

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 4, 2022
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Ms. Graham, and Mr. Trabel. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Dave Berger (Solicitor) and guests.

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

MINUTES

- Approval of the minutes of March 23, 2022

Council President Blatt asked for a motion by Ms. Jordan to approve the Minutes of March 23, 2022 as amended.

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

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Rufe abstained because they did not attend the March 23, 2022 Council Meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

Mr. Jason Brandon of 701 S Hoffert St addressed Council to inquire the closing of the Fountain Hill Pool. Council President Blatt referred him to speak up during the Privilege of the Floor (Unscheduled) toward the end of the Council Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – None.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- Microphone Etiquette

After the inaugural live streaming at the March 23, 2022 meeting, Mr. Gratz asked speakers to lean forward to the microphone to better project themselves to especially improve sound quality for remote participants.

- Republic Services Update

Mr. Gratz had communicated the missed garbage pickups to Republic Services and notified them of potentially fining the. The service will continue to be monitored.

- Pool Partnership Discussions

After Council had decided to close the Fountain Hill pool, Mr. Gratz reached out for pool partnerships with the City of Bethlehem, the City of Allentown, and Hellertown. The City of Bethlehem and the City of Allentown foresee staffing problems and might not be able to partner with the Borough of Fountain Hill. Alternatively, the Borough of Hellertown might allow Fountain Hill residents to use its pool while the Borough of Fountain Hill might subsidize some passes to match Hellertown's resident rate.

- Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Hiring Update

Mr. Gratz reported that the advertisement for the above position closed on Thursday, March 31, 2022. Four applicants are very strong and will be interviewed in the near future.

- Ordinances No. 567 and No. 868 have been advertised as directed and will be actionable at the first Council Meeting in May.
- Fire Truck auction update

The de-commissioned fire truck was listed on muncibid with a \$10k reserve price. The fire truck was just re-listed on the auction site for another three weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pay Rates for Summer Playground Staff

In preparation for any supervised activities in the park Mr. Gratz asked for Council's recommendation for pay rates for staffing personnel. Past pay rates stem from 2019 and might not be competitive any longer. Council agreed to offer the supervisor \$20/hour and the assistant \$15/hour. Council President Blatt emphasized that clearances are required.

- Community Meetings

Mr. Mike Zayko is asking for permission to use Borough Hall to hold a community meeting and discuss the future use of the pool. Council consented.

Mr. Gratz offered to share any future community meetings on social media as well.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL,
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM
THE LEHIGH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

Council President Blatt asked to approve the motion by Mr. Trotter to approve the above resolution.

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

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

- Allowing UGI/Great Western Services to start work at 7am on Saturday instead of 9am (Discretion of Council under §601(4))

The UGI representative asked to waive the noise restrictions and allow its contractor, Great Western Services, to start their work on 7 am instead of 9 am. The time frame needed will range from seven to eight weeks. She re-iterated that PennDOT will start its milling work on Broadway soon after starting on Seidersville Road and progressing East from Norway Place to Benner Ave and then from Benner Ave to Fiot Street.

Mr. Gratz will also share these work hours on social media.

Council President Blatt asked to approve the motion by Mr. Trabel to waive the noise ordinance restrictions.

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

- Authorizing Rettew Associates to file for a Highway Occupancy Permit on behalf of the Borough for Broadway Sanitary Sewer

Council President Blatt asked to approve the motion by Mr. Trabel to authorize Rettew Associates to file a Highway Occupancy Permit for the Sanitary Sewer Metering Pit on Broadway on behalf of the Borough.

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

- Approval to hire Gary Arndt as a full-time Public Works employee as recommended by the Public Works Committee (Start Date 4/18/2022 conditional on passing required physical and background)

Mr. Arndt's interview was expedited to replace Mr. Tristan Gambino who resigned during his probationary period. The applicant has a Class B driver's license with a tanker endorsement.

Council President Blatt asked to approve the motion made by Ms. Jordan to hire Mr. Arndt.

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

• **OLD BUSINESS**

- Easter Egg Hunt – April 9, 10am at Playground (April 10 rain date)

Council President reminded of the upcoming East Egg Hunt.

• **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Fire Truck Dedication Event – held 3/23/22

The Fire Truck dedication held at St Luke's Hospital was well attended. Council President Blatt again thanked the hospital for its generous contribution for the purchase of the fire truck.

- Arbor Day Event – Upper Dodson Ballfield – 4/29/22 1pm.

A tree will be dedicated during the event. A DCNR representative will also attend Arbor Day.

- **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Meetings

Mr. Berger suggested to only have action items at one council meeting with the Solicitor present as it was practiced in the past. Any deliberations related to action items can be discussed at the second monthly council meeting. In addition, any emergency action items can be added to the second council meeting, and either Mr. Berger or Mr. Lehr will make themselves available to attend a respective meeting.

Council consented.

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Finance **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**
 - Motion to pay the bills as presented

Council President asked to approve the motion by Mr. Trotter to approve the bills as presented.

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

- Public Works **(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) - None**
- Police **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson) - None**
- House & Ordinances **(Rufe, Graham, Jordan) - None**
- Fire **(Trabel, Graham, Rufe)**

Mr. Trabel read the March fire reports.

- Recreation **(Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) - None**
- Health & Sanitation **(Graham, Johnson, Trabel)**

Ms. Graham read the Garbage & Sewer collection reports for March.

- Personnel **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) - None**

• **SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

Fire Chief Boehrer asked to keep everyone in their hearts and prayers for the victims and fire fighters attending to the Hellertown fire.

In reference to the Fire Prevention month, Council President Blatt reminded to do frequent fire safety checks.

• **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Jason Brandon of 701 S Hoffert Street expressed his concerns about the pool closing. Ms. Jordan stressed that residents were given ample opportunities, from surveys, utility bill notifications, social media posts to advertised/scheduled public meetings to comment on the future use of the pool. She remarked that the community response was slow. She also emphasized past decreasing pool attendance, staffing problems, and short-term and long-term costs to operate the pool. Mr. Rufe also referred to multiple social media fora that were available to residents. Council President Blatt acknowledged Mr. Brandon's remarks but explained that the matter was no longer open for discussion.

Mr. Jack Silva of 1105 Wiley Street gave Council credit for its efforts to reach out to the community. He acknowledged that recreation is expensive and expressed his confidence in Council's judgment in this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (As Needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:05 pm. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Graham and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By:

Norman E Blatt - President of Council

SUBMITTED:

BY: _____

Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____

Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 869
Next Resolution – 2022-19

Approved