

Yardley Borough Council Meeting
July 17, 2018

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

Ryan Berry	David Bria	Sandi Brady
Matthew Ross	Bryon Marshall	

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Solicitor E. Closser, Borough Engineer Tom Beach and Assistant Borough Manager Paula Johnson. President Marshall 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 July 3, 2018, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion carries.

Progress Reports

Solicitor

1. An ordinance to formally lay out Buttonwood Drive roadwork will be presented at next meeting. Mr. Berry asks a question regarding the water resources ordinance which was tabled at an earlier meeting. He asks if there is a quick change that can be made to that ordinance to make it apply to SALDO related development. Mr. Closser will look into this.
2. Mr. Marshall asks about the status of the fence ordinance. Mr. Closser has submitted the ordinance to the General Government Committee. Mr. Berry indicated the General Government Committee did not meet as scheduled on 7/17 but the meeting will be rescheduled and the ordinance will be reviewed at that time.

Borough Assistant Manager

The auditor is coming this week to review the 2nd quarter numbers.

The Borough Manager has received notification from PennDot that the Borough will be getting an additional \$2,700 back to offset some of the \$28,000 spent this past year because of severe weather this winter.

Mayor

Yardley Borough will be hosting a community night at the Trenton Thunder on Thursday, August 9th, 7:00 game. There will be fireworks afterwards. Yardley community members will all be seated in one section. The tickets are \$8 and are available on the mayor's Facebook page at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Yardleynight> . The mayor hopes to sell a minimum of 50 tickets.

Police Chief

1. On July 9th e-ticket went live resulting in a marked increase in traffic enforcement.
2. July 23rd, 5pm to 7pm, will be the first “Cone with a Cop” community outreach at the Yardley Ice House.

Borough Engineer

1. North Main sidewalk. The Borough Engineer is unprepared to discuss further the extension of the pipeline study. A meeting scheduled with Mr. White had to be postponed to 7/19 so an update will be provided at the next meeting. The project is otherwise wrapped up.
2. Liquid Fuels Road Program. Bids have been taken and they include Fitzgerald-Sommer’s parking lot, the Annex Building lot, and Lookover Lane.
3. The project at 31 N. Delaware is out to bid.
4. Mr. Beach met with Mr. Foster on his commercial-residential development project. Mr. Foster is looking to make some minor changes to the plan such as moving sidewalks, enhanced landscaping, and changing entrance to Mrs. Brady’s property. Mr. Beach has met with Mrs. Brady about this. Mr. Foster would like to present the proposed changes at next council meeting.

Council Vice President

Update on the manager search. Resumes and applications continue to come in on a rolling basis. First round of screenings will happen this week and next.

Council President

The President is at the halfway point of his tenure. He feels things are going well so far and council is getting a lot done.

Council Committees

General Government

Mr. Berry reports that the committee did not meet and the meeting will be rescheduled.

Community Outreach

No report

Public Works

The committee met on 7/17 and discussed a wide range of topics.

1. An estimate will be received from the public works contractor, Ken, for University Drive work.
2. A member of the Mary Yardley Bridge Committee met with the Public Work Committee to discuss next steps for the project. A proposal will come from the Bridge Committee in the future.
3. The Committee discussed crosswalks on Main Street. Public Works will conduct a study for crosswalks at Yardley Commons and North Main Street and for signs to warn trucks they can’t turn.

4. On the committee's radar is the punch list for Yardley Walk.

Community & Economic Development

No report

Public Safety

Mr. Bria reports the committee hasn't met since last council meeting

Negotiations are ongoing with Chief Kelly regarding his contract renewal which is coming up at the end of 2018. The committee hopes to have a proposal to the council at the end of August for a vote on the new contract.

Planning Committee

No report

Bill List

Mr. Berry moves to approve the bill list dated July 17, 2018, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Motion carries.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

Public Comment

Mr. Brian Welch, 22 Reading Avenue. Regarding the Septa parking lot project, Mr. Welch requests that shades be added to the overhead lights to direct the light downward. As the lights are currently configured the bright lights are directed horizontally into residential windows rather than downward into the parking lot. Mr. Beach will look into this question.

Ms. Michelle Sharer, 31 N. Main Street, representing the Friends of Lake Afton. Ms. Sharer thanks Mayor Harding for getting an article into USA Today, "One of the Most Beautiful Places in Pennsylvania." Ms. Sharer reports that dead and dying trees on West Afton Avenue are going to be cut on Tuesday, July 31. The old Christmas tree will be removed as well and plans are being made for a new Christmas decoration. There has been a lot of treatment to Lake Afton but what Ms. Sharer wishes the Council and the community to know is that what appears to be algae in the lake is duckweed, not algae. Duckweed isn't that desirable but it is much better than the algae and is preventing the algae from coming up from the bottom. The plan is that the duckweed can be cleaned out when there is more water in the lake. Ms. Sharer notes there is a lot of confusion on Facebook about the 'green' in the pond. She also notes that algae and duckweed both come from weed killer. When the retaining wall was put in there were many good effects but one bad result was that PennDot required three storm drains to be installed and those drains are bringing in water from many lawns and with the water comes the weed killer ingredients which cause the algae and the duckweed.

Chief Kelly has been working with Alpine Tree Service regarding the plans for the tree removal. The original plan was to close Afton Avenue for five hours in both directions but the plan has been amended to closing one lane and using a flagger on day of service.

Mr. John McCann 174 N. Main Street represents community members regarding traffic and pot holes on Main Street. Truck traffic and speeding are the group's biggest concerns. The group is encouraged by talk of crosswalks and they hope more signage can be added. A member of the community has a radar detector and is using it to provide data to the Council on the speeding problems with trucks. Mr. McCann notes that the Borough Police do not have the authority to stop trucks on Main Street as it is a state roadway.

Chief Kelly comments that the Borough Police can and do stop speeding trucks and clarifies that they can only make a traffic stop if there is reasonable suspicion.

Certificates of Appropriateness

No activity

Old Business

Mr. Berry provides a report on the road paving project. Five bids were received for Lookover Lane, Fitzgerald Field parking lot, Annex Building and the Grist Mill. Harris Blacktopping Inc. came in the lowest.

The details are as follows:

Lookover Lane \$98,190

Fitzgerald Field \$48,520

Annex Building \$25,214

Grist Mill \$16,440

The Public Works Committee felt the Grist Mill bid was too high and felt the public works contractor could do the work for less and not bid it out. It was decided to exclude that from the recommendation leaving a total of \$171,924 for completion of the other projects. The majority of the funds will come out of Liquid Fuels and the remainder from the general fund.

Mr. Berry makes a motion to grant the bid to Harris Blacktopping for the base bid and for the alternate bid for Fitzgerald Field and the Annex Building for a total of \$171,924. Mr. Ross seconds the motion.

Ms. Brady asks if Fitzgerald Field parking lot is part of the Fitzgerald-Sommer Funeral Home and Ms. Berry confirms it is.

Mr. Brian Welch, 22 Reading Avenue, asks if it can be confirmed that the public works contractor can do the work more cheaply. Mr. Berry responds that the contractor hasn't given estimate yet. Mr. Beach indicates that it is easier to add the Grist Mill work as a change order to the contractor's contract than to remove it from the original contract once it has been included. Mr. Berry indicates that the intention is to get the work done very soon.

A vote was taken and the motion carried..

New Business

Purchase of New Police Patrol Vehicle.....Mr. Bria

Mr. Bria present a request for approval to purchase a new patrol vehicle. The cost is \$31,395 to be paid in annual installments of \$8,952 and when paid off the vehicle will be deeded to Borough for \$1.00. Mr. Berry asks how long it will take to get the truck and the Chief responds that it will take about 6-10 weeks for the build and 1 month for safety outfitting. By end of year it should be delivered.

1. Mr. Bria makes a motion that Yardley Borough authorize the purchase of one Ford F150 from Hondru Ford, Manheim, PA and enter into the municipal lease agreement.

A citizen from the audience asks why a Ford truck rather than another type of vehicle and the Chief responds it is needed for towing trailers and a generator as well as moving barricades and other items.

A vote was taken and the motion carries.

2. Mr. Bria makes a motion to authorize the spending up to \$7,500 from the general fund for the up-fit of emergency equipment to the previously approved vehicle. Ms. Brady seconds the motion.

Mr. Berry asks if that money will be spent from this year's funds. Mr. Bria answers yes.

A vote was taken and the motion carries.

Chief Kelly thanks the council for support for the purchase of the new vehicle. He would like to receive consensus from the council for dedication of the vehicle to retired Chief Jim O'Neill who served for 35 years as a police officer, 28 years with the Borough, and the last 15 as chief. Chief O'Neill is courageously battling a terrible disease. The Chief would like to dedicate the new vehicle in the Chief's name with a memorial plaque installed on the vehicle. The council grants its consensus.

Meeting adjourns at 8:02 pm

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean