

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 7, 2022
7:00 P.M**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel, and Mayor Johnson. Ms. Graham and Mr. Trotter were absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Dave Berger (Solicitor), Jill Smith (Hanover Engineering), 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 January 19, 2022 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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Johnson welcomed the opportunity to be part of the team picking up the new Fire Truck.

He also commended the Public Works department for keeping the snow removed during the recent winter weather.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mr. Gratz reminded of the upcoming Community Pool Meeting on February 28, 2022 at 7 pm. The meeting will be held in the Laros Auditorium at the Doctor's Pavilion of St Luke's Hospital, 701 Ostrum Street.

- Mr. Gratz reported that the 2021 revenue for Permit Applications and inspections has increased over 2020 revenue levels due to increased inspections performed and the recent hiring of the Zoning Secretary. The Zoning Department is looking to supplement the current part-time secretary's hours for periods, when she is not available for the scheduled weekly 20 hours.
- Mr. Gratz reported that Lehigh County approved the Grass Alley (Russell & Stanley) Conversion Grant in the amount of \$30,000.
- Mr. Gratz announced that under Act 71 (the Gaming Act), the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) has developed program guidelines for Local Share Account funds in Northampton and Lehigh Counties for projects concerning the public interest, community improvement, and economic development. The application period is open now.

NEW BUSINESS

- Letter from Ms. Ellen Flynn regarding Life Safety Inspections & Fees
Ms. Flynn of 1242 Broadway asked for a reduction in the Life Safety Inspection fee. The Life Safety Inspection is done every other year. The fee depends on the size of the building.

Since a Life Safety Inspection is first and foremost performed to ensure the safety of a building's occupants, Council denied the request and asked the Borough Manager to send a denial letter.

- PennDOT – (No Parking) High Occupancy Permits (HOP) related to Broadway Curb and Sidewalk Project (funded through Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant) 2019 (from Bishopthorpe to Greene Ct)

Ms. Smith (Hanover Engineering) explained that PennDOT allowed the Borough to do the work for that stretch on Broadway under one permit. However, there are eight (8) driveways along the right-of-way that do require individual permits to show adequate site distance with potentially additional parking restrictions. Hanover Engineering continues to work with the individual parties. Some property owners allow one-way driveways that are exempt from PennDOT permitting. Other property owners need to keep the driveways onto Broadway requiring parking restrictions.

Ms. Smith remarked that PennDOT would still allow the Curb & Sidewalk improvements even if the Borough cannot provide some of the required individual driveway permits. Ms. Smith emphasized that granting of the permits is beneficial to the individual property owners in case of a future change of use.

Council President is not in favor of restricting parking. Council decided to defer discussion and final vote on how to proceed to the next council meeting on March 7. In the meantime, Hanover Engineering will survey neighbors' opinions on any parking restrictions related to the Broadway project.

- **Street Projects**
 - a. **Jeter Ave to Kieffer Street** (CDBG 2021 funded) - Kieffer to N Clewell St
 - b. **Sioux Street Reconstruction** (from S Bergen to S Hoffert) (not eligible for CDBG)

Hanover Engineering is in the process of bidding out these road projects.

In addition, Ms. Smith pointed out that because of grade changes related to the Sioux Street Reconstruction project sidewalk repair will also be needed. The Jeter Ave Road construction project is covered by CDBG grant funds, its related sidewalk repairs will be grant funded as well. However, for the Sioux Street reconstruction project (not CDBG funded), the Borough has to decide if it will pay for sidewalk repairs with General Fund funds or hold property owners responsible for that share of cost.

Council agreed to defer the decision to the March 7, 2022 Council Meeting.

- Using Fire Marshall to conduct Life Safety/Fire Inspections vs. outside contractor

The Borough Manager noted that Mr. Ray Anthony is a certified fire inspector and well qualified to perform those inspections. In his functions as Fire Marshal, he is paid a yearly stipend in the amount of \$900. The Borough of Catasaqua is paying its Fire Inspector at the law enforcement officer rate that could also be applied to Mr. Anthony's enumeration as well. Engaging Mr. Anthony to also conduct the Life Safety/Fire inspections would streamline the inspection process, as the Fire Marshall always finalizes the inspection. Mr. Berger recommended to vote on this matter via resolution. Therefore, Council decided to schedule voting at the next March meeting.

- **RESOLUTIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 12		
A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022		
<u>Planning Commission</u>		
Sandra Thomas	4-year term	2/7/2022 – 12/31/2025

	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						

- **ORDINANCES**

ORDINANCE NO. 865

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 11, HOUSING, PART 4, RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES, §402(1)(C) BY REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT OF A RENTAL LICENSE FOR AN UNREGULATED RENTAL UNIT, PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF PARTS OF THIS ORDINANCE DEEMED TO BE INVALID; REPEALING ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance No. 865 removes the unregulated rental license requirement (as was advertised). When inquired by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gratz confirmed that family is defined in the ordinance (i.e. blood or marriage).

	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						

ORDINANCE NO. 866

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill, Lehigh County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that Chapter 15, Part 3, Section 302(c)(3), shall be amended as follows:

ADD:

STREET	SIDE	LOCATION
Cherokee St.	front	1018

	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. Mayor Johnson			x			

- **MOTIONS** - None.
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - Holiday Lighting Contest Winners
Council President Blatt announced the Holiday Lighting Contest winners.
- **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Council President Blatt commended the Public Works Department on their snow plowing.
- **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – None.
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

- Motion to pay the bills as presented

Council President Blatt read the Payment Reports for January 2022 and asked for a motion to approve the payments.

	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. Mayor Johnson			x			

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) – None.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Chief Bachert reported that the Crossing Guard position has not been filled yet. The police officers still cover the pedestrian crossings when available.

He also noted that the current crossing is about five blocks away from the school. Going forward, this crossing will receive specific “Pedestrian” signage in conjunction with the TAP Grant and not be marked as a school zone.

Council consented that the school might be better served with a crossing guard at Church Street instead and asked Mr. Gratz to contact the school in that respect.

Mayor Johnson offered to volunteer until a permanent solution is found.

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

E. Fire (Trabel, Graham, Rufe)

Mr. Trabel reported that the new Fire Truck is in service and a public celebration will be scheduled for March or April.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Ms. Johnson referred to the upcoming public meeting (February 28) regarding the future use of the pool. She announced that the Recreation Committee will meet afterwards.

Any summer playground activities will also be discussed simultaneously including the needs to repair the roof of the recreation building.

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

Council President Blatt read the Sewer/Garbage collection reports for January.

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

• **SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

Fire Chief, David Boehrer, reiterated that the new Fire Truck is in service. Eight to ten volunteers are qualified to drive it. He again expressed his gratitude to St Luke's Hospital for providing funds for the purchase of the new Fire Truck.

The old fire truck was stripped of any equipment. The Fire Chief also asked the Borough Manager to send a Thank You note to Salisbury Township for allowing the old fire truck being temporarily parked on Salisbury's premises

- **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items – None.
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (as needed) – None.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:55 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson 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