

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting  
December 4, 2018**

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

David Bria	Sandi Brady	Ryan Berry	Bryon Marshall
Matthew Ross	Caroline Thompson		

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

President Marshall requested a moment of silence was held in memory of deceased President George H.W. Bush.

**Yardley Recreation Board 2018 5k Check Presentations**

Susan Schneck presented checks totaling \$2500 raised from the June 2018 5k race which had and record-high 325 registered runners and generous community support. The Recreation Board recognized the community service activities of the Friends of Lake Afton, the Yardley Historic Association, and the Friends of the Delaware Canal. The race will be held next year on June 2, 2019. There will be a Walk to Run program starting on Tuesday, April 9th organized by Jimmy Balmer to train new runners who wish to participate in the event.

**Minutes**

Mr. Berry moves to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. The motion carries with Ms. Brady abstaining.

**Progress Reports**

**Solicitor**

Mr. Closser updated Council on a new state law, written into the criminal code, dealing with drones. The new law prohibits municipalities and the Borough from regulating the operation of drones and enacts criminal penalties for those who misuse drones.

**Borough Manager**

1. The first reimbursement from PennDot in the amount of \$378,444 has been received.
2. Ms. Johnson thanks Pepsi of Philadelphia (2 pallets) and Bai water of Princeton (4 pallets) for their donations of bottled water during the recent several day water emergency.

**Mayor**

n/a

### Police Chief

1. Chief Kelly reports for the month of November 2018 the Police Department answered 480 calls for service, issued 7 parking tickets, 65 moving traffic citations, 0 criminal citations, investigated 7 motor vehicle accidents and made 7 arrests, 2 being for DUI.
2. Truck Number 3 is in service and was dedicated on 12/4 in honor of Chief James O'Neill. Mrs. O'Neill was in attendance and gave thanks to the community, the police department, the Council, Mayor Harding and especially Chief Kelly for their support.

### Borough Engineer

1. Main Street PennDot paving should be completed this week or middle of next week, weather dependent. Striping and crosswalks will be done thereafter, weather dependent.
2. North Main sidewalk project – The contractor is on board and wants to complete the work in 2018. Final restoration will be in 2019 because it is too late in the year to seed.
3. Main and Afton signals – Waiting for CAD files for ramps, hopefully in next week or two.
4. Liquid Fuels project is complete, just waiting for the maintenance bond to wrap that project up.
5. 31 N. Delaware – Should be done in a couple of months.
6. Police station roof – Three bids were received which were all really high. The apparent low bid right now is \$134,000. Mr. Beach is suggesting to reject these bids and rebid the project which will be discussed on the agenda later in the meeting.
7. Mid-Block Crosswalk study – Neither the north nor the south end met any of the warrants. On the north end there was one pedestrian for the entire day and on the south end there were 46 crossings in a 14-hour period which did not meet the warrants, which is 80 crossings in an hour or 40 crossings in a four-hour period. Mr. Beach will continue to discuss and research the issue.

### Council Vice President

Thanks to everyone for their patience during the water emergency, especially thanks to Paula Johnson and Wes Foraker for communication and coordination during the event. The Council will look at internal processes and how the water company handled the distribution of information during the emergency.

### Council President

It was a wonderful Christmas parade, even with the bad weather. Mr. Marshall recognized the mayor's efforts on behalf of a challenged member of our community for whom participation in the parade is extremely important. This resident was made an honorary mayor and walked in the parade with Mayor Harding.

### Council Committees

#### Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

1. Ms. Thompson offers recognition of the Communication Advisory Board and specifically Adam Hiner. This meeting is the first to be livestreamed and all meetings will be broadcast on YouTube and will be archived in perpetuity.
2. Toy Story is being show this Saturday at 4:00 in the community center.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

1. General Government is waiting for several of the committees to submit capital project plan projections in the hope of having a 10-year comprehensive capital project plan done before the beginning of 2019.
2. Interviews for the financial assistant position are underway this week. A council vote is needed to approve committee's recommendation. The committee wishes to make an offer next week. A discussion was held about whether or not there should be a special meeting on 12/11 or wait for a vote until 12/18 meeting, which would postpone the start date since the candidate will need to give two-weeks notes to their current employer. It was agreed to hold special meeting on Tuesday, 12/11.

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

The Reading Avenue Committee has not met. Mr. Berry will follow up on that.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

Public Safety met this week and discussed the process with the canal and DCNR.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Bria

Mr. Ruttle did not attend the last meeting. If this pattern continues, Council needs to reconsider committee assignments.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The committee will meet before the next Council meeting to discuss sidewalk projects, crosswalk projects, and capital planning.

**Bill List**

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 12/4/18 bill list with one change. The Keystone Municipal line item being pulled. Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Comment**

1. Carol Such, 33 Cadwallader Court. Ms. Such's sister is blind and she would like to be able to walk to the Yardley Town Center shopping plaza but there is no walkway and people have to walk in the parking lot. Ms. Such asks the Council to consider a modification to make it safer to walk in that area. Mr. Ross and the public works committee will look into it. Ms. Thompson notes that many capital projects involve sidewalks so this could be added to that list. Ms. Such also asks if the traffic light at Main and Afton will be ADA accessible. Mr. Beach notes that it is scheduled to be ADA accessible.

2. Michelle Sharer, 31 N. Main, Friends of Lake Afton. Ms. Sharer offers thanks to Paula Johnson, Chief Kelly, Caroline Thompson and Sandi Brady for attending Thursday’s event. Additionally, Ms. Sharer will be having a book signing for her book, “Alfalfa, The Story of a Duck from Lake Afton” at the Yardley Florist on Saturday 12/8 from 12-3. All Proceeds from her book will benefit the Friends of Lake Afton.

**Certificates of Appropriateness**

None

**Old Business**

1. Escrow Release Foster (YLP) Project.....Mr. Ross  
Mr. Ross moves to release \$24,950 to YLP One, Inc, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.
  
2. Change Order #2 North Main Street Sidewalk Project.....Mr. Ross  
Mr. Ross moves to approve change order #2 for \$29,700 for moving pipe, which Mr. Bria seconds. The Borough pays 30% of this amount. Alex Thorne, 100 N. Main asks if there is an update to share about the rest of the project. Mr. Beach responds that Phase 1 is done and the Borough is seeking grant money for the next two phases. The Borough has put money aside to match grants that are obtained. Motion passes.
  
3. Police Roof Bids.....Mr. Ross  
Mr. Ross moves to reject all bids and authorize a rebid for the police roof, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Mr. Thompson asks if there could be repairs rather than a replacement. Mr. Beach notes that the weather will be an issue at this time of year and the roof is currently leaking badly. There will be some temporary patches. Mr. Marshall suggests tarping the roof now but keep moving to replace the roof. Mr. Berry asks why bids are so high at \$134,000 up to \$174,000. Mr. Beach notes problems with the original bids and the fact that the job is more extensive than some of the bids took into consideration. Resident Roger Crook, 104 N. Main, recommends Russell Roofing which has a commercial division. Mr. Beach notes that projects like this have to go to public bid but he will contact them on the rebid. Motion passes.
  
4. Mary Yardley Bridge Agreement.....Mr. Bria  
Mr. Bria presented regarding the agreement between the Borough and the Friends of Delaware Canal on the Mary Yardley Bridge. Mr. Bria brought to Council for comment before it is given to the Friends of the Delaware Canal. A vote will not be taken tonight. The Friends would collect donations and give them to Borough to hold for Bridge project. Borough is in charge of the project as a public works project. Ms. Thompson would like to see more detail on how the finances will be handled. Mr. Berry asks if the Borough is guaranteeing a match in this agreement. Mr. Bria notes that the agreement doesn’t specify a number for the match. Mr. Berry asks if they have started fund raising and will public donations and the Borough’s match cover the project. Mr. Bria notes that it will be a

challenge to cover the project and grant money should be sought. Removal of the bridge is more expensive than replacement. The goal is to start the project in 2019. The goal is around 100k for fundraising plus 35k match. Mr. Marshall comments on how good a job Mr. Bria and Mr. Closser did in crafting the agreement.

5. Advertisement of 2019 tax levy ordinance.....Ms. Thompson  
Ms. Thompson moves to advertise the 2019 tax levy ordinance, which Mr. Berry seconds. After further consideration, General Government is no longer recommending removal of the per capita and application taxes. These taxes would be difficult to reinstate once they are removed and they are fairly small taxes. Looking forward, Ms. Thompson’s goal is to remove these taxes as well as create a zero-based budget and to have one budget for every account (18) so it will be easier to see where money is going. Also there will be a 10-year comprehensive plan which will make big projects easier to fund. Motion passes.

**New Business**

1. Appointments to Yardley Borough Civil Service Commission.....Ms. Thompson  
Ms. Thompson moves to appoint James Balmer as an alternate to Civil Service Commission, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes. Ms. Thompson moves to appoint Brian Welch as an alternate to the Civil Service Commission, which Ms. Brady seconds. Motion passes.
2. Appointment of Civil Service Solicitor.....Ms. Brady  
Ms. Brady moves to appoint David J. Truelove, Esq., which Mr. Bria seconds. The commission meets as needed and solicitor attends those meetings. Motion passes.
3. Event Permit (Menorah Lighting 12/6/2018).....Ms. Thompson  
Ms. Thompson moves to approve a special event permit for lighting of the Menorah outside of Borough Hall on 12/6/18, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Bria motions to adjourn to executive session at 8:38, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Submitted by,  
Mary Ann McLean