

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
April 2, 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: Mike Ruttle, Matthew Ross

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 7:33 pm and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes (Time Stamp 7:33 pm)

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

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:34 pm)

Solicitor

Statement of Financial Interest forms are due to the Borough office by 5/1.

Borough Manager

1. The 2018 audit is done. It will be advertised in local newspaper and will be put on website and Facebook once consensus is granted.
Ms. Thompson asks for consensus to publish the audit. Consensus is granted by Council.
2. Wes Foraker, Susan Mazitelli, and Paula Johnson had a meeting with a resident from the flood plain who has been out of their home due to fire in the fall. Their home sustained significant damage and will potentially either raise the home or build a modular and permits will be required.
3. Mr. Berry asks about access to Yardley Commons due to the work that Septa is doing. He asks when that will be finished. Paula answers early spring.

Mayor

Carry the Load is planned for 5/1/19. Mr. Harding invites all of Council to join in the walk. The walk will leave at 1:45 from Washington Crossing (4 miles) and arrive in Yardley about 3:00. The walk will then leave Yardley for Philadelphia at 3:30.

Police Chief

Chief Kelly reports for the first quarter of 2019 the Police Department answered 1505 calls for service, issued 19 parking tickets, issued 393 traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citation, investigated 17 motor vehicle accidents, and made 14 arrests, 2 being for DUI.

Officer Stanley resigned today to accept full-time employment in a different community. He will be missed.

Borough Engineer

1. Met with Ms. Brady and staff regarding potential grants of which 3 or 4 were identified to pursue. Trail grants, expansion of Borough Hall, and funding for the Mary Yardley Bridge are priorities. ARM grants which are due in June are being sought for crosswalks.
2. Morgan Ave drainage issues. Preliminary cost estimates are being prepared.
3. Main and Afton signal. Final package will be submitted in mid-April.
4. Yardley Walk. Working with Lennar on scheduling a precon meeting.
5. FMA 2015 grant. Final payment certificate for 31 N. Delaware should be in by next meeting at which point the engineer will start closing project out.
6. Ms. Brady asks if Lennar has any obligations regarding the crosswalk near the shopping plaza on Afton. Mr. Beach will check on this to see if there is any documentation. Orleans, the original building, committed to formalizing the crosswalk but he is unsure if there is anything in writing that was passed to Lennar when they bought the project.
7. Ms. Brady asks about the traffic signal at Main and Afton and will there be any change on the timing of the signal. Mr. Beach answers probably not. The timing of lights is dictated by PennDot.
8. Mr. Berry asks about the North Main sidewalk and why grant submitted was requested twice. Mr. Beach will follow up on this but the initial feedback was they are too swamped to answer right now and call back in a few weeks.

Council Vice President

1. There is a follow-up meeting with Steve Santarsiero's office regarding the Mercer Airport on 4/11. Hopefully the course the stakeholders wish to take will be decided upon.
2. There is a Pennsbury School District Community Partners meeting on 4/30 at 5pm
3. Falls Township Supervisors will be considering the Elcon project at their 4/30 meeting at 7pm at Pennsbury West. All are encouraged to attend.

Council President

EAC received a \$69,900 Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection grant to plan for our aquifer. The EAC will be recognized formally at the next meeting. Mr. Bria asks about the liability clause in the grant agreement. Mr. Marshall will prepare an answer for this after fully reviewing the grant documents. There are obligations in the grant to meet certain targets and reimbursements aren't given if targets aren't met.

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Nothing to report.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

Charging for police hours. Hoping for clear guidelines on when an officer is needed at events. Chief Kelly notes that police presence is usually at the discretion of the chief and based on crowd size. Ms. Brady comments that Newtown bases their coverage at events at the discretion of the chief.

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

Reading Ave easement is in the process of being signed and then will be recorded with the county. This should be completed within the next few days.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

1. A letter will be sent to PennDot next week requesting permission to lower speed on Delaware Avenue from 35 mph to 25 mph. PennDot will decide if they want to do a traffic study for more information on the issue. Perry Warren's office will send the letter on the committee's behalf.
2. Public Safety is looking to pilot a pedestrian flag crossing concept as is currently in place near the George School. It is a fairly inexpensive option and may alleviate crossing issues in areas where there aren't crosswalks.
3. Ms. Berry asks if there will be arrows and better signage at Buttonwood Park. The road going into the shopping plaza between the bike shop and the salon is one way but many people use it as a two way because it isn't sign posted properly.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Berry

1. Mary Yardley Bridge – The committee is looking into options for funding, timing, and working with community partners.
2. Planning commission – At the last meeting a sample ordinance regarding grading and tree protection was presented. The sample ordinance is from Doylestown.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

n/a

EAC – Mr. Ross

n/a

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:59 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 4/2/19 bill list, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 8:00 pm)

An e-mail correspondence was received from the Sandy Run Girl Scout Council. They will be holding their summer camp at St. Andrew's Church and rectory this summer. They question the challenge of crossing Afton between the church and the rectory where there is no crosswalk. They ask the Council for suggestions on facilitating crossing the street. Ms. Brady responded that it's safest to cross at the crosswalk but that perhaps they could pilot the crossing flag system.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 8:03 pm)

Michelle Sharer – 31 N. Main Street shared the following upcoming events to Lake Afton.
4/6/19 - Book signing at Yardley Florist 12-3 for book signing.
4/13/19 – Boat ride fundraiser on Lake Afton. Looking for volunteers.
5/4/19 – Spring volunteer cleanup day 12-4

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 8:05 pm)

None

Old Business (Time Stamp: 8:05 pm)

1. 5K Banner May 20th – June 3rd.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 5k Banner from May 20th to June 3rd, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

2. Special Event Permit Yardley Farmers Market.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve the special event permit for the Yardley Farmers Market from 5/4 to 10/12, which Ms. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

3. Special Event Permit Music on Main.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to approve the special event permit for Music on Main on May 4, June 1,8,15,22,29, July 6,13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, which Mr. Bria seconds. Motion passes.

4. Floodplain Ordinance Amendment Discussion.....Mr. Bria
Mr. Bria makes a motion to authorize the solicitor to draft an additional amendment to allow property owners to relocate existing accessory structures within the boundaries of their property, which Ms. Thompson seconds.
A lengthy discussion followed among Council, the chairman of the planning commission, and members of the audience.
Mr. Berry – suggests a different approach going forward and advises slowing down and taking a more comprehensive approach.
Mr. Berry - It’s an imperfect system but we’re at the mercy of FEMA and in many cases there isn’t any leeway within the ordinance. Most of the ordinance is FEMA language anyway so comprehensive review may result in not being able to change very much.
Pete Guidotti – Mr. Guidotti suggests that he would like to sit with solicitor, planning commission and Wes Foraker to discuss a comprehensive review of the ordinance. He wants to hold off on tonight’s vote in favor of a conversation on the ordinance prior to a vote.
Mr. Beach – Do we need a grading ordinance to address when a structure is moved and changes the grading on a property?
Dan Mohn – Agrees that comprehensive review of all ordinances is needed but council needs to give direction about what they would like to see come out of that conversation. People in the floodplain don’t have any idea what they can currently do and the expertise of the planning commission should be utilized. Council should give them direction and have them use their professional expertise to come up with the specifics around the desired outcome of Council.
Ms. Brady – Suggests that it would make more sense to combine several changes to the ordinance all at one time rather than piece meal changes.

Mr. Bria – Doesn't want to wait for this particular change because there are pending applications and it's spring and building happens in spring.
Ms. Berry – It feels like we're rushing the process.

A roll call vote was held and the votes were as follows: Ms. Thompson, yes, Mr. Berry, no, Ms. Brady, no, Mr. Bria, yes, Mr. Marshall, no.
The Motion fails.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:54 pm)

1. Support of House Bill 328 An Act Establishing the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson read materials pertaining to House Bill 328, which are included in the meeting packet. Ms. Thompson moves to formally acknowledge Council support of House Bill 328: An Act Establishing the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force via the attached letter of support to be signed by the Council President, Mayor, and Borough Manager, which Mr. Bria seconds. Ms. Berry asks why a letter is being sent rather than a resolution being made. Perry Warren suggested a letter is the way to go. A roll call vote was held as follows: Ms. Thompson, yes, Mr. Berry, yes, Ms. Brady, yes, Mr. Bria, yes, Mr. Marshall, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Board Appointment/Reappointment Process.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves that Borough Council accept the updated appointment application and new reappointment application, which Ms. Bria seconds. The materials are attached to the meeting packet.
A discussion followed in which many questions and issues were brought forward.
Ms. Thompson made note of the feedback for further review and withdraws the motion.

3. Amendment to the Yardley Borough Fee Schedule.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson moves to accept three fee changes as presented in the meeting materials with one change. The police services fee is \$27, not \$30. Mr. Bria seconds the motion.
Ms. Brady asks why nonprofits are differentiated and at a lower cost. Other local communities differentiate a lower cost for nonprofits.
Mr. Marshall asks if there are any lower fee considerations for veterans. That is not currently built in but Ms. Thompson is willing to consider the suggestion. The last page does make note of the ability to apply for a fee reduction or waiver.
A vote was held and the motion passes.

4. 2019 Road Program Engineering Proposal.....Mr. Bria
Mr. Beach summarized the proposal from Remington Beach, which is attached to the meeting materials.
Mr. Bria moves to accept the proposal, which Ms. Thompson seconds.
Ms. Berry asks about the timeline and Mr. Beach notes it will go out to bid within a month.
A vote was held and the motion passes.

Mr. Bria motions to adjourn at 9:25, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean