

Minutes
BOROUGH COUNCIL
January 18, 2023
7 P.M.

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, and Mayor Johnson. Ms. Graham was absent. Also in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director) 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 followed by a moment of silence for Mr. Spadaccia who was a longtime borough resident and legion member that recently passed away.

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of January 3, 2023

	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						

PRESENTATION(S) – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – None.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 9

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.

Zoning Hearing Board

Christina Zelko Bennick

3-year term

1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025

Mr. Gratz noted that this is a re-appointment. Ms. Bennick is interested in continuing to serve on the board.

	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						

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR REVIEW

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.

Resolution No 2023-10 is for review only and will be on the agenda for the February 6 Council Meeting. The Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) that has developed the program guidelines for the Local Share Account funds in Lehigh County for projects concerning the public interest, community improvement, and economic development had tabled its decision to this week. Mr. Gratz reminded that these funds were designated for the purchase of a police cruiser. Mr. Gratz is still waiting for final dealer quotes.

DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW & ADVERTISEMENT

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.

ADD:

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

The 3rd property listed in the ordinance is at 1109 Stanley Ave.

ORDINANCE NO. 874

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

Ordinance No. 874 is simply matching the new terms of the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. The ordinance was prepared by Mockenhaupt (Actuary) and was reviewed by the solicitor.

OLD BUSINESS

- Planning Commission Review of Light Ordinance Amendment

At this year's 1st Planning Commission meeting, members voted to send the draft ordinance back to the House & Ordinance Committee for review and reconstruction because some items seemed difficult to enforce.

- Planning Commission Review of Proposed Text Amendment

Attorney Piperato had asked about a potential text amendment regarding the required lot size/dwelling unit to be 1150 square feet and the lot width reduced to 200 feet. The Planning Commission reviewed it and recommended to approve the change – however only for the town center (TC) zoning district, not borough wide. Based on this recommendation the solicitor is working on the draft of a text amendment.

- Joint EMA Director with Salisbury Update

The EMA was advertised and Salisbury has several qualified candidates. Salisbury also favors the joint EMA role, because the work load of serving both Salisbury Township and Fountain Hill Borough would not be too big. Mr. Gratz recommended to opt for this solution.

- Recreation Committee Meeting

Ms. Johnson reported that the pool, playground, and pickleball court were discussed in the meeting.

Ms. Johnson emphasized that the pool staffing (lifeguards and cashiers) will be the most crucial issue for opening the pool. The Community Coalition focused its recruitment efforts on the BASD and the local vocational school. But in order to do so members of the Community Coalition need to know pay rates.

The playground staff will be coming back The Recreation Committee is suggesting a \$.25/hour pay raise for the returning staff and last year's rates for new hires. All necessary repairs were made on the playground. Council President Blatt asked if the committee considered hiring the YMCA to manage the pool. Ms. Johnson reported that the committee did not intend to engage the YMCA for the upcoming pool season.

Mr. Gratz added that the Community Coalition reported to have enough volunteers and funding to both paint the pool building and caulk the sidewalk joints. It is Council's decision to accept the Community Coalition's offer. Mr. Gratz pointed out that a volunteer insurance (premium \$325) would be required to insure any volunteers.

Pickleball

The Recreation Committee discussed the current sand volleyball court as a potential location for a pickleball court. Total cost for a pickleball court is estimated at \$50,000, of which 2/3 is needed for fencing. Mr. Gratz is in discussion with St. Luke's Hospital for potential funding options. Grants are reviewed as an additional funding source. If funding is secured, construction could start in the fall of 2023.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Request to Ordain the School Traffic Pattern

Mr. Gratz explained that the police is looking for an ordinance to enforce the current one-way traffic pattern. Mr. Gratz will have an ordinance drafted, if Council agrees with this suggestion.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Ms. Iris Kale of 852 N Clewell St inquired if snow clearing on Moravia Street is the school's or Borough's responsibility. Council President Blatt stated that it is the Borough's responsibility to clear the snow. However, he is aware that space is limited and acknowledges that this might create issues for school students trying to cross the street. Mr. Gratz added that the Public Works Department focuses first on clearing Delaware Ave. The Public Works Department makes every effort to also address the side roads. He mentioned that, if the school has manpower to help clear the side roads during snow emergencies, any help is welcome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 pm Council President Blatt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By:

Norman E Blatt - President of Council

SUBMITTED:

BY: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 875
Next Resolution – 2023-11

APPROVED