

Minutes
BOROUGH COUNCIL
February 6, 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, Ms. Graham, Mr. Trabel, and Mayor Johnson. Mr. Rufe was 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 January 18, 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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

Mr. Zovko of 507 Greene Ct reported on the recent Community Coalition’s board meeting. The Community Coalition honored Mr. Bruce Friedman, owner of the family-owned Friedman’s Service Center, as the oldest business in Fountain Hill and wished him well for his retirement.

The Community Coalition also recognized St. Luke’s Hospital commemorating the care for its first patient 151 years ago and the numerous staff members who have cared for patients over the years. A commemorative plaque proclaiming this recognition is intended. Mr. Zovko asked if Borough Council wanted to join in on this recognition.

The Community Coalition is partnering with St. Paul’s Church on future projects for the benefit of the Borough, such as dinners, Veterans’ breakfast etc. The Community Coalition will also hold its next meeting at St. Paul’s Church.

The Community Coalition solicited a \$1,000 donation from an organization to benefit the repair and upkeep of the pool. Mr. Zovko is expecting to receive more donations for this purpose. Mr. Zovko also reported that the Community Coalition has material donations for caulking the pool deck and volunteers in place. Four life guards committed to start their life guard training in the upcoming

week. Efforts to recruit additional staff is under way. Mr. Zovko emphasized that wages for pool staff will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting on February 27. The Community Coalition is partnering with the local Vo Tech school to work on future projects benefiting the Community Coalition to improve its website and work on projects for the Borough.
 2/27 meeting with rec committee to discuss wages for pool staff;

The Community Coalition is working on arrangements to recruit pool managers and on programs at the pool (e.g. Aqua fitness, swim lessons, yoga etc.) to attract more customers. Participation in these programs is suggested to be tied to holding a season ticket. Program instructors might charge an additional minimal fee to each participant.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Johnson presented the Proclamation of Appreciation to Mr. Bruce Friedman, the owner of Friedman’s Service Center. He thanked Mr. Friedman and his family for their 87 years of service and wished them well when retiring in February of 2023.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

- Nixle Notification System

Mr. Gratz reported that Nixle is live and approximately 1,000 people have signed up.

- Broadway Curb & Sidewalk Project Update

The contractor, T Schiefer, is currently working on Broadway near Friedman’s Service Center.

- Vo-tech Participation in Projects

In reference to Mr. Zovko’s suggestion to engage Vo Tech students for pool projects, Mr. Gratz mentioned that the Public Works staff deconstructed the defective pool deck. Mr. Gratz and Mr. Quarry (Public Works Supervisor) will look into potentially engaging Vo Tech students to rebuild the deck. Mr. Gratz will coordinate with the students what they can do and will pursue this relationship. Council President welcomed pursuing this relationship.

NEW BUSINESS - RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 10

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT FUNDS.

	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. 2023 – 11

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING JEFF BAIER AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM.

	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						

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

ORDINANCE NO. 873

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>STREET</u>	<u>SIDE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Russell Ave.	front	1235
Delaware Ave	front	922
Stanley Ave	front	1109

ADD:

All documents are in place and approved.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 874

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL POLICE PENSION PLAN & TRUST TO CHANGE THE DISABILITY BENEFIT.

The amendment is to comply with the Collective Bargaining Agreement regarding the disability benefit.

	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						

DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW & ADVERTISEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 875

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL ZONING ORDINANCE OF 2008, AS AMENDED, CODIFIED IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 27, ZONING, TO REVISE ATTACHMENT 3, TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM LOT AREA REQUIREMENT FOR DWELLING UNITS IN THE TOWN CENTER (TC) ZONING DISTRICT TO 1,500 SQUARE FEET AND DECREASE THE MINIMUM LOT WIDTH TO 400 FEET..

Mr. Gratz corrected the above-listed dimensions to be 1,150 square feet (instead of 1,500) and 200 feet (instead of 400) as recommended by Mr. Piperato and his client. These area requirements are consistent with other municipalities.

The proposed ordinance will also go to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for review before the next council meeting.

Council questioned these suggested dimensional requirements for the town center. Mr. Gratz suggested inviting Mr. Piperato and his client back to the first March Council Meeting and present to Council, as he had done for the Planning Commission, because of Council's concerns regarding the reductions.

Council opted to postpone advertising and follow Mr. Gratz's suggestion to invite Mr. Piperato and his client to the next meeting.

MOTIONS

Approving payment to T. Schiefer Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$ 164,155.65 for the Broadway Curb and Sidewalk Project as recommended by the Borough Engineer –

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

		X			
		X			
					X
	X	X			
X		X			
		X			
		X			

OLD BUSINESS

- Pool Repairs

Mr. Gratz confirmed the receipt of \$1,000 donation from Tall Cedars. It will partially pay for electrical work (approximately \$9,000) needed at pool. The pumps will be reviewed by the pool contractor. The pool deck will either be repaired or reconstructed. Public Works will caulk the pool and the Community Coalition volunteers will caulk the sidewalk. Instructors for classes (such as yoga, Taiichi etc) are volunteering and will not be paid – volunteers will be considered independent contractors. At the same time, participants do not pay for the classes or only pay a minimum \$5/class directly to the instructors with the basic requirement to hold a pool season pass.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt thanked Mr. Zovko for spearheading the coalition. He welcomed the planned “Fountain Hill Restaurant Week” to promote local businesses.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Berger reported that the Fireworks Ordinance was reviewed and needs to be updated. Mr. Gratz recommended the update and Council consented.

Mr. Berger updated Council on its Sewer/Garbage collection efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter made the motion to approve the payments of 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) – None.

- Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

The Police Chief reported that a neighborhood crime watch initiative will be organized. The Police purchased a new scheduling software that can be integrated with the payroll process. Drug drop off is schedule for April.

The Police Chief is researching a small tribal grant for body cameras. He mentioned that the estimated cost for six body cameras is \$40,000 plus recurring cost.

The new police cruiser is expected to be delivered by the end of the week.

- House & Ordinances (Rufe, Graham, Jordan) - None.

- Fire (Trabel, Graham, Rufe)

Mr. Trabel read the January fire report.

The membership in the volunteer force increased to 36 members. The firehouse facilities need improvements and will be further discussed at the next committee meeting.

- Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Ms. Johnson mentioned that payrates for life guards and pool managers are discussed. Quotes for pickle ball courts are being solicited.

- Health & Sanitation (Graham, Johnson, Trabel)

Ms. Graham read the January Sewer/Garbage collection reports.

Mr. Gratz addressed the residents' concerns regarding Garbage Pickup calendar. He restated that the regular is continued to be picked up every week and recyclables every other week. The bidding discussion for soliciting new trash bids will start at the March meeting.

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

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan praised the abundance of ebooks available through the “cloud” library.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58 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 – 876
Next Resolution – 2023-12

Approved