

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 6, 2021
7:00 P.M**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trotter, and Mr. Trabel, Mayor Gifford attended via phone. Mr. Rufe, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Halleman were absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), Dave Boehrer (Fire Chief) and guests.

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

MINUTES

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2021 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			
Helen Halleman						x
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021 as amended.

	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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

- 1336 Russell Ave Development

Attorney Erv McLain, representing 1336 Russell Ave Land Development, LLC, introduced Mr. Gabe Solms, Ashley Development Corporation and Mr. Sean Dooley, Keystone Consulting Engineers to present the current status of the 1336 Russell Ave Development plans to Council.

Mr. Solms referred to previous residential projects similar to the planned 1336 Russell Ave development. He identified potential customers ranging from young professionals to 55 and up folks. Mr. Solms delineated the history of this project from its purchase in 2019 to the subsequent reviews by the Zoning & Hearing Board and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Dooley continued to describe the site location and size. The property has access to public water, sewer, gas and storm sewer with two tanks draining to a system of pipes and eventually releasing storm water into a system of inlets. 18 apartments with 36 parking spaces are planned. The construction will increase the impervious area, as it relates to storm water, by only 4,000 sqft. The access road to the building is essentially a cul-de-sac – yet large enough for a fire ladder truck to go all the way around. The Fire Chief inquired if an additional fire hydrant would be installed. Mr. Dooley explained that only the existing fire hydrant would be replaced by a new one. The Police Chief, the Public Works Supervisor, and Hanover Engineering agreed, that after reviewing the plans they are satisfied with the plans at this stage.

Keystone Consulting Engineers requests on behalf of the developer to waive the requirement of a sub-street to serve no more than 25 dwelling units.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the waiver.

	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						

On behalf of the developer, Keystone Consulting Engineers request that the requirement of the submission of a preliminary plan and a final plan will be waived due to the limited development that is proposed.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the waiver.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson						x

Wilbert Rufe
 Doug Trotter
 Philip Trabel
 Helen Halleman
 Norman E. Blatt Jr.
 Mayor Gifford

					x
x		x			
		x			
					x
		x			

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford reminisced on the festive Holiday Lighting Contest.

She also thanked the residents for having placed confidence in her for many years of service as a Council Member and Mayor.

On behalf of Council President Blatt thanked her for her service.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- Moravia Street one-way for school drop-off and pick-up
 Mr. Gratz reported that the first day of the school traffic trial did go smoothly and will be continued to be monitored.
- Smoke Alarms
 Mr. Gratz reminded residents to frequently check the batteries in an effort to make homes safer.
- Warren Street winter parking
 Mr. Gratz reminded residents to observe winter parking rules to allow for snow removal.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 18

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2022

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 2022 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			
Helen Halleman						x
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 19

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MEETING SCHEDULE
CALENDAR FOR 2022**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill does hereby approve the Meeting Schedule Calendar for 2022 as follows:

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The following is a list of meeting schedules for calendar year 2022. All meetings will be held in Borough Hall, 941 Long Street, Fountain Hill, PA:

2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS: First Monday of each month @ 7:00 pm; Third Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

Planning Commission: Second Monday of each month @ 7 p.m. as needed.

Zoning Hearing Board: Third Monday of each month @ 7 p.m. as needed.

Stormwater Authority: Second Wednesday of each month @ 6 p.m. as needed

Committee Meetings: as needed

Police Committee – First Monday starting at 5:45

Finance, Public Works Personnel, House & Ordinance: First Wednesday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m.

Fire, Health & Sanitation, Recreation – Third Wednesday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDINANCES – none

MOTIONS

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve to hire Tristen Gambino as a full-time Public Works employee as recommended by the Public Works Committee (Start Date 12/7/2021)

	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					

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adopt the Preliminary 2022 budget as the Final 2022 Budget

	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						

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the payment to Pipe Services Corp. in the adjusted amount of \$25,754.51 as recommended by the borough engineer.

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

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to pay the bills through the end of December, if the 2nd meeting is cancelled due to lack of business.

	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.
Mayor Gifford

		x			

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Trabel asked about the residents’ complaints regarding trash pickup.
Mr. Gratz reported that Republic Services has been very responsive and resolved any missed pickups.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt thanked everybody for enabling a beautiful tree lighting ceremony. He wished everyone Happy Holidays. He thanked Mayor Gifford for her 16 years of service both as a council member and as a mayor. He also thanked Ms. Halleman for her longstanding service as a council member.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter motioned 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			
Helen Halleman						x
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Mr. Quarry noted that Public Works will continue to pick up leaves until December 17.

Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Chief Bachert mentioned that an active shooter drill together with St Luke’s will be held in the upcoming week.

House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) - None

Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)

Mr. Trabel read the November fire report.

He also reminded that the annual Santa ride will be held on December 18. Details will also be available on the fire department's fb site.

Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) – None.

Health & Sanitation (Halleman, Johnson, Trabel)

Council President Blatt read the November sewer/garbage collection reports.

He also inquired about the current status of the delinquent accounts. Mr. Gratz reported that the solicitor's collection efforts have been very successful.

Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Fire Chief Boehrer updated on the delivery of the new fire engine and is hoping for a final review in 150 days.

Ms. Jordan thanked the Borough for letting her serve on the library board for all these years and supporting the library services for the Borough residents.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Ms. Joann Reed of 833 N Clewell St complained and questioned the legality of putting up a lighted sign on 725 Delaware Ave.

Mr. Gratz responded that it is permissible within the set hours and is within code. He reminded that Council has the right to change the underlying ordinance if it wishes to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jordan 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: _____
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 865
Next Resolution – 2021 - 20

APPROVED