

Minutes
BOROUGH COUNCIL
February 22, 2023
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, Mr. Trabel, and Mayor Johnson. Mr. Rufe, and Ms. Graham were absent. Also in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), 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 February 6, 2023 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						

Council President Blatt announced that the agenda is amended to include an executive session regarding some personnel issues.

PRESENTATION(S)

- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment - Matthew Longenberger, Bohler Engineering

Mr. Longenberger highlighted the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's (LVPC) comments on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment seeking to reduce the minimum lot area requirement for apartments in the Town Center Zoning District. The LVPC is supportive of the text amendment that will meet numerous goals and policies of its regional plan. Mr. Longenberger also cited an article by Becky Bradley, LVPC's Executive Director, arguing that the text amendment would promote the effort to alleviate the housing shortage.

Council President Blatt asked what the minimum lot requirements are in other municipalities. Mr. Longenberger stated that Wilson Borough, Bath Borough, and the City of Bethlehem, Allentown, and Easton have similar limits.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Jordan inquired about the proposed occupancy of the planned units in the Fountain Hill Town Center. Mr. Berger clarified that the 1,150 sf refer to the lot size, not the apartment size. He also stated that the Fountain Hill Town Center project already received zoning relief for parking. Mr. Longenberger explained that most apartments in the Fountain Hill Town Center will be one-bedroom apartments.

After the discussion, Council President Blatt asked if there was a motion to authorize Mr. Gratz to advertise the zoning ordinance amendment and get its approval on the April meeting agenda.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – None.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW & ADVERTISEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 876		
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, SECTION 302 (c)(3), TO DELETE/ADD CERTAIN HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES.		
<u>ADD:</u>		
<u>STREET</u>	<u>SIDE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Lynn Street (South)	front	603

Mr. Gratz stated that the application was complete and approved. Council President Blatt asked if someone wanted to make the motion to authorize Mr. Gratz to advertise the ordinance.

	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						

Ms. Jordan abstained because she is the applicant asking to add the handicapped parking for herself.

OLD BUSINESS

Recreation Committee Meeting/Pool Discussion –

Ms. Johnson summarized the discussions the Recreation Committee had regarding the operation of the pool. All pool related job descriptions (i.e. Pool Manager, Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, and Cashier) including pay rates were reviewed and approved with the exception that the lifeguards will not have access to the pool chemicals and the filter. The calibration of the water quality with pool chemicals continues to be monitored by the Public Works Department.

The Community Coalition partnered with Bethlehem Township and the City of Allentown allowing future Fountain Hill lifeguards to participate in their lifeguard training classes for \$250 and \$200 respectively. It was determined that a total of twelve lifeguards will be needed.

Ms. Johnson reported that the electrical contractor, Westside Hammer, will complete the electrical work at the pool by the end of the week. The pool pump contractor was contacted and will inspect in the near future. The volunteer and the Votech students work was discussed. Mr. Gratz will contact the Votech school to work out details. All Votech students will be accompanied by a supervisory instructor. Before the pool is filled with water, a crack in the pool needs to be fixed. The most cost-effective way to solve this issue is reviewed.

The additional activity program offerings at the pool that the Community Coalition suggested were discussed. General consent was to move them to late morning, so that Public Works would have sufficient time to prepare the facility for use.

The Recreation Committee also reviewed the material for this year's summer Park Program that Ms. Kaileigh Levernier, last year's coordinator, had submitted. Ms. Levernier intends to return this year.

Based on the Recreation Committee's review, Ms. Johnson made the motion to approve the pool job descriptions and the 2023 Park Program.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	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						

Finally, all jobs will be advertised in conjunction with the Community Coalition both on social media and at local schools.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

Council President Blatt reminded that Fountain Hill’s “Restaurant Week” is ongoing and encouraged to try out the participating restaurants.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- Warren Street Mill & Overlay Project

Approving final payment to Gaver Industries, Inc. dba Barker & Barker Paving for the Warren Street Mill and Overlay Project in the amount of \$23,684.90 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			
Erica Graham						x
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

Mr. Gratz mentioned that the check will be held until the outstanding maintenance bond has been provided.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION - ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 pm Council President entertained a motion to adjourn to the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Mr.Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jordan 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 – 877
Next Resolution – 2023-12

Approved