

Yardley Borough Council Meeting
December 3, 2019
Amended at the December 17, 2019 Meeting

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

Caroline Thompson	David Bria	Matthew Ross
Mike Ruttle	Bryon Marshall	

Council member(s) not in attendance:

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.

Added agenda item:

Resolution 19-12.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson presented Community Outreach’s recommendation to fill Sandi Brady’s vacated Council seat to serve a two-year term ending 1/3/2022.

Thank you to all applicants who applied.

Community Outreach recommends that Ryan Berry be appointed to the Council position for three reasons: Mr. Berry is the only candidate with regular attendance at Council meetings, Mr. Berry is the only candidate actively involved in Borough community projects and committees, and Mr. Berry was the next highest vote getter from the recent election.

Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Mr. Ryan Berry by Resolution 19-12 to fill the vacancy on Council effective immediately upon his acceptance after the declaration of residency and swearing in for a term ending January 3, 2022, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ruttle raised several issues related to the appointment including:

Council’s alleged abridgement of his right to free speech.

All applicants that applied except Mr. Berry have failed to appear which, Mr. Ruttle suggests, the decision has been made already.

Mr. Berry has allegedly falsified evidence in a matter pending at the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County therefore he might not be able to serve or serve a full term if convicted.

Mr. Ruttle is uncomfortable that a lame duck council would decide to make this decision with less than one month in this term. There are two seats are available and both need to be filled before end of the month. He suggests that councilperson’s-elect Mr. McCann and Ms. Segal-Morris take their appointment early and then leave the open seat appointment to next Council.

Mr. McCann and Ms. Segal-Morris state they will not take the early appointment.

Mr. Bria – The appointments in question are for two-year terms and Mr. McCann’s and Ms. Segal-Morris’ terms are for four years so Mr. Ruttle’s solution doesn’t work.

Mr. Marshall states that Council has decided how to proceed and will continue as decided with the appointment proposed today.

Mr. Ross – Per Borough code it is required to fill the seat by this Thursday otherwise the vacancy goes to the Vacancy Board.

A vote was held and the motion passes with Mr. Ruttle voting nay.

Ryan Berry was sworn in by Mayor Harding and took his seat on Council.

Minutes (Time Stamp 7:43 pm)

Mr. Bria moves to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. Motion passes with Mr. Berry abstaining.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:45 pm)

Solicitor

Nothing to report.

Borough Manager

- No major upgrades planned by PECO for 2020. The Borough is still interested in the open lot in Rivermar.
- Received 2018 recycling grant of \$14,930.
- Heating contractor inspected annex heater. They are suggesting to remove and replace oil tank, quotes are being gathered.

Mayor

- Please send letters of thanks to other three candidates who applied for open Council seat.
- Christmas parade 12/7. Nonperishable food collection for veterans in need distributed immediately by the VFW.
- Council is welcome to join in the parade and food collection.

Police Chief

Chief Kelly presented service statistics for November 2019. The police department handled 526 calls for service, issued 126 traffic citations, issued 1 parking ticket, investigated 5 traffic accidents, and made 5 arrests, 3 of which were for DUI. On goal to have 80 or fewer accidents this year which is a 20% reduction from the four previous years. Department ran a DUI suppression detail on Thanksgiving Eve. 35 vehicles were stopped for various traffic violations. 16 traffic citations were issued, 1 arrest for DUI and possession of methamphetamine.

Borough Engineer

- Grants – Partially awarded DCED MTF grant for North Main sidewalk phase 2. Moving forward with seeking funding through PA Small Water and Sewer

resolution which is on the agenda tonight. Council needs to decide on the length of the sidewalk project.

- Mary Yardley Bridge – Survey work is scheduled. DCNR has approved moving forward with geotechnical work.
- Main/Afton – Waiting for PennDot about approval of specs. Anticipate advertising at beginning of the year.
- Liquid Fuels – Met with Whiskey Hill residents to address issues with improvements.

Council Vice President

Nothing to report

Council President

Many upcoming events in December and many opportunities to support local businesses:

- Christmas parade, 12/7
- Community open house at Old Library on 12/7 2pm-6pm
- Santa's workshop after the parade on 12/7 and on 12/14 and 12/21
- National Wreaths Across America on 12/14 at 12:00.
- Holiday Tree at Old Library and community open house 12/14, tree lighting at 6pm
- Please continue to support the farmers' market

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Working through reappointment process that will be presented in January. Expecting vacancies on HARB and on Parks and Recreation. Please apply early so there are no gaps in appointments.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

Nothing to report

Community & Economic Development

n/a

Public Safety – Mr. Bria

Reviewed statistics for the month.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

Nothing to report outside of agenda items.

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:52 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the bills list dated 12/3/19, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Motion passes with Mr. Berry abstaining.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 7:52 pm)

Mayor Harding received a letter from a resident regarding a traffic issue. The issue was passed to Chief Kelly for response.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 7:53 pm)

David Applebaum, 39 Breece Drive, treasurer of Experience Yardley. Please support local businesses. They collected \$2,300 worth of gift certificates from local merchants for the Largest Gift Basket which is still on display at Ye Olde Yardley Florist.

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 7:55 pm)

None

Old Business (Time Stamp: 7:55 pm)

1. Award of Trash Contract.....Mr. Ross
 Mr. Ross moves to award the 2020 trash contract to Republic Services that will run from 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2023, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. This is proposal number 1 of 3. Everything in this contract is the same (days, time, route, price, etc).
 Mr. Harding - Are there performance criteria? Yes.
 Mr. Bria - The Borough is required to go with the lowest bidder for a municipal contract of this nature.
 Mr. Berry – How long is the contract? Three-year contract with one-year option.
 A vote was held and the motion passes.

2. Resolution No 19-12 PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant.....Mr. Ross
 A discussion was held about the length of the project; either to Cold Springs, which the current HOP covers, or to the easement that links up with the Mary Yardley Bridge. The easement is almost twice as long as to Cold Springs. Total expenses for both options, both with and without grant, are included in the meeting materials.
 Mr. Ross recommends the first option, to Cold Springs, because the Borough can't afford the 2nd option to the easement.
 Mr. Berry – How long is HOP open until? May. Grant notification will be in May.
 Mr. Ross motions to approve Resolution No 19-13 in the amount of \$249,399.15, the text of which is included in the meeting materials, which Mr. Berry seconds.
 Mr. Bria – Will get letters of support from state representatives.
 A vote was held and the motion passes.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:02 pm)

1. Event Permit Santa's Workshop 12/7 and 12/14.....Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the event permit for Santa's Workshop as submitted, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

2. Park and Rec Board Check Presentation.....Ms. Thompson
A presentation was made by the Parks and Rec Board to grant proceeds from their Memorial Mile and 5k events as follows:
\$1500 to Yardley American Legion Post 317 and
\$500 to Yardley Police

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:07, which Mr. Bria seconds.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean