

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 1, 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, and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Pete Lehr (Solicitor), 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 of the January 20, 2021 minutes

	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

- Presentation of Base Engineering – Cindy L. Witman, Director of Administrative and Building Code Services (Tom Wargo, Zoning/Codes)

Mr. Rufe asked Mr. Wargo (Zoning Officer) what role Base Engineering would play in addition to the Zoning Officer’s and the currently engaged inspection agency’s roles. Mr. Wargo explained that Keycodes (i.e. currently engaged inspection agency) has not replaced its fire inspector causing delays. Also – Base Engineering provides last minute, emergency inspections. Council President Blatt thanked Ms. Witman for her presentation and noted that the decision will be referred to a committee and then presented back to Council for a final vote.

- Agenda Items - None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford thanked Public Works for its efforts clearing the roads during the ongoing winter storm.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Branco reported that the application for the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant for \$1.5 mill. expanding the Broadway Curb and Sidewalk project is under review and its approval looks promising.

Mr. Branco reminded that a previous road project on Broadway-Delaware Ave was abandoned because funding under the PennDot Transportation Alternative Project (TAP) Grant did not become available. However, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is currently reviewing new road funding projects.

Mr. Branco asked Council for permission to invite a representative of Eckert Seamans law firm for a presentation of their services to Council. Among others, the law firm specializes in labor relations. Council consented and asked Mr. Branco to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to approve the Fire Department's request for new building signs and initiate the related Grant application

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

RESOLUTIONS - None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Motion to approve the retainment of Portnoff Law Associates assisting in the collection of Sewer/Garbage fees as presented at January 21, 2021 Council Meeting

	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’S REPORT – None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lehr announced that the Lehigh County Court Judge passed a favorable verdict in the civil lawsuit brought on by Salisbury Township regarding the Sewer Transmission Agreement. The Borough is seeking an equitable agreement to share its costs and fees with Salisbury Township. The current agreement will end in 200 days after the verdict, if not amended. Council President Blatt thanked Mr. Lehr for successful presentation in this lawsuit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)
- Motion to approve payment of January bills 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						

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Ms. Jordan reported that one of the newly hired Public Works employees started this first week of February. She also thanked Public Works for their snow removal efforts.

Mr. Branco added that a contractor will be hired to move out some snow from the roads to the Playground.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Council President Blatt inquired about the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Chief Bachert will postpone decision in regard to the COVI-19 situation.

Mayor Gifford thanked the Police's engagement in distributing food donations to needy Fountain Hill residents.

D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) – None.

E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe) – None.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

The Recreation Committee had met with the YMCA to discuss the summer pool program. Life guards are in shortage. The YMCA offers a Lifeguard Certification program beginning February 6, 2021. Ms. Johnson encouraged spreading the word about the certification program.

G. Health & Sanitation (Halleman, Johnson, Trabel)

Council President Blatt referred to the Sewer/Garbage January fee collection reports.

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

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Most library services are available online.

The electrical connections are installed on the book mobile with the HVAC system to be installed next – moving the date to open the book mobile to the public closer.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items – None.

Executive Session (if needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 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 Resolution 2021-6
Next ordinance 860