

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 2, 2024 - 7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in person at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order, and roll call was conducted by Council President McCandless. Councilmembers present were Ms. Jordan, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Trabel, Mr. Blatt, Mr. McCandless, Amy Burkhart, Mayor Johnson and Atty. Berger.

Absent was Ms. Johnson

Approval of the Minutes of November 4, 2024, Meeting

President McCandless asked if there were any revisions to the minutes as presented. D. Trotter noted that the minutes misspelled Mr. Rufe’s name and that the correction should be made. No other revisions were recommended. President McCandless asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	X		X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

Approval of the Minutes of November 20, 2024, Meeting

President McCandless asked if there were any revisions to the minutes as presented. D. Trotter noted the correction to Mr. Rufe’s name should again be made. No other revisions were recommended. President McCandless asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe					X	
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED & AGENDA ITEMS – No speakers requested Privilege of the Floor

MAYOR’S REPORT – No Mayors Report

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT – No Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Officer Position - A. Burkhart noted that the Borough has gone through the interview process and found an applicant in which the Borough is interested. A. Burkhart was hopeful that the background information would be more complete, however, as that is not the case, she noted that it may be advisable to table the motion that is listed further on the agenda until that information is received.

Weed and Vegetation Ordinance – A. Burkhart noted that the Weed and Vegetation Ordinance has been circulated to Council for review. W. Rufe asked if there was language regarding the planting strip. It was noted that regulations for the planting strip were not outlined in this ordinance because the planting strip in the Right-of-Way which already has regulations provided in SALDO and Shade Tree Ordinances. It was noted by N. Blatt that it was a violation in the planting strip that brought the question regarding the Weed and Vegetation Ordinance to Council’s attention initially and stated that he thought the Right-of-Way planting strip should additionally be included in the new Weed and Vegetation Ordinance. It was noted that the better description of what is considered a weed is more clearly outlined in the new ordinance and that the planting strip, while not included in this ordinance, would be included in the next ordinance review to more clearly regulate that area.

Motion to advertise the new ordinance was made and the motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe	X					
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

LSA Grant Application – A. Burkhart noted that the application deadline for LSA Grants was on November 30 and the Borough was able to submit an application for Fire Equipment in the amount of \$50,459.00. A Resolution authorizing the signatories for that application is later in the evening’s Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Manholes – There was no new update

Handicapped Ordinance – A. Burkhart noted that the Handicapped Ordinance had not yet been advertised but will be soon and will be ready for approval in the beginning of January.

2025 Proposed Budget – A. Burkhart noted that the review of the 2025 Budget is currently advertised and will be on the Agenda for December 30, 2024

Tax Rate Ordinance - A. Burkhart noted that the Tax Rate Ordinance is currently advertised and will be on the Agenda for December 30, 2024

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE - President McCandless requested a motion for Resolution 2024-18 authorizing the application for the Local Schare Account Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$50,459.00

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter	X		X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE – There were no ordinances for final passage.

MOTIONS - President McCandless requested a motion table the hiring of Megan Staats as the Borough of Fountain Hill Finance Officer until the December 18th meeting.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Tree Lighting – It was reported that the Tree Lighting will be on December 8 at 4:30 p.m. rain or shine.
- Santa Run – President McCandless reported that the Santa Run would be on December 21, 2024.
- Tree Sales – It was reported that the Fire Company Tree Sales had started and were going well.
- Burn Ban – It was reported that the Burn Ban would be lifted on December 5.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Elementary School Project – D. Berger reported that the Elementary School Project would be on the December 18, 2024, agenda for Council approval.

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – D. Berger reported that the Zoning Hearing Board would be meeting on December 16 regarding 600 N. Hoffert Street. The applicant is requesting a special exception for a Boardinghouse. D. Berger outlined the project being presented to the Zoning Hearing Board. D. Berger also noted Council’s options should they wish to object to the application and the process through which any objections may occur. After discussion it was requested by Council that D. Berger attend the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting and bring back additional information regarding the project.

President McCandless requested a motion to direct Solicitor Berger to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting to observe but to take no position on the application.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe		X	X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance - D. Trotter reported on the financial reports for the Borough. A motion to pay the bills as presented was requested by President McCandless.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter	X		X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

Public Works – No Report

Police – N. Blatt deferred to Chief Bachert who reported on two part-time staff additions he would like Council to review at a future meeting.

House & Ordinances – President McCandless reported on the status of the Handicapped Parking Ordinance and the Weed and Vegetation ordinance.

Fire - P. Trable reported on the number of fire calls.

Recreation – The Holiday Decorating contest was discussed. The date for judges to evaluate is scheduled for December 16, 2024.

Health & Sanitation – Mr. Rufe noted that the financial reports was not available for the month. N. Blatt requested information regarding the new trash hauler. A. Burkhart noted that the pick-up dates may change, and that the information will be sent to residents via mail.

Personnel – There was no Personnel report.

IT Committee – There was no IT report.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES - There were no reports for Special or Select Committees

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – No speakers requested Privilege of the Floor

ADJOURNMENT – President McCandless requested a motion for Adjournment.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson						X
Wilbert Rufe		X	X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stewart McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

ATTESTED

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

By: _____
Stewart McCandless - President of Council

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager