

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 17, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Due to Governor Tom Wolf’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Disaster Declaration on March 6, 2020, a virtual/remote public Council Meeting was held via phone/zoom. The remote participation option for residents was provided on the Borough’s website www.fountainhill.org. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman, and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Mr. Wargo (Zoning Officer) and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Blatt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 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 welcomed Mr. Phil Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive, to the meeting. Mr. Armstrong noted the constructive relationship it has entertained with the Borough of Fountain Hill and is looking forward to continuing on this path in the new year.

PRESENTATION(S)

- Republic Services -- requested by Council

Council President Blatt welcomed Mr. Kent Larsen, Republic Services representative, and asked him to comment on Fountain Hill residents’ complaints about this year’s garbage/recyclable pickup issues. Mr. Larsen stated that Republic Services - both at its call center in North Carolina and at its local office – had only received a small number of complaints from Fountain Hill residents. In order to improve Republic’s service Mr. Larsen asked to have residents report garbage issues directly to the local office via phone (Phone # 484-273-3940).

Several residents, Mr. J. Paynton of 1218 Graham St, Ms. A. Hein of 1378 Stanley Avenue, Mr. M. Spencer of 1035 Jeter Avenue, and Ms. E. Pacheco of 431 Sioux St listed examples of garbage issues they had experienced. The issues are: garbage was not picked up on the scheduled days, recyclables were mixed with regular trash, garbage containers were not fully emptied, garbage containers were damaged and/or thrown onto the roadway. Mr. Larsen stressed that it is important not to bag recyclables, as the Material Recovery Facilities will consider those recyclables as contaminated and refuse them. He also mentioned that tight alley ways often hamper garbage pickup. However, he will review the issues reported with his staff and crew. Mayor Gifford and Mr. Rufe preferred the Borough staff, as the contractual partner, to report garbage pickup issues to the hauler. Mr. Branco explained that some residents had erroneously discarded the new garbage pickup schedules and were not aware of the new scheduling. In addition, the recent winter storms further complicated the situation. Council President Blatt suggested to refer further discussion to the Health & Sanitation Committee before bringing it back to Council.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Motion to advertise the draft Sewer Lateral Ordinance No. 861 for public comment.

	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						

- Motion to engage Base Engineering as an additional 3rd party UCC inspection agency.

Mr. Wargo (Zoning Officer) stressed their ability to provide ad hoc emergency (such as during fires etc.) inspections and the close working relationships he has experienced in the past.

	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					

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Motion to accept Mr. Dave Kauffman as a new member on the Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term.

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

- Motion to allow Broughal Middle School to use the Stanley Ave ball field from 3/8/21 – 5/14/21 for practice and waive any user fees.

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

- Mr. Branco reported that the Lehigh County Executive and Commissioners approved to amend the designated use of the remaining Casino Grant 2018 and use it to fund the purchase of a new police cruiser car.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. J. Paynton of 1218 Graham Street raised his concern that residents are required to remove snow from walkways instead of Public Works.

Mr. B. Ferencin of 1340 Broadway criticized how roads have been plowed during the recent snow storm.

Mr. M. Spencer of 1035 Jeter Avenue suggested reminding residents to park close to the curb during snow emergencies.

Council Member Trabel asked Mr. Quarry (Public Works Supervisor) to widen the intersection of Broadway and Benner Avenue after the recent snow storm.

Mayor Gifford commented Fountain Hill residents on their neighborly behavior during the recent snow storms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – as needed – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson 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: _____
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 860
Next Resolution – 2021-6