

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
January 2, 2019**

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

David Bria (via telephone)	Sandi Brady	Ryan Berry	Bryon Marshall
Matthew Ross	Caroline Thompson		

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

Minutes

Mr. Berry moves to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. Motion passes

Progress Reports

Solicitor

Nothing to report.

Borough Manager

A local roofer is coming to patch police roof for the winter in anticipation of the re-bid process to be undertaken in the spring.

Mayor

Nothing to report.

Police Chief

Chief Kelly presented the police statistics for December 2018 as well as end-of-year total statistics. For the month of December 2018 the Police Department answered 486 calls for service and ended the year with 6,487 calls for service, issued 9 parking tickets for an annual total of 122, issued 53 traffic citations for an annual total of 1492, issued 1 other citation for an annual total of 16, investigated 11 motor vehicle accidents for an annual total of 104, issued 2 DUIs for an annual total of 17, and made 5 arrests for an annual total of 64.

Borough Engineer

Nothing to report.

Mayor Harding asks for update on the signals at Main and Afton and the engineer has no progress to report. The Mayor asks Mr. Beach to expedite the process as he has received some concerns regarding the signals at that intersection.

Mr. Berry asks if PennDot has any outstanding actions with regard to the ADA ramps at Afton intersection. Mr. Beach notes that the ramps don't currently appear to be ADA compliant even though they were completed a month ago. Mr. Beach notes that they may have gotten

exemptions. The engineer has been waiting for as-builts for months. Mr. Beach will follow up again with PennDot.

Council Vice President

1. Falls Township is hosting an electronics recycling drive on Saturday January 5th from 9am-1pm at 9125 Mill Creek Road.
2. There will a community town hall on opioids on January 17th at Lubavitch of Bucks County, 25 North State Street Newtown, PA. From 4:30-6:00 there will be information tables and from 6:00-8:00 there will be presentations with panels of experts including State Attorney General, Josh Shapiro.
3. Sam Snipes passed away on New Year's Eve. He was a prominent attorney and community leader.

Council President

President Marshall polled all council members regarding committee placements and operational issues and has decided to make no changes to placements or committees with one exception. Due to the ongoing absence of Mr. Ruttle, Mr. Marshall will take over the Community and Economic Development Committee until further notice.

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

1. A calendar of events for the year is presented for review.
2. The committee is hoping to obtain Council's agreement to seek audio-visual interns from BCCC to help with the live streaming. The interns could also do website updating, record committee meetings, and other duties. 2.5 hours per week for 16 weeks are needed to meet intern program requirements. Council offered its support for this idea.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson is in receipt of a letter from Curtin and Heefner regarding a rate increase. Ms. Thompson moves to approve extension of the Borough's contract with Curtin and Heefner at a rate of \$150 per hour, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Motion passes.

Reading Avenue Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

Nothing to report.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

1. There is currently a vacant part-time police officer position to be filled. This position will not add to the total headcount. The department is seeking a full-time position as well but that probably won't be filled for several months. The part-time position is only paid for the hours they work.
2. Public Safety is discussing the canal and locks system and has devised a three-pronged approach. 1- The call list for opening the gates is currently owned and managed by Borough. The committee would like to see the Friends of Delaware

Canal retake ownership of that responsibility. Wes Foraker will reach out to the Friends to start this process. 2 – The committee is discussing how to prevent flooding from happening. They would like to pursue getting the banks built up and work with DCNR to do that. DCNR has created a low spot in one of the worst possible positions so hopefully they can come out and review and plan to build up the banks. 3- Several years ago the Borough was awarded a grant for widening the canal path near the aqueduct to allow for vehicles to drive there but PennDot took the grant money. The committee is hoping to get that grant money back from PennDot and the Council grants consensus to pursue reclaiming the grant.

3. CRS Status. Wes Foraker presented information about the Borough's recently obtained CRS status which means that residents who have a NFIP flood insurance policy will see a 5% reduction in flood premiums in 2019. FEMA says we have a lack of open space on the river side of the canal. The community needs to maintain yearly accreditation to continue to receive this reduction in rates. To move to the next level of reduction in rates the community needs to obtain 250 points. Mr. Berry asks what does FEMA consider open space. Part of the CRS process involved coming up with a flood plain development procedure which was sent around by Paula Johnson a few weeks ago. Wes asks that Council review it closely and consider of adopting it. Concerning ordinances, Wes is suggesting some simple wording changes which would tie the fence ordinance and the zoning ordinances together in an effort to curb variances.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Ruttle

n/a

Public Works-Mr. Ross

Nothing to report

Mr. Berry notes that all committees need to prepare an annual report. Mr. Marshall will research.

Bill List

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 1/2/19 bill list, which Ms. Brady seconds. Motion passes with Mr. Bria abstaining.

Correspondence

None

Public Comment

None

Certificates of Appropriateness

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Appointments/Reappointments to Boards and Commissions.....Ms. Thompson

The community outreach appointment chart is presented for review. All current committee appointees have expressed interest in maintaining their positions. There are two competing applications for the vacancy board and for the sewer authority. A discussion followed about how community members find out about these appointments because the process seems somewhat closed and there may be others in the community who would like to be involved. Ms. Brady suggests that in the future Council should advertise positions at the end of the year for the following January openings. Ms. Thompson notes that when reviewing the current list of appointees she looked at their level of participation and she did call references for competing candidates. Mr. Berry asks if commission members serve at the discretion of Council. For most committees that is the case but not all, specifically zoning and sewer. Mr. Marshall asks Ms. Johnson to post a notice on the website “advertising” that the positions come available in January and to contact the office with any interest.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Tom Sims to the Zoning Hearing Board, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Jerry Taylor to HARB, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Ross moves to appoint Michael Thompson to EAC, which Ms. Brady seconds. Mr. Berry notes that there is another vacancy on EAC. Motion passes with Ms. Thompson abstaining.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Jimmy Balmer to Parks & Recreation, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Lisa Kuliczkowski to Parks & Recreation, which Mr. Brady seconds. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Susan Schneck to Parks & Recreation, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Thomas Cadwallader to Vacancy Board, which Mr. Ross seconds. Mayor Harding asks if in the past there was public interviewing of candidates. Ms. Thompson will look into what happened in the past. Ms. Brady points out that Mr. Cadwallader also serves on sewer board and questions serving on two boards and should we consider that as a disqualifying factor. Mr. Berry notes that a vote no isn't a personal comment on a candidate. A roll call vote was held with results as follows: Ms. Thompson, yea, Mr. Berry, no, Ms. Brady, no, Mr. Bria, yea, Mr. Marshall, yea, Mr. Ross, yea. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Rich Wayne to the sewer authority, which Mr. Ross seconds. Ms. Brady asks what considerations were for Rich Wayne versus Rich Cole. Ms.

Thompson notes that the sewer authority position is about to be very important because the Morrisville sewer plant is about to be decommissioned and the candidates differed on policy about what to do about this situation. Mr. Cole wants to pipe to the Lower Bucks facility which is likely also to be decommissioned in the near future. Mr. Wayne would like to enter into a joint authority which LMT will also probably move to. Mr. Bria notes that Yardley has some of the highest sewer rates in Bucks County and another rate increase is probably coming. His feeling is the sewer authority hasn't accomplished the best interests of the borough and it's time to go in a new direction. Mr. Berry will abstain because Mr. Wayne is in his chain of hire. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Thompson, yea, Mr. Berry, abstain, Ms. Brady, yea, Mr. Bria, yea, Mr. Marshall, yea, Mr. Ross, yea. Motion passes.

2. Annex Building Planning Use.....Ms. Thompson
The 2019 budget includes 40k for the roof but the building is generally in horrible condition and needs much more work than just a roof. The Borough does get 24k a year in rent. Ms. Thompson moves to authorize the Borough Manager to look into options regarding the property, which Mr. Ross seconds. Two possible options are 1-improving the building and charging more rent and utilizing one of the bays in the garage to store police equipment or 2-research offloading the building. Recommendations are to be made by end of end of March 2019. A decision may be not to fix the roof depending on what exploration finds. Motion passes.

Mr. Bria motions to adjourn at 8:17.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean