

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
May 21, 2019**

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

David Bria Sandi Brady Ryan Berry Caroline Thompson
Matthew Ross (via phone, arrived at meeting at 8:00 pm)

Council members not in attendance: Bryon Marshall and Mike Ruttler

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Solicitor E. Closser, Engineer Tom Beach, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson. Council Vice President Bria 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 May 7, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Berry

Question:

Ms. Thompson asks what constitutes an appropriate way to be included in the minutes of council meetings and if a word document or letter is appropriate to participate in council business? It is understood that one can call in. Mr. Closser states one can submit anything but it is up to council if they accept. Mr. Berry asks the question, if it stifles freedom of speech at which Mr. Closser says it does not in this case. The motion carries.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:34 pm)

Solicitor

Nothing to report

Borough Manager

1. Spring street sweeping is this Thursday 5/23/2019 on Main Street and roads above.
2. 21 gun salute is at 7:00am Memorial Day. This ceremony goes to different cemeteries and starts at 9:00am.
3. Train tunnel – A girl scout is taking on the painting project and is waiting on the approval of her scout leader. Will need community help as well as financial donations because will have to buy special paint.

Mayor

Memorial Day – Very important day. 11:00am is the parade. 9:00am is the ceremony at Veterans Monument by Yardley Inn. 7:00am is the ruffle salute at the American Legion. This is about 45 minutes and is a great teaching opportunity for children.

Police Chief

1. Will be supporting all Memorial Day events including the rifle salute.
2. Wednesday – Main and Afton to support the street cleaning efforts. Will open roads the following morning.
3. Awards ceremony – 25 officers received awards. Chief Kelly thanks everyone for their supports.

Council Vice President

Thanks the Sons of American Legion. Helped line the Main Street flags in preparation for Memorial Day. Traveled to Harrisburg where the Governor announced infrastructure plans. Will take a closer look and introduce a resolution to council. The components are important to Yardley because it offers funding sources for flood mitigation and flood recovery.

Borough Engineer

1. Grant Funding update - Tonight grant funding to replace Mary Yardley Bridge.
2. Yardley Grants open June 1st and is due June 30th. Crosswalk improvements along Main, College, Letchworth, and Reading. There will be potential improvements between intersections of Penn Valley and Afton.
3. New Grant to consider for Phase II of the North Main Street sidewalks – There will be more information in the next week or two. This application period opens in June and is due in July.
4. Projects – Main and Afton signal. Got through all comments from Penndot and will go over the plan with the Chief.
5. Liquid Fuels Program – will go out to bid in June. Mr. Berry asks for an update on Yardley Walk and Lennar on the transition to HOA. Concerns about the dam and DEP. Mr. Beach hopes to talk about the upper dam tonight but will be next Thursday because of voting and awards that were tonight. Punch List Items – Will be giving a preliminary list. Final punch list will be towards the end of summer.

Mr. Bria states that Public Works is canceled tonight. It is rescheduled for May 7th 7:00pm before the joint meeting between Council and Planning Commission to review flood plain ordinance. Mr. Bria will discuss Lennar and dam in more detail.

Council President

Not in attendance

Council Committees

General Government-Ms. Thompson

The budget calendar is on the agenda for tonight

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

There is a new intake policy for Boards of Commission. Received an application for EAC from Paul Minter. There is currently no vacancy. He will be invited to be involved as a lay person. Application will be held if anything becomes available.

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

Reading Ave committee is rescheduled for June 3rd 2019.

Community & Economic Development - Mr. Berry

1. CED is canceled for this month - Considering zoning change regarding the Pennsylvania legislation of medical marijuana. This will be considered in the next couple months.
2. Mr. Berry discusses goals for the joint meeting on May 30th. One is to ensure preservation of quality of life through reasonable improvements of properties. Also the preservation of property values as well as protection of property and resident safety. Br. Berry also lists preservation of FEMA insurance programs and any obtainable discounts for CRS programs. Mr. Berry would also like to look at the removal of bans on improvements to floodplain property and still stay in compliant to FEMA requirements. Mr. Berry would also like to provide clarification on procedures so residents know what to do and what are the FEMA guidelines.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

Nothing to report

Public Works-Mr. Ross

Public works was canceled this evening

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:44 pm)

Caroline Thompson moves to approve the 5/21/19 bill list, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. A vote was held and the motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 7:44 pm)

None

Public Comment (Time stamp: 7:44 pm)

None

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 7:45 pm)

1. 19-08 10 South Main Street (Awning)
2. 19-09 37 South Main Street (Demo and Rebuild Additions)

Mr. Bria comments that no quorum was obtained but can still make recommendations. Council can approve if there is no quorum. Ms. Brady votes to approve 19-08 – 10 South Main Street awning and states a letter was sent by neighboring property. Ms. Thompson seconds the motion. Mr. Berry asks to disclose the dissents. It is recommended to have a 2-3 foot gap between neighboring property. The building is too close to the awning. There is a letter from the property owner who is satisfied with plans and designs. No questions or concerns from audience. A vote was held and motion passes.

Mr. Berry motions to approve 19-09 – 37 South Main Street demo and rebuild additions. Ms. Brady seconds the motion. A vote was held and motion passes.

Old Business (Time Stamp: 7:48 pm)

1. Resolution 19-02 Mary Yardley Footbridge Replacement Project.....Mr. Berry

Mr. Berry discussed at the last meeting if council would like to proceed on a grant application will need to pass resolution. This is for the version with 1 grant that would cost approximately \$250,000. Mr. Berry reads the resolution and motions which Ms. Brady seconds. John Celentano 136 North Main Street would like an explanation on the changes to the easement. Mr. Beach and Ms. Colletti discusses that there will be no changes to the easement. It is a nature trail that connects Main Street and it is difficult to make the trail 100% ADA compliant. However, the bridge will be ADA compliant. \$10,000 is for minor improvements to the trail within the easement. The west side of the bridge has a drop off that is a foot trail that is on private property. Will make some transitions there and minor improvements at the discharge. Mr. Celentano states for the record that there was talk of potentially digging out 10 inches of soil and wants to make sure do not kill any trees. Vote was held and motion passes.

2. Vote to Advertise the 2019 Roads Program.....Mr. Ross

Mr. Bria moves #2 of old business to later in the meeting.

New Business (Time Stamp: 7:53 pm)

1. 2020 Budget Calendar Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson states that the proposed 2020 budget calendar is much the same as last year but more inclusive with assigning tasks. Ms. Thompson moves to approve the calendar. Mr. Berry seconds the motion. Ms. Brady questions the September 17th date on finalizing the numbers.

This is a 1st draft. Most important date for boards, commissions, and committees is July 1st to submit requests. A vote was held and the motion passes.

2. Resolution 19-03 Legislative and Congressional Redistricting.....Mr. Bria

Mr. Bria gives a background and summarizes that gerrymandering refers to districts that are drawn in such a way to give an advantage to one political party or another. Mr. Bria presented council examples that heavily favor republican candidates in Pennsylvania. But also mentions that other states that has happened the other way, Maryland being one example. Following the 2010 census democrats captured over 50% of the votes but only 5 of the 18 seats were won by those candidates. At the congressional level the State Supreme Court found the congressional districts unconstitutional based upon the state constitution. There is a panel of 5 consisting of both majority and minority leader. Fifth member is appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court if both parties cannot agree.

Proposal is to change the process for both and to create an 11 member, non-partisan citizen's commission that will build the census data and create new districts. There are safeguards in the proposal. This requires amending the Pennsylvania Constitution. Ms. Thompson motions to pass Resolution 19-03 calling for the creation of an independent citizen's commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting. Mr. Berry seconds the motion. Janis Bader, 18 Letchworth Ave encourages to vote in favor. Alan Bader, 18 Letchworth seconds what his wife states and hope council supports this. Vote was held and motion passes.

Old Business # 2

2. Vote to Advertise the 2019 Roads Program.....Mr. Ross

Mr. Ross states this is to advertise for the liquid fuels program and that our cost estimate for the first bid is about \$165,000 and the curbing is \$42,000. Mr. Ross makes the motion to vote to advertise the 2019 Roads Program. Ms. Thompson seconds the motion. Mr. Berry asks about the alternative and base bid. The base bid is for Breece Drive. The alternative is for the running on Windsor Road and some surrounding area. Roads were done four to five years ago are getting some rutting. A rolled curb is being proposed to alleviate the rutting along edge of the road. The base bid includes putting stone in and alternative is to put a rolled curb in. A vote was held and motion passes.

Mr. Bria motions to adjourn at 8:05 pm, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Submitted by,
Patty Sargent