

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 4, 2023
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, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance were Amy Burkhart (Borough Manager), Dave Berger (Solicitor) and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 November 15, 2023

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

Mr. Michael Zovko at 507 Greene Ct. noted that the Fountain Hill Community Coalition intends to assist with the search for lifeguards for 2024 at local schools and colleges. He asked Council to provide him as the representative of the Fountain Hill Community Coalition with the 2024 payrates and any promotions for lifeguards to be able to start the advertising campaign.

Mr. Stephen Repasch at 726 S Hoffert St addressed Council in reference to his appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board appealing the determination within the Zoning Officer’s Notice of Violation that identified a permit was required for a new fence on his property at 726 S Hoffert Street. Mr. Berger informed that the Zoning Hearing Board, not Borough Council, is deciding this matter. Council President Blatt and Mr. Rufe assured that Mr. Zehner, Zoning Officer, applies the Borough’s ordinances in an unbiased, professional way.

Mr. William Ruth at 837 Seneca Street complained to Council about a Violation Notice regarding non-compliance with the ordinance requiring the residential rental unit annual fees and registration for his rental property on 1211 Sioux Street.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Johnson reported that the Fountain Hill Volunteer Fire Co. still has a few Christmas trees left for sale.

He thanked everyone contributing and participating in the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. Mayor Johnson reminded residents to decorate their homes for the upcoming Christmas Decorating contest. He and Chief Bachert will probably judge on Friday, December 15, 2023 or shortly thereafter.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT - None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Sign Legislation –

Request Council to approve the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to change the lapse in time between electronic messages to be no more than one time every 60 seconds as recommended by the LVPC.

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

Request Council to authorize the advertisement for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment and the required Public Hearing. The hearing will be scheduled for January 2, 2024.

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

- Organizational Meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024

Council President Blatt announced that the organization meeting will be held on January 2, 2024. The District Judge has been invited to swear the new council members in. Mayor Johnson will chair the Council Meeting until the new Council President is named and takes over the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-26
A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
APPROVING THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS / OBSERVED DAYS OFF
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 28

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania:

THAT a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real properties within the Borough of Fountain Hill subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2024 as follows:

SECTION 1. Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 9.13 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.913 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

SECTION 2. Tax rate for the Fire Department, the sum of 0.08 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.008 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

SECTION 3. Tax rate for Library Services, the sum of 0.40 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.040 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

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

MOTIONS

- Request that Council adopt the Amended Preliminary 2024 Budget as the Final 2024 Budget

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

- T. Schiefer Contractor’s Payment Application No 7 for the Storm Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$33,345.02 and Payment Application No 8 Final for the Broadway Curb and Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$64,195.90

Hanover Engineering (HEA) has reviewed and recommended payment for the work completed.

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

- Gaver Industries, Inc., dba Barker & Barker Paving Payment Application No 1 for the Jeter Ave Street Reconstruction (CDBG 2022) request Council to approve payment in the amount of \$367,654.75

Please note that Hanover Engineering (HEA) has reviewed and recommended payment for the work completed, with a remaining balance of \$19,350.25 being withheld. HEA is contacting Gaver to correct the Payment Application regarding owner/project.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt noted that he is not running for Council President in 2024.

Council President Blatt acknowledged Mr. Mark Ferencin’s (son of the late council member Mr. Francis Ferencin) contribution to the Borough as a former council member and part-time police officer. Mr. Ferencin recently and unexpectedly passed away.

Council President Blatt thanked everyone contributing and participating in the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. He also reminded of the upcoming Christmas Decorating Contest (on or around December 15, 2023). The winners will be announced in January and will receive a gift.

Council President Blatt thanked all Council Members for their hard work during a challenging year.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

- o Public Works **(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)**

Ms. Jordan thanked the Public Works department for preparing the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

Council President Blatt thanked the Public Works department for the fall leaf pick-up.

- o Police **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)**
- o House & Ordinances **(Rufe, Jordan, McCandless)**
- o Fire **(Trabel, Rufe, McCandless)**

Mr. Trabel read the November fire report.

Mr. Trabel also thanked the Fire Department for their contribution to the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

Council President Blatt reminded of the upcoming Santa Run on December 17. Gift donations are still accepted through December 11, 2023.

- o Recreation **(Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)**

Ms. Johnson also thanked everyone for contributing to the success of the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and Mr. McCandless in stepping in for her representing the Recreation Committee.

Ms. Johnson thanked the Fountain Hill Community Coalition for their work and will provide Mr. Zovko with the information he requested regarding the lifeguard payrates.

- o Health & Sanitation **(McCandless, Johnson, Trabel)**

Mr. McCandless read the November Sewer/Garbage collection report.

- o Personnel **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) - None.**
- o IT Committee **(Johnson, Rufe, Jordan) – None.**

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES –

On behalf of the Library Committee Mr. Rufe thanked everyone and just reported “business as usual”.

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

Mr. Stephen Repasch pointed out that the Borough’s website (www.fountainhill.org) does not list the Agendas and Minutes of the Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board. The issue will be reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Personnel Matter) & **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:40 PM Council President Blatt asked to adjourn the Council meeting and asked Council to move into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

ATTESTED

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

By: _____
Stew McCandless - President of Council

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

Next Ordinance – 881
Next Resolution – 2023-28