

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
December 6, 2022**

The meeting was held in Borough Hall with the following members present:

Kim Segal-Morris
Matthew Curtin
Matt Ross

Caroline Thompson
John McCann

David Appelbaum
Don Carlson

Council member(s) not in attendance:

Also in attendance were Chief Joseph Kelly, Borough Manager Paula Johnson, Borough Financial Assistant Patty Sargent, Engineer Patrick Foley, and Solicitor Ernest Closser.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Caroline Thompson, President

The meeting was called to order at 7:32.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Shirley Lee Corsey of Gather Place made several announcements. 1-Gather Place is holding a gift and food drive on Saturdays and Sundays 12-3pm until Christmas. The address of the Old AME Church's address is 188 South Canal Street. 2-Sesame Place has offered season passes for Gather Place to use as a raffle fundraiser. Tickets for the raffle are \$10.00. 3-Thanks to Councilman Appelbaum for helping obtain a student volunteer to assist Gather Place with their technology and website.
- Menorah Lighting and activities will be held in Buttonwood Park on 12/18/22 starting at 3:00.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Albert Celini, 18 Van Horn Drive. Forming a citizen's budget committee to conduct financial analysis specifically with respect to public safety spending. The group will have seven members with representatives from business and Council in addition to citizens. Asks for Council to consider chartering this committee and supporting its work. Council President Thompson asks for a written request from Mr. Celeni regarding the proposal.
- Corie Feiner, 133 N. Main. Spoke about the sidewalk project on Main Street and its impact to trees and to the residents.
- John Celentano, 136 N. Main. Asked a question about responsibility for snow removal on the sidewalks which run on private property. He would like to work with his neighbors to contract with companies that currently work with the Borough for snow removal.
- Matan Feiner, 133 N. Main. Expressed his excitement over the new sidewalk in front of his house.

- Uri Feiner, 133 N. Main. Thanks Council for getting the sidewalk completed.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED December 6, 2022

A. Approval of Minutes Dated November 15, 2022

B. Certificates of Appropriateness:

- i. 22-37~ 188 South Canal Street-Roof Replacement
- ii. 22-38~ 27 East Afton Avenue – Sign
- iii. Appointment of Scott Staropoli to Civil Service Commission, term ending 12/31/27
- iv. Appointment of Samantha Willinger to Parks and Recreation Board, term ending 12/31/24

Mr. Curtin motions to approve the Consent Agenda dated December 6, 2022, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris.

Public Comment:

- Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College, questioned the appointment of Scott Staropoli to the Civil Service Commission and the process for making these appointments.
- Frederick Rabena asked about the Civil Service Commission and its duties.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Police service statistics for November 2022: The department handled 604 calls for service, issued 1 parking ticket, issued 125 moving citations, issued 5 non-traffic citations, investigated 6 motor vehicle accidents, and made 4 arrests (0 for DUI.)

VIII. MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Accept Finance Report Dated December 6, 2022

Consensus of Council was granted.

B. Consideration to Adopt the 2023 Budget

Mr. Curtin motions to adopt the 2023 Budget, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

- Mr. Curtin thanks Borough staff for their work on the budget.
- Mr. Curtin met with Mr. Rabena and Mr. Celini and is open to discussions with citizens about the process going forward. He also noted that with respect to the public safety budget the increase equals approximately 7% per year over the last 10 years.
- Mr. Appelbaum commented about his previous statements about the tax increase.
- Frederick Rabena commented about connecting the dots between the budget process and conversations about public safety.
- Dawn Perlmutter commented about the public safety budget specifically in respect to competitive bidding and procurement policies.
- Uri Feiner thanks Council for the work on the budget and offers perspective on growth in the budget and increased costs over the years.

- Anthony Romanelli, non-Borough resident and representative of the Republican committee in Lower Makefield, spoke about increases in prices generally and suggests postponing the tax increase until a later time.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

C. Consideration to Adopt Ordinance No. 490 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance

Mr. Curtin motions to adopt Ordinance No. 490 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

- Earl Markey asked about the number of millage increases available before an earned income tax is mandated.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

IX. ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Consideration to Accept Elevation Bid of 81 North Delaware Avenue
Request delayed.

B. Consideration to Accept Elevation Bid of 45 South Delaware Avenue
Request delayed.

C. Consideration to Accept Elevation Bid of 46 Brown Street

Mr. Ross motions to adopt Elevation Bid of 45 Brown Street, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris.

- Dawn Perlmutter asks if RVE did the elevation certificates for these properties, which they did not.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

X. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Mary Yardley Bridge
Bridge is in fabrication. Site work scheduled to start 4/10/23 and conclude 5/24/23. Bridge will be closed for approximately a total of two months for installation. Plans will be made for emergency management.

B. North Main Street Sidewalk – Phase II
Sidewalk work is currently on a pause as engineers work through a couple of items with a resident.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

A. Res. No 22-23 Act 57 of 2022 Local Tax Collection Law
This is response to a change in the law effective October 2022 and offers waivers for people who did not receive their tax notice in a timely manner. This resolution is required by law.

Mr. Ross motions to approve Res. No 22-23 Act 57 of 2022 Local Tax Collection Law, which is seconded by Mr. Appelbaum.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

N/A

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

- A. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, Met with Experience Yardley, discussed ducks and community calendar.
- B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Sewer Authority, APO
No report.
- C. Matt Curtin – General Government Committee, YMFC
No report.
- D. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic & Architectural Review Board, Shade Tree
Committee met to discuss final changes to outdoor seating ordinance. Met with Coalition Against Bigger Trucks regarding new legislation regarding the increasing size of tractor trailers.
- E. David Appelbaum – Community Outreach Committee, YBA, Parks and Rec
Hosted Mayor’s radio show today. YBA Christmas Parade was a success. Met with Dr. Perlmutter about graffiti in town. Will look into a program called TAG – Towns Against Graffiti.
- F. Don Carlson – ZHB, Sewer
No report.
- G. Caroline Thompson – Planning Commission
No report.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Res. No. 22-22 Update to Yardley Emergency Operations Plan - Ms. Segal-Morris Appendix 1 has been rewritten recently and updates to Councilperson’s names were made.

Ms. Segal-Morris motions to approve Res. No 22-22 Update to Yardley Emergency Operations Plan, which is seconded by Mr. Curtin.

Mr. Foraker gave an overview of the updates.

- Mr. Markey asks if Council would consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bucks County Amateur Radio Association to allow for added communications during an emergency. Mr. Markey will forward information about this to President Thompson.
- Mr. Celini asks if the plan includes information about security and cyber breaches, which it does not generally. Suggests adding this information in the future.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Appelbaum motions to adjourn to executive session at 8:41, which is seconded by Mr. McCann.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean