

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 21, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Due to Governor Tom Wolf’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Disaster Declaration on March 6, 2020, a virtual/remote public Council Meeting was held via phone/zoom. The remote participation option for residents was published on the Borough’s website www.fountainhill.org. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman, and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Mr. Wargo (Zoning Officer), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Blatt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

- Motion to approve of the April 5, 2021 minutes

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson		x	x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRESENTATION(S) - None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 862

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 202 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 402 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF

FOUNTAIN HILL; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING CERTAIN GENERAL AND SPECIFIC STANDARDS RELATING TO THE LOCATION, PLACEMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF TOWER-BASED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, COLLOCATED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AND SMALL WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES; PROVIDING FURTHER FOR THE REGULATION OF SUCH FACILITIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF SAID REGULATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Helen Halleman				x		
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

Mr. Trabel asked about the height of the small and large towers. Council President Blatt responded the height stipulations will not affect the existing towers on any building in the Borough.

RESOLUTIONS –

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the below Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ESTABLISH A \$100 FEE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY WORK PERFORMED BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER RELATING TO SEWER LATERALS, WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER WHERE THE LATERAL IS LOCATED

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson		x	x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			

Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

RESOLUTION 2021 - 10

FEE SCHEDULE FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

THIS RESOLUTION is made this 21st day of April 2021, by the Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill to establish fees for wireless communications facilities both inside and outside the public rights-of-way.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson	x		x			
Wilbert Rufe		x	x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel				x		
Helen Halleman				x		
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

Council members Trabel and Halleman inquired if the fees are negotiable. Mr. Branco clarified that they are set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

OLD BUSINESS

- Biennial Actuarial Valuation Report (AVR) as of January 1, 2021 recommendations by the Borough's Actuary, Mockenhaupt Benefits Group, for the Police Pension Plan

Ms. Voges explained the changes in the demographic and economic actuarial assumptions and their effects on the cost of the plan and asked Council to accept Mockenhaupt's recommendations.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Council President Blatt reminded that no official Arbor Day 2021 will be held. However, Fountain Hill was acknowledged again as Tree City USA in 2020.

Mayor Gifford stressed the importance of tree planting for the environment.

Mayor Gifford also mentioned that she is still working on a virtual acknowledgment for loved ones for Memorial Day.

Council President Blatt reminded that there are still many memorial bricks available for the Fountain Hill Memorial Plot.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

- Mr. Spencer of 1035 Jeter Ave asked Council a) for permission to consult with the solicitor to develop rules and procedures for future Zoning Hearing Board meetings in order to avoid any coordination issues and b) to set aside approximately \$750 for that purpose.
Council President Blatt acknowledged Mr. Spencer’s request and referred approval to the Finance and House & Ordinance committees.

Because of the Zoning Hearing Board’s responsibility for its meetings Mr. Spencer requested to be the **starting** host of the upcoming April 26, 2021 and any future virtual zoom meetings in addition to eliminate the general public’s pre-registration requirement.

- On behalf of the Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Department Mr. Trabel asked for permission to park four cars on Dodson street (i.e. in an area not affecting anything) to practice a rescue mission. Council consented and gave permission.
- Ms. Halleman asked about updates on the 1336 Russell Avenue - Black Dog Development project. Mr. Spencer said the Zoning Board’s involvement is completed. Mr. Wargo explained that the project is on hold and the attorneys of both parties are in discussion. Additionally, the process got delayed because one of the designers passed away during the process.

BOROUGH MANAGER

- Mr. Branco informed that the new police cruiser car will arrive next week. He asked for a motion to authorize Chief Bachert to advertise the old police vehicle on Municibid.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe		x	x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			

Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Mr. Branco informed that the Broadway Phase 1 project (Multimodal Transportation Grant - MTF 2019) will be out for bidding in July/Aug. This Broadway Curb & Sidewalk project will be done in conjunction with the PennDOT Curb Ramps.
- The MTF 2020 Grant application for the Broadway Phase 2 project (expected cost \$1.6 mill) will be discussed at the upcoming Commonwealth Financing Authority meeting on 5/21/2021.
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is reviewing funding for the suspended Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant application regarding lights and crosswalk construction on Broadway/Delaware Ave.
- The current cleaning lady will resign mid May 2021 moving out of state. Mr. Branco will be interviewing another local cleaning service company.
- At the April 5, 2021, the YMCA contract for the 2021 pool season was approved based on the 2019 contract including a YMCA management fee of \$35,516. The YMCA presented the final 2021 contract asking for an increase of its management fee to \$45,124. Mr. Branco explained that a motion would be needed to approve the revised contract and discuss at the next Council Meeting.
- Mr. Branco announced his retirement as of 5/31/2021. Absent of any official commemoration, Council President Blatt and Council thanked Mr. Branco for his service. Council President Blatt asked Mr. Trotter to set up a Personnel Meeting as soon as possible to start the search for a replacement for Mr. Branco.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – as needed – none

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:59 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: _____
Norman E. Blatt Jr.- President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 862

Next Resolution – 2021-11