

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
November 19, 2019**

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

Caroline Thompson
Mike Ruttle

David Bria
Bryon Marshall

Matthew Ross

Council member(s) not in attendance: Ryan Berry

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineers Tom Beach and Liz Colletti, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson. Council President Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes (Time Stamp 7:30 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Motion passes with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Ruttle abstaining.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:30 pm)

Solicitor

Nothing to report.

Borough Manager

- Tax levy ordinance has been advertised
- Investigating potential grants for sidewalk projects
- Trash bid requests for bids has been re-advertised
- Contact for snow removal has been signed and first delivery of salt has been received.
- Thanks to the Shade Tree Commission for planting 16 new trees in town
- Council members are invited to walk in the Christmas parade. Let Paula Johnson know if you are interested.

Mayor

Thank you to the VFW and the American Legion for inviting Council and the community to participate in the Veteran's Day festivities.

Police Chief

Nothing to report.

Borough Engineer

- Main/Afton signals have received final approval. The job should be sent out to bids to after Thanksgiving.
- Speed humps have been replaced with speed tables. Final markings still need to be completed.
- They are working with the residents of Whiskey Hill to get their issues resolved.

- Yardley walk – Lennar received the DEP letter of authorization. The engineer is waiting for notice of work start date on the upper dam.
- Grants – The Borough was awarded \$125,000 for Phase 2 sidewalk project. They are looking into other grants to cover the cost of the work.

Council Vice President

Thanks to VFW and American Legion for the Veteran’s Day festivities.

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Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Four applications have been received for the Council vacancy. The timeline for follow-up is as follows: By 11/22 manager will do reference checks with results distributed by 11/25. A special meeting will be held on 11/26 or 11/25 to conduct public interviews. A vote and appointment effective immediately will be made at 12/3 meeting.

Mr. Ruttle feels this timing may be potentially problematic. He suggested honoring the outcome of the recent election and offering one of the newly elected councilpersons to assume their appointment early then defer the vacancy until the new Council is fully seated in January. Ms. Thompson, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Bria prefer to move forward as planned and as was decided at last Council meeting.

Ms. Thompson moves to advertise a public meeting on November 26th at 7:30, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

Regarding the expected second vacancy that won’t come into effect until January and the length of that vacancy is 2 years, ending in in 2022.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

Grant received and discussion of options for pushing that project forward over the next couple of years.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Berry

None

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

None

Public Works-Mr. Ross

- Mary Yardley Bridge – Waiting for DCNR coring samples and waiting on design.
- Meeting with neighbors in Whiskey Hill to address issues there.

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:41 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the bills list dated 11/19/19, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 7:42 pm)

Mr. Bria discussed a statement that Patrick McGovern released to the press indicating that he doesn't intend to take his Council seat starting 1/6/20. Regular vacancy provisions will go into effect as of that date.

Mr. Marshall is in receipt of a letter dated 11/14/19 from Mr. Ryan Berry in which he resigns his position on Council.

Ms. Thompson moves to accept the resignation of Ryan Berry, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Bria asks if with a council of 5 are Sunshine Rules in effect? Mr. Closser indicates yes, they are.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 7:45 pm)

Jim McGrath, 93 N. Delaware. Mr. McGrath addressed Council to stress the importance of Council members having experience and knowledge of the issues at hand specifically with regards to grant processes for the elevation of homes as well as issues pertaining to the floodplain.

Mr. Bria – We do need assistance from our federal reps to support and advocate for grant applications for the Borough. He encourages community members call Representative Fitzpatrick's office to ask him to advocate for the Borough with respect to federal grants.

Mr. Ruttle – Flood mitigation has been primary focus of Council for 14 years. In the last two years it has dropped off because of changes in Washington and funding is not as easily available and has been cut back. He also encourages community to call elected representatives.

Elise McGrath, 93 N. Delaware. Ms. McGrath notes that she has reached out to Congressman Fitzpatrick's office many times asking him to come to Yardley to see the houses and to see the situation firsthand. Her calls were ignored for a long time. She encourages everyone in the community to contact his office and ask him to come to the Borough. He needs to come and see in order to be invested in the issues effecting this community.

Kim Prickett, 20 W. College Ave. E-mails were forwarded approximately a month ago to Borough officials regarding racism directed against Mr. Prickett. These e-mails were not responded to. Ms. Perlmutter has filed suit against the owners of 20 W. College for damage to her property. Ms. Prickett has subpoenaed information from Borough for her defense, but the information has not been provided.

Michelle Shearer, 31 N. Main, Friends of Lake Afton. Thanks for donations to the project to take care of erosion in the Lake. Hoping to start Project Shade in January which will reclaim part of the lake where shade trees can be planted.

Leanne Poffenberger, 160 Lincoln Avenue. Shade Tree Commission would like to work with Friends of Lake Afton on trees project for the lake.

Ms. Poffenberger also raised a safety question about the dangers of not wearing reflective clothing at night. She is very concerned about this safety issue. Ms. Johnson will work with Chief Kelly about safety notifications.

Barry Shearer, 31 N. Main. What is estimated cost of sidewalk for North Main Street? Last estimate was about \$750,000. Non-matching grant received for \$125,000. The budget committee is working on adding some options in the budget for additional funding and Borough is seeking other grants.

Tammy Marshall, 31 S. Bell. Ms. Marshall addressed Council and Mr. Bria directly about issues with Mr. McGovern's Facebook posts prior to the recent election. Mr. Bria reiterated that he had no firsthand knowledge of the posts prior to election day.

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 8:10 pm)

19-27 11 East Afton Avenue (Sign)

Mr. Bria motions to approve certificate of appropriateness 19-27 with the conditions outlined on the application, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

Old Business (Time Stamp: 8:11 pm)

1. Adoption of Ordinance No. 481 Amendment to Planning Commission Board.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve amendment to the Planning Commission Board Ordinance No. 481, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:12 pm)

1. Event Permit Yardley Menorah Lighting (12/23/19).....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve the event permit for Yardley Menorah Lighting as submitted, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.
2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve application and appointment of Richard Edwards to the Zoning Hearing Board effective immediately, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Bria asks about additional vacancies coming up. Ms. Thompson notes that reappointment applications have been sent out. There will be a full report on vacancies at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Stephanie McCann to the Planning Commission for a term ending 12/20, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson notes that Richard Hodge's application for Planning Commission will be recommended for approval in January.

Ms. Thompson motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:15, which Mr. Bria seconds.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean