

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
August 18, 2020**

The meeting was held via Zoom with the following members present:

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

Council member(s) not in attendance: Ryan Berry

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – David Bria, President

The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 7:31.

Ms. Segal-Morris makes a motion to approve the resignation of Councilman Ryan Berry, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. A vote was held, and the motion passes 6-0.

The process to appoint a new councilmember is triggered and interviews to fill the vacancy will be held at the 9/1 meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

All councilmembers present.

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grant received for the North Main Street sidewalk project. Discussion to follow later.
- The Social Equity Book Club will hold its first meeting by Zoom on 9/10/20 at 7:00pm

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College Avenue. Asks if public calendar can be updated with all meetings at least two months in advance. Ms. Johnson will do this.
- Susan Taylor, Reports that Yardley the Way We Were was a great success and is being imitated by another local community, Lambertville, NJ.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED July 21, 2020

- A. Approval of Minutes dated July 21, 2020
- B. Bills List dated August 4 and 18, 2020
- C. Certificate of Appropriateness - Little Library
- D. Special Event Permit – Music Together Classes
- E. Farmers' Market Extension in Buttonwood Park

Ms. Thompson motions to approve the consent agenda dated July 21, 2020, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. The motion passes 6-0.

Dawn Perlmutter, regarding the Music Together event, asks if other businesses can operate out of Buttonwood Park. Ms. Johnson notes that the event is free, and organization provided proof of insurance.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Updates

July 2020 Service Statistics Police responded to 742 calls for service, issued 1 parking ticket and 90 moving traffic citations, investigated 2 non-traffic criminal citations and 5 motor vehicle accidents, and made 5 arrests, none for DUI.

The Chief was asked if an analysis of insurance for auxiliary police was done. The broker indicated there would be no adjustment to policy and does not anticipate any significant increase in the future.

Mr. Feiner notes an increase in truck traffic heading south on Main Street at night. Chief Kelly feels this is related to the Scudder Falls Bridge project.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Updates

Buck Creek Watershed Management – There has been a lag in installation. ASA is not ready to move forward until first invoice is paid through the grant. It is possible that Borough may have to pay the first invoice and be reimbursed through the grant.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Main & Afton Intersection – Everything has been installed. Advanced pedestrian phase being taken care of this week. There is concern regarding ADA accessibility near Continental Tavern. PennDot needs to inspect and confirm compliance with ADA. The change of scope details will follow for approval at the next meeting in early September.

B. Mary Yardley Bridge

GP11 – Being completed but Engineer is still awaiting confirmation from DCNR regarding grading plan being outside of the existing easement. This is not expected to be a problem, but approval is still needed.

Mr. Feiner received a letter from John Celentano, a fundraiser for the bridge project. He has requested: Major milestones with timeline toward bridge opening, notification of any changes to cost estimates, and bi-weekly updates on progress against major milestones. Engineer reports there are no current updates to cost estimate, but some additional project reporting should be able to be provided to Council.

Susan Taylor – Reports that fundraising campaign is actively underway and going very well.

Alex Thorne, 100 N. Main – \$211,000 total best-case cost scenario, Borough contributing 70k, 35k match on public contributions from a community member for a total of 70k, plus 40k from a grant, leaving a shortfall.

C. PECO Property

Still waiting to hear from PECO. Engineer will proceed to submit grant with existing numbers without the information from PECO to avoid the risk of missing out on the grant.

D. North Main Street Sidewalks - Phase II

PA Sewer and Small Water – Borough has been awarded a \$211,989 grant. The grant has a 15% match and as submitted goes up to Cold Springs. Borough will need to make up 176k to do rest of the sidewalk up to Cold Springs and to easement. Borough is in good shape to secure funding for work to easement and out to Dolington ultimately. Mr. Ross moves to approve \$89,215 for design work for North Main sidewalk project, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 6-0.

A discussion followed regarding rights of way with reference to sidewalks, storm drainage, conduit placement, curbing, and costs for further work.

E. RCP Grant

Borough now has access from Pennsylvania to 5 million dollars over the next 10 years for community and economic development. Any project requires a 50% match. Funds can use to refurbish Borough Hall and other projects. Availability of this funding needs to be folded into long-term funding plans.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Updates

B. Adoption of the 2021 Budget Calendar

Mr. Thompson motions to adopt the 2021 budget calendar, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris. The motion passes 6-0.

C. ZHB Hearing August 24 Legal Representation (Floodplain Application)

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on 8/24 to consider a new application for building in the floodplain.

Mr. Ross moves that Council send legal representation to the 8/24/20 ZHB meeting to oppose any development in the floodplain, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. The motion passes 6-0.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

A. Updates

Line of credit application has been submitted to the state. Ms. Closser hopes to close in next 2-3 weeks.

B. Vote to Advertise Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Ordinances

Ms. Thompson motions to advertise uniform and non-uniform pension ordinances, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. The motion passes 6-0.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Radio show update provided.

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Vacant – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee
Nothing to report.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission
Nothing to report in addition to the engineer's report.

C. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, TTN
Airport Updates
Nothing to report.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority
Nothing to report. Will take over as EAC liaison until Council seat is filled.

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

General Government – Projecting a deficit of 25-50k this year.

Reading Ave Committee is looking for professional input from an arborist and more
volunteer and community support regarding the property.

Parks and Rec – Corn hole league being piloted in Buttonwood Park.

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic &
Architectural Review Board

Thanks to efforts for fundraising for bridge.

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

Nothing to report.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Susan Taylor – Notes that minor upkeep issues in the Borough should be addressed to improve the appearance of the area and make it more attractive to visitors. Ms. Johnson notes that the lights and painting of light posts will be done in the spring.
- John McCann – Concurrs that truck traffic has increased. Mr. Bria indicates that reaching out to representatives' offices is the best bet for addressing this issue.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Thompson moves to loosen parking ordinances and extend permit discount for
restaurants using tents outdoors until 10/31/2020, which Mr. Ross seconds.

Ms. Thompson amends the motion to move the waivers until 12/31/2020, which is
seconded by Mr. Ross.

Ms. Thompson notes that questions will be raised soon about outdoor space heaters. Mr.
Foraker is working on this issue along with tent sidewalls.

Ms. Perlmutter notes some issues with walking on some local sidewalks with sidewalk seating.

Mr. Feiner recognizes business owners and community members for supporting Yardley businesses during this time.

A vote was held and the motion passes 6-0.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCann motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:51, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 6-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean