

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

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

David Bria Sandi Brady Ryan Berry Bryon Marshall
Caroline Thompson

Council members not in attendance: Matthew Ross, Mike Ruttle

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Solicitor E. Closser, Engineer Tom Beach, 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)

Mr. Bria moves to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. The motion carries.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:31 pm)

Solicitor

Nothing to report.

Borough Manager

1. The new zoning officer is up and running. All outstanding issues passed on to him.
2. The Borough has received allocation for Liquid Fuels and it was about \$2,000 more than expected.
3. The single line audit is complete and will be sent out this week.
4. The regular annual audit will be completed this week.

Mayor

1. Thanks to Chief, Mr. Bria, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Marshall for hosting first female Cub Scout troop and presenting to them about local politics.
2. 5/1, 3pm, is Carry The Load event. The Mayor hopes for the full support and attendance of Council.

Police Chief

Chief Kelly reports for the month of February 2019 the Police Department answered 499 calls for service, issued 4 parking tickets, issued 102 traffic citations, investigated 5 motor vehicle accidents, and made 2 arrests, 0 being for DUI.

Borough Engineer

1. Actively looking for grant opportunities as discussed at the last meeting.
2. Researching grants for expanding Borough Hall. The roof issues may lead to an expansion.

3. Main/Afton signal – Revised signal plan and design report submitted to PennDot and results are expected in two weeks or so. Once that is back construction plans can be finalized and in early spring the bid process can begin.
4. 2015 FMA grant application – 31 N. Delaware is done.
5. A meeting with Yardley Walk Home Owners Association (HOA) where transition was discussed. The HOA will pass issues on to the engineer. Regarding the upper dam, the developer is going back to look at it. The HOA wants to get rid of the upper dam. Lennar is pursuing the questions through DEP to figure out if the dam stays or not.
6. Mr. Berry asks about the North Main Street sidewalk and what are the options for grants since Borough has been rejected twice. The engineer indicates that he will go back to the grantor to find out why Borough was rejected.
7. Mr. Mayor asks if Lennar has a sales office in Yardley walk. The engineer does not know.
8. Mr. Mayor wants to pursue grants for Main and College Ave crosswalks as well as get the Main and Afton crosswalk done as soon as possible as there are some problems with the signal timing. Mayor offers his help to get this situation taken care of as quickly as possible.

Council Vice President

1. Thursday, March 13, 2019 Senator Steve Santarsiero will hold another meeting about airport expansion which Mr. Bria will be attending representing the Borough.
2. The DEP is holding a meeting soon regarding Elcon and the proposed hazardous waste facility. Mr. Berry notes that previous Council did ask Falls Township not to pursue that project.

Council President

Nothing to report.

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Nothing to report.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

The committee is evaluating the Borough fee schedule and comparing with 5 neighboring communities. Initial research reveals that Yardley's fee schedule is more complicated than most. The committee's goal is to have a revised fee schedule for review at the first meeting in April.

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

Discussion pending agenda item tonight.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

Several residents joined tonight's Public Safety meeting to discuss a variety of issues.

1. Canal flooding – waiting to hear from DCNR regarding survey of towpath and raising the path. There will be a meeting in April with DEP.

2. Traffic on Delaware Avenue – committee is researching reduction of the speed limit on the stretch of Delaware Avenue that goes through Borough.
3. Discussion of issues brought to the committee by the North Main Street residents' group.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Bria

1. Met with Pete Guidotti of the Planning Commission regarding changes to floodplain ordinance. There is an open question regarding structures such as sheds and whether or not they would require a variance.
2. Mr. Bria notes that he hasn't been joined by another Council member for a meeting since October. Mr. Bria needs another Counsel member to share the load of this committee assignment. Ms. Brady volunteers to attend the next meeting with Mr. Bria.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

N/A

EAC – Mr. Ross

N/A

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:47pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 3/5/19 bill list, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 7:48)

Copies of minutes from last from Mercer Airport expansion meeting were received.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 7:48)

Michelle Sharer – 31 N. Main Street, Friends of Lake Afton. Lake's aerators will be turned on week of 3/18. The year's first fundraiser will happen on 4/18/19, boat rides on Lake Afton, 12pm-4pm. 5/4/19 yearly volunteer/cleanup day 8am-12pm. Community service hours are available for helping with the cleanup. Mr. Marshall recognizes Ms. Sharer's efforts and help with Reading Avenue easement.

Sandy Bowker – 84 N. Main. Ms. Bowker asks about the status of what is going on with the airport expansion. Mr. Bria responded that the size of runways is not going to change so size of planes is not going to change, but they are going to build bigger terminal. FAA has allowed them to break up the project into smaller pieces so they don't have to do environmental impact studies. It is an uphill battle for local communities to push for the environmental impact studies.

David Applebaum – 39 Breece Drive. Following up on insurance policy coverage for police station damage. Our deductible is more than the damage so we will not make a claim.

John McCann – 174 N. Main Steet – Trash pickup on weekends has been coming at 6am and it is very loud. Marshall will check the contract for clarification of earliest pickup times.

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 7:54)

None

Old Business (Time Stamp: 7:54)

1. Adoption of Civil Service Rules.....Ms. Brady
Mr. Truelove, solicitor for the Civil Service Commission, presented regarding the adoption of civil service rules. For Boroughs of the first class, which Yardley is, three or more full-time police officers require adherence to civil service oversight.

A copy of the document is attached to the meeting materials. Some changes were made to the rules including amendments to adhere to Yardley’s anti-discrimination ordinance and veteran’s preference. Section 507 of the Commonwealth’s Civil Service rules gives a 10-point advantage to veterans. If a veteran meeting particular criteria is in the final 3 candidates for a position, the position must go to the veteran. The solicitor’s suggestion is to approve the rules and regulations with these changes, including anti-discrimination language. Ms. Brady moves to approve the civil service rules and regulations recently circulated with changes outlined by the solicitor, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Motion passes.

2. Discussion of Reading Avenue Easement.....Mr. Berry
The Borough solicitor drafted easement language and it is attached to the meeting materials. The draft will now be submitted to the Planning Commission for their review at their upcoming 3/14/19 meeting.

David Applebaum, 39 Breece Drive – Are there any costs to the borough and will it prevent Septa from doing anything with this property. Mr. Closser notes that the cost of filing the easement is minimal and imminent domain is always a possibility. There is no reason to believe that Septa would attempt to take the property through imminent domain in the near future. Mr. Marshall notes that the hope is that volunteerism and fundraising will support the costs to maintain the property.

Brian Welch – 22 Reading Avenue – There is the possibility of the land being joined with a heritage resource group to add to the pool of support for the property.

3. Escrow Release No. 10 Final YLP.....Mr. Bria
Mr. Bria moves to release the final escrow payment to YLP 1 for an amount of \$38,389.28, contingent on posting of the maintenance bond, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Mayor asks if there are any outstanding issues with property to which Mr. Beach answers that there are not. Mr. Beach will check on the posting of the maintenance bond. A vote was held and the motion passes.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:11)

1. Banner Permit – Beer Fest April 27-May 12, 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve banner permit for Beer Fest, hung from April 27-May 23, 2019, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

2. Special Event Permit-Yardley Walk to Run April – June 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve event permit for Yardley Walk to Run which takes place from April to June 2019, which Ms. Brady seconds. Motion passes.

3. Special Event Permit-Easter Egg Hunt-April 13, 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve special event permit for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 13, 2019 with no rain date, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

4. Special Event Permit-Memorial Main Street Mile-May 27, 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve special event permit for Memorial Main Street Mile to be held May 27, 2019, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

5. Special Event Permit-Yardley 5k June 2, 2019.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve special event permit for Yardley 5k to be held June 2, 2019, which Ms. Brady seconds. Motion passes.

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn at 8:14, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean