

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
January 17, 2024
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance were Amy Burkhart (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director) and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCandless called the meeting to order and asked for everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES

- Approval of the minutes of January 2nd, 2024

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

PRESENTATION(S) None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED None.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE None.

DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW & ADVERTISEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 882		
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.		
ADD:		
STREET	SIDE	LOCATION
South Lynn Street	Front	620
North Clewell Street	Front	521
North Clewell Street	Front	726

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Committee Assignments

As a follow-up on the discussion at the last Council Meeting who is to assign committee members, Council President McCandless re-confirmed that the current Committee assignments should stay the same.

- Adjust dates/times for overlapping Committee meetings

Council President McCandless noted that some of the currently scheduled times for the committee meetings overlap and cause a time conflict for committee members. Council members agreed. Council President McCandless suggested that committee chairs consult with their respective members to adjust the meeting times dates/time and present at the next Council Meeting in February.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Codification Contract with General Code

Borough Manager Burkhart asked for Council’s approval of the contract with General Code to go through a re-codification of the Borough Code as it was included in the Budget for 20224. She reminded Council that General Code quoted \$14,000 for the whole process. The process will span over an eighteen (18) month period and include a full and editorial review. At the end of the process, among other things, outdated language and irrelevant ordinances will be revised. The proposal includes a payment schedule that also spans over an eighteen (18) month period.

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

- Pay Rates for Pool and Recreation program

Ms. Johnson stated that the 2024 Budget was based on the 2023 pay rates. As efforts are on the way to advertise for staff, Ms. Johnson proposed keeping the pay rates at that level, absent of a future discussion to adjust pay rates for returning staff. Regarding the management of the recreation programs Ms. Johnson has had discussions with Ms. Burkhart and some Recreation Committee members to potentially create partnerships with other communities.

Flyers advertising to hire seasonal summer staff are distributed to schools. Ms. Johnson also confirmed that a minimum of twelve (12) lifeguards are necessary to operate the pool.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that training assistance for lifeguards is currently not available. She has been in conversations with the Community Coalition and believes that they might offer scholarships. In addition, high schools offer lifeguard certification as part of their gym programs which is free to students.

- Quality of Life Ticketing

As a point of information, Ms. Burkhart addressed Council about the use of the existing Quality of Life Ordinance. The ordinance is very specific by addressing issues with snow and ice removal, weed control, indoor furniture outside, vehicles and junk in the yard etc. Violators can be ticketed rather than taking violators immediately to the Magistrate. She thinks using the Quality-of-Life Ordinance more often will raise residents’ attention, help the Fountain Hill community to differentiate itself from nearby communities, generally raise pride in the community, and thus help alleviate nuisance properties.

Mr. Blatt raised concerns about its effectiveness considering the recent contentious discussion related to the weed ordinance. However, Council agreed with the Borough Manager that the active

use of the Quality of Life Ordinance will be moving property maintenance in the right direction. Every property owner, including landlords, will be held accountable. To start this initiative Council members also suggested to have a community clean-up day in the spring. Ms. Burkhart thanked Council members for their lively discussion and will keep them informed going forward.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT

At 7:34 PM Council President McCandless asked to adjourn the Council meeting and asked Council to move into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

ATTESTED

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

By: _____
Stew McCandless - President of Council

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

Next Ordinance – [883]
Next Resolution – [2024-08]

Approved