

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
February 5, 2019**

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 Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Solicitor E. Closser, Engineer Leana Colubriale, 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

Mr. Bria moves to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. The motion carries with Mr. Ross abstaining.

Progress Reports

Solicitor

Mr. Closser reports that borough code was amended by state legislature in December 2018 to increase from \$1000 to \$2000 the threshold for public advertising of borough owned property and used equipment. Given that, Council will need to update our procedures for this process.

Borough Manager

Comcast will be working in the Borough over the next 3-4 weeks redoing their wiring. They will send notifications to all affected areas although they don't anticipate any significant outages.

Mayor

The Mayor's on-air radio show switched its time to 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2pm on WBCB 1490. Council members, staff, and the public are encouraged to come on the show to discuss topics of interest.

Police Chief

Chief Kelly reports for the month of January 2019 the Police Department answered 518 calls for service, issued 4 parking tickets, issued 153 moving traffic citations, investigated 3 motor vehicle accidents, and made 5 arrests, 1 being for DUI.

Borough Engineer

The Main and Afton signal was approved by PennDot for traffic counts.

Council Vice President

Financial disclosures should have been received by council members for 2018 and they are due to the office by 5/1/19.

Council President

Mr. Marshall was on hand for the reopening of Landolfi's on Main Street last weekend. It's great to see them move back onto Main Street in the Borough.

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Council's Corner new this year in the newsletter. The first Council's Corner was a year-end review. Ms. Thompson asks that all committees consider submitting stories to newsletter outlining what committees are working on. Next stories are due 2/15.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

Nothing to report

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

Nothing to report.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

1. Public Safety met this evening and was joined by an ad hoc group representing North Main Street residents who are concerned about traffic.
2. Regarding canal flooding, the committee met with State Representative Perry Warren who is very supportive of the Borough. He will help to try to apply pressure to DCNR for action on the flooding issues and he also suggested some new grant opportunities (Flood Mitigation Grant) which the committee will follow up on and bring back to Council for consideration.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Bria

The committee met last week and primarily discussed proposed changes to the Borough's sign ordinance. Our ordinance needs to be modernized but the committee wants to be sensitive to existing signage and not cause undue hardship. Additionally, there are other ordinance changes that need to be reviewed and considered, specifically medical marijuana dispensaries, fireworks sales, and grading permits.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

Committee will meet in two weeks and provide an update to Council.

EAC – Mr. Ross

1. The EAC received a letter from LMT EAC regarding holding a joint waste recycling event in May.
Mr. Ross makes a motion to grant \$250 to support EAC's recycling event with LMT EAC, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.
2. EAC received a grant of \$69,923 from the Pennsylvania DEP for the Buck Creek Watershed Restoration Assessment. Paperwork needs to be completed before the money is granted. The Borough's contribution is volunteer hours only.

Bill List

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 2/5/19 bill list, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion passes.

Correspondence

1. Mr. Bria discussed a letter which came to Jeff Buehler, head of Experience Yardley, regarding the Music on Main Street event. The letter requests financial reporting information and Mr. Bria asks what prompted this request. Mr. Marshall and Ms. Johnson indicate this is an annual requirement.

2. Mr. Marshall summarized a letter to Council from Councilman Mike Ruttle, who is not in attendance, regarding the Reading Avenue property, which is on the agenda for discussion this evening. The complete letter, in which Mr. Ruttle recommends not doing anything with the property and postponing any decision regarding it, is entered into the record and is attached to these minutes.

Public Comment

1. John Titterton, 178 N. Main Street. Mr. Titterton asks why Mr. Ruttle is not in attendance and has Mr. Ruttle given a reason for his continued absences. Mr. Ruttle's letter has several inaccuracies. Mr. Titterton notes that there is language in Township code about abandonment of office for elected officials missing three meetings and although this is a Borough has Council looked into these provisions and options regarding Mr. Ruttle's absences. Mr. Marshall notes that Borough code does not contain a similar provision.

2. Rob Sims, 138 Longshore Avenue. Thanks Council for collection of Christmas trees. EAC started this program in 2009.

3. John McCann, 174 N. Main Street. Mr. McCann notes an e-mail received today from Perry Warren discussing PennDot moving up North Main Street sidewalk project date. The e-mail actually discussed the North Main Street paving project, not sidewalk project. Mr. Berry will research the update and provide information at a future meeting. The deadline for next grant is mid-summer.

Certificates of Appropriateness

1. 18-34 40 South Main Street (Signs)

2. 19-01 37 South Main Street (Porch)

Mr. Bria moves to approve certificates of appropriateness 18-34 and 19-01, which Mr. Ross seconds.

Mr. Bria makes an amended motion to approve certificates of appropriateness 18-34 and 19-01 as recommended with HARB's suggestions, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. Motion passes.

Old Business

1. Payment Certificate No. 2, 31 North Delaware Elevation.....Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross moves to approve payment certificate No. 2 for the 31North Delaware Elevation in the amount of \$66,418.52 to Delta Inspection, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

2. Escrow Release No. 9 YLP 1, Inc.....Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross moves to approve escrow release No. 9 in the amount of \$18,390 for the Foster project, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

3. Reading Avenue Parcel Committee Recommendation.....Mr. Berry
Mr. Berry read the full recommendation into the record, which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Berry motions that Council directs the solicitor to draft a proposed conservation easement for the Reading Avenue woods property with guidance from this recommendation from the Reading Avenue committee and in coordination with the Council liaison, Council President, and Borough Manager for Council's consideration at an upcoming meeting, which Ms. Brady seconds.

Mayor Harding thanks Councilman Berry for his summary and presentation. Mr. Bria asks for a definition of conservation easement and how it works. Mr. Stosser notes that a conservation easement acts as a permanent restriction on development of the land according to the terms of the easement. In addition, it establishes the property as subject to the Donated and Dedicated Land Act, which would mean the Borough would have a hard time overturning the restrictions in the future. Mr. Bria asks about transfers of land to land trusts on plots of land less than one acre. Mr. Berry plans to research several groups, there is currently one group interested. Mr. Bria asks about the physical conditions of the property and are there costs yet known for getting that property to where it needs to be. Mr. Berry notes that a stewardship fund would be created for maintaining and improving the property. Ms. Thompson asks how many hours will it take the solicitor to draft the easement. Mr. Stosser indicates it is not a large project. Anne Heasley, 24 Cadwallader Court, asks about the issue of grading the land and thinks that grading should be allowed. Mr. Berry notes that this motion is simply to draft the easement, which will then come before Council for discussion and a vote. Brian Welch, 22 Reading Avenue, helped draft the recommendation and says the easement recommendation includes no detrimental grading. Rocco Diniglio, 180 Harper Avenue, offers that one of the barriers to bringing the property to vision has been past disputes and uncertainty over the status of the property. A vote was taken and the motion passes.

4. Resolution No. 19-01 Traffic Signal Approval.....Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross moves to adopt Resolution No. 19-01 for traffic signal approval application, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

New Business

1. Event Permit Wedding June 22, 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve the Rozick wedding permit for June 22, 2019 in Buttonwood Park, which Mr. Ross seconds. The wedding is the same day as Music on Main but Chief Kelly believes there shouldn't be a conflict because the events are at different times. Motion passes.

2. Hiring of Part-Time Police Officer.....Ms. Brady
Ms. Brady moves to extend a conditional offer to hire Gary A. Zumpano as part-time Police Officer, pending certification from the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC). Officer Zumpano was previously a part-time officer in Yardley Borough, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn to real estate executive session at 8:05, which is seconded by Mr. Bria.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean