

**Minutes**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**December 5, 2022**  
**7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Ms. Graham, and Mr. Trabel, Mr. Rufe and Mayor Johnson were absent. Also in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Chief Bachert, Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), 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 7, 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						

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED** – None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – None.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Broadway Projects Update**
  - The sidewalk project (Broadway Curb & Sidewalk) has started. The contractor is working very efficiently.
  - The TASA grant funded crosswalk project on Broadway/Delaware has been substantially completed. The Borough is currently still working on issues with the timer for when the flashing lights go on and off.
  - Mr. Gratz reminded that parking on Warren Street is reduced to one-sided parking for the winter snow season.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 30**

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2023.

Council President Blatt reiterated that the municipal Real Estate Tax will not be increased for 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 31**

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVING THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULES.

	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						

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 32**

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVING THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS / OBSERVED DAYS OFF.

	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						

**ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE – None.**

**MOTIONS**

- Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough and the Fountain Hill Public Works Association for 5 years beginning 1/1/23 as presented to Council in the packets

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

- Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Borough and the Fountain Hill Police Association for 4 years beginning 1/1/23.

Mr. Gratz noted that the CBA is reviewed by the Association’s attorney and parts of the CBA’s wording (not the substance though) need to be revised. The CBA will be again on the December 21, 2022 meeting agenda for final passage. Therefore, Mr. Gratz asked to table the vote, and Mr. Berger recommended to ask for a motion to table the CBA’s approval. Then Council President Blatt asked for a Motion to table the CBA’s approval.

	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						

- Adoption of the Preliminary 2023 budget as the Final 2023 Budget - as amended for the 4.5% wage increase and non-salary benefits that were factored in the presented documents.  
Council President inquired, if the public commented during the public comment period. Mr. Gratz said no public comment was received. Then Council President Blatt asked, if there was a motion to finalize the 2023 Budget as amended.

	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						

## OLD BUSINESS

- Holiday Decorating Contest

Ms. Johnson reported that a Holiday Decorating Contest will be held this year. The judging will be on December 21, 2022, after the Borough Council Meeting. The event is also announced on the Borough's Facebook site and its website.

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Blatt thanked everyone participating in and contributing to the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on December 4, 2022.

Council President Blatt thanked the Public Works Committee and Association to work out a collective bargaining agreement.

Council President Blatt also thanked the Police Committee and Association to constructively working on a collective bargaining agreement and thus avoiding costly arbitration.

Lastly, Council President Blatt thanked Council as a whole and Committee members for their constructive work throughout 2023.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Berger updated Council on the solicitor's collection efforts. He reported that writs of scire facias are filed against four properties. The solicitor's office is working on getting them served. He also reported that there are three properties with judgments against them, and the solicitor's office is filing personal property levies on them with the expectation to trigger payments or discussions to resolve the delinquencies. Lastly, he reported that four properties, that the solicitor does not have judgments against, are going to sheriff's sales (three in December and one in January of 2023), unless the sales will be continued to a later date.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**

Mr. Trotter asked for a 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			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

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

Mr. Quarry reminded that the leaf collection will end on Friday, December 9.

**Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)**

Chief Bachert reported that Sergeant Hochwarter and Officer Wood successfully completed their accident investigation training.

**House & Ordinances (Rufe, Graham, Jordan)**

Mr. Gratz reported that the text amendment for the lighting ordinance is still under the Planning Commission's review.

**Fire (Trabel, Graham, Rufe)**

Mr. Trabel reported that three additional volunteers joined the Fire Department. He also reported that the Christmas trees are sold out.

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

Ms. Johnson thanked everyone for attending the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

**Health & Sanitation****(Graham, Johnson, Trabel)**

Ms. Graham read the Sewer/Garbage collection reports for November 2022.

**Personnel****(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None.**

Mr. Gratz reported that Don Sabo who has been serving as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator is Salisbury Township's new Police Chief. Because of Mr. Sabo's increased time commitment as police chief, Mr. Sabo asked to be released as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator. Since Salisbury Township recently lost its Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Sabo suggested to jointly search for an Emergency Management Coordinator who could serve both communities, unless someone locally could fill this role. Mr. Gratz mentioned that he has the PEMA qualification to serve in that capacity, but was asking for Council's consent to rather search jointly with Salisbury Township and/or individually for the coordinator's replacement. Mr. Sabo will serve as Emergency Management Coordinator until a replacement is found. Council President Blatt suggested to add the final decision to the January meeting agenda.

**SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

In absence of Mr. Rufe, Ms. Jordan encouraged everyone to visit the library, since many programs are offered during the Christmas season.

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

Mr. Ronald Goosley of 635 Lechauweki Avenue addressed Council about setting up pickleball courts in the Borough. Council President Blatt asked the Recreation Committee to further explore the creation of pickleball courts. Ms. Johnson informed Mr. Goosley that the next Recreation Committee meeting will be held in January and invited him to attend. Mr. Gratz also mentioned that he will contact St. Luke's hospital and ask for its support.

Mr. Stephen Goosley of 636 Lechauweki Ave addressed Council about bush restricting the line of sight at the corner of Lechauweki Ave and Cherry St alleyway. He asked Council to look into it. Council President asked the Police Chief to check if the obstruction violates the vehicle code and also the Zoning Officer to check for a violation of an ordinance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)****ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Blatt reminded that the next Council meeting will be held on December 21 at 7 pm. At 7:36 pm Council President Blatt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel 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 – 873  
Next Resolution – 2022-33

Approved