited. Sweeney's was the lowest bid.

Ms. Thompson motions to award job to Sweeney's for \$7,800 for replacement of A/C unit in Borough Hall, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

B. Approval to Shred Old Documents

Old files from storage closet have been cleaned out and 20 boxes of paper need to be shredded. Resolution 21-03 was read into the record by Mr. Bria authorizing the safe destruction of the old records.

Ms. Segal-Morris motions to authorize adoption of 21-03, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

C. Tap Room Zoning Hearing 5/24/21, 7:00

The meeting will be held in the Community Center to accommodate the expected number of attendees.

Jim Cain is requesting a variance expand the Taproom to accommodate a full kitchen.

Mr. Ross motions to authorize the Borough Solicitor to attend the Zoning Meeting on 5/24 and to oppose the variance, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the Borough taking a position on this matter and other Council and community concerns regarding the Taproom and other zoning matters.

A roll call vote was held as follows:

Caroline Thompson Y

Uri Feiner N

Matt Curtin N

Kim Segal-Morris Y

Matthew Ross Y

John McCann N

David Bria Y

The motion passes 4-3.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

10th anniversary of Carry the Load on 5/5/21. Thanks to Chief Kelly, the police department, and borough staff for their work on the event. The local walk this year is in honor of Travis Manion from Doylestown.

The walk is starting at 1:45 from Washington Crossing, to arrive in Yardley at 3pm. The group will head to Newtown at 3:30. A group is going to try to walk 50 miles for the entire PA section of the walk. PHL17 news will be in Yardley to cover the event.

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Matthew Curtin – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee

Nothing to report.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission

Nothing to report.

C. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, TTN Airport Updates

Nothing to report.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority

Participated in a Zoom meeting hosted by Senator Santarsiero regarding incoming American Rescue Plan funding. 200k is being granted to Yardley Borough in two tranches with the first payment arriving no later than early June. News to following regarding Covid-related spending guidelines.

E. Caroline Thompson – General Government Committee, Parks & Recreation Board

Nothing to report.

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic & Architectural Review Board, North Main Street Traffic Committee
Nothing to report.

G. Uri Feiner – Community Outreach Committee, Experience Yardley, Shade Tree Commission
Borough Website has been updated to allow for an opt in for receiving emails. Please spread the word.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lifting of COVID restrictions – to consider:

- In person council meetings
- Lifting accommodations that have been made for outdoor dining/tests, etc.

A discussion followed regarding continuing a hybrid model for meetings to keep the community involved and other issues regarding restaurants and businesses.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:46 was made by Ms. Thompson, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean