

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 20, 2019

7 P.M.

Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Ferencin, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Atkinson, Mayor Gifford, Mr. Trabel, and Ms. Halleman. Also, in attendance were Anthony Branco (Executive Administrator), Cordula Voges (Finance Officer), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), members of the Police Force, the Bethlehem Press and guests.

Council President Atkinson called the meeting to order and asked for everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

Council was in receipt of the below documents:

1. Draft Minutes of March 04, 2019 Council Meeting
2. Request from Ms. Georgina Guranid, 1321 Broadway for re-imbusement sewer and garbage bills – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
  - Memo from Exec. Adm.
  - Lehigh County Assessment Records
  - Email from Barbara Merkle
  - Copy of original letter from Ms. Guranid
3. ORDINANCE NO. 849  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, PROHIBITING PARKING AT VARIOUS TIMES, AMENDING SECTION 302 (c) (3), BY APPROVING THE DELETION/ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES
4. Emails from Lower Saucon & Salisbury Townships regarding UCC Appeals Board
5. Berkheimer spreadsheet – Business Privilege Tax list
6. Borough of Fountain Hill Property Rental List (this is being updated daily through the efforts of Mr. Rohrbach.
7. Personnel materials for Executive Session

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Minutes of March 04, 2019 Council Meeting – DRAFT

Council President Atkinson asked Council Members to submit revisions to Ms. Voges in writing.

**PRESENTATION(S)**

- Mr. Branco attended an award ceremony in Lancaster, PA for the Borough's 20-year membership with the Benecon Group, the provider of municipal Health Insurance.
- On behalf of the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD), Council President Atkinson asked for Council approval to donate two (2) Pool Passes (Adult, Child) for its annual Raffle.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Police Chief Bachert recommended and asked Council for approval to hire Mr. Justino Arroyo as part-time Police Officer.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel				x		
Helen Halleman				x		
Mayor Gifford						

Upon Council approval, Mayor Gifford swore Mr. Arroyo in as a Borough part-time Police Officer.

- Mr. Branco reported that the Business Privilege Mercantile (BPM) tax collection decreased by \$77,600 in 2018 versus 2017 which was caused by D T Davis Enterprise and Reeb Millwork having moved out of the Borough.
- The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund payment in the amount of \$134,241.16 will be paid on March 28, 2019.
- Of the pre-2019 past due balances for Sewer and Garbage Rent utilities \$236,646.08 have been collected between January 9, 2019 and March 20, 2019 (remaining pre-2019 past balance \$374,481.37).

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Agenda Items - n/a

MOTIONS - n/a

ORDINANCES

**Second Reading**

ORDINANCE NO. 849

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, PROHIBITING PARKING AT VARIOUS TIMES, AMENDING SECTION 302 (c) (3), BY APPROVING THE DELETION/ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

**DELETE:**

STREET	SIDE	LOCATION
Delaware Avenue	Front	836 apt. # 1
N. Lynn Street	Front	815
Russell Ave.	Front	1129

**ADD:**

STREET	SIDE	LOCATION
Stanley Avenue	Front	1312
Green Court	Front	623 Apt. 1

**GENERAL REPEALER**

All Ordinances or parts of ordinances, and all resolutions or part of resolutions, inconsistent herewith shall be and are herewith repealed.

3. **SEVERABILITY.** It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that if a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provisions of this Ordinance to be invalid or ineffective in whole or in part, the effect of such decision shall be limited to those provisions which are expressly stated in the decision to be invalid or ineffective, and all other provisions of this Ordinance shall continue to be separately and fully effective. Borough Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section or part thereof, other than any part declared invalid, if it has advance knowledge that any part would be declared invalid.

4. **PROCEDURAL DEFECTS IN ENACTMENT.** Any procedural challenge shall be filed in accordance with applicable law.

5. **ENACTMENT.** Under Authority of Law, Borough Council of Fountain Hill hereby enacts and ordains into an Ordinance the attached documents this date of November 3, 2014. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective immediately from the date of passage of this Ordinance.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Francis Ferencin		x	x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

RESOLUTIONS – n/a

10. OLD BUSINESS

- Request from Ms. Georgina Guranid, 1321 Broadway for re-imburement sewer and garbage

Council discussed the additional documents provided supporting the resident’s request for reimbursement. Council agreed on a “higher standard of proof” for the resident’s request and decided to table the request and get the Solicitor’s opinion.

- UCC Appeals Board (9/18/17) – need 3 members (trades related)

In lack of Borough residents’ interest in serving on the board, Lower Saucon and Salisbury Township representatives offered to share their boards. Mr. Branco recommended to partner with Lower Saucon Township.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Helen Halleman	x		x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Disruptive Conduct Appeals Board – need 3 members

The board only meets as needed. Mr. Branco reported that he possibly has interested parties to serve on the board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – n/a

COUNCIL ACTION - n/a

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items - n/a

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Police Grievance

Council retreated for an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			

Philip Trabel  
 Helen Halleman  
 Mayor Gifford

x		x			
		x			

Council reconvened and rejected the Police Grievance.

Annamarie Jordan  
 Francis Ferencin  
 Norman Blatt  
 Doug Trotter  
 Leo Atkinson  
 Philip Trabel  
 Helen Halleman  
 Mayor Gifford

Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
		x			
x		x			
		x			
		x			
		x			
	x	x			
		x			

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:20 PM, Mr. Blatt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

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**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
 LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leo Atkinson - President of Council

**SUBMITTED BY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cordula Voges, Finance Officer

**ATTEST:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anthony Branco, Executive Administrator