

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
January 6, 2025 - 7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in person at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order and roll call was conducted by Council President McCandless. Councilmembers present were Ms. Jordan (via phone), Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel, Council President McCandless, Mayor Johnson, Solicitor David Berger and Borough Manager Burkhart.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President McCandless announced that prior to the meeting there was an Executive Session held to review litigation of property appeals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

The minutes of December 18 and December 30 meetings were presented. President McCandless asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. It was noted that there had not been enough time to fully review the minutes and therefore a motion was made to defer the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED & AGENDA ITEMS –

Josh Popichak of 612 N Hoffert St. requested privilege of the floor. He noted that he would like to discuss the Zoning Hearing Board appeal of 600 N Hoffert St. Mr. Popichak is opposed to the plan due to the proposed parking. Mr. Popichak noted that there is already parking congestion on his street. He was also concerned that the transient tenants may pose a safety risk to the neighborhood. Mr. Popichak expressed his concern that if this were allowed it would create a precedent for others to develop long-term Airbnb type housing throughout the Borough. Mr. Popichak noted that he would like to see Council oppose the plan at 600 N Hoffert St. N. Blatt clarified that the Zoning Hearing Board is independent from Council and suggested that objectors attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting scheduled for January 20th to have their concerns heard. Mr. Popichak suggested that Council could also take an official position to object to the plan. D. Berger stated that objectors should still attend the meeting in order to voice an opposition or answer questions. W. Rufe explained that he was one of the original proponents of collecting more information prior to having Council oppose or support the project in question. He noted that it was very important for residents attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting to voice their concerns about the impact that it would have on them as neighbors. President McCandless reinforced W. Rufe’s statements and noted that Council decided to send the Solicitor specifically to collect more

information prior to Council taking an official position on the project. N. Blatt asked the Borough Solicitor if a proper record would be made through the Zoning Hearing Board process, a record that would be able to support an appeal if desired in the future. D. Berger noted that yes, a proper record would be developed as part of the meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Johnson thanked the Chief and Police for is department’s actions on December 24, 2024 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Burkhart had no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Fee Schedule 2025 – A. Burkhart noted that the Borough is reviewing the Fee Schedule to be updated, and it will be added as a resolution to an upcoming meeting’s agenda for adoption.

A. Burkhart noted that the Christmas Tree Pickup will be on January 27, 2025. J. Johnson asked if there was any ability for people to put their trees out earlier than the 27th. A. Burkhart stated that she would connect with the hauler to determine if that was possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Garbage Hauler Update – A. Burkhart provided an update on the new garbage hauler. The first day of collection was delayed due to the weather.

A. Burkhart noted that the Handicapped Parking Ordinance and Weed and Vegetation Ordinance are on this evening’s agenda for passage.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01 – Professional Services

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02 – HIPPA Officers

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03 – NCTCC Delegate

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

ORDINANCE NO. 884 - Handicapped Parking Ordinance

N. Blatt asked how this ordinance is different than the previous ordinance. President McCandless noted that the spaces will now be reserved and that the applicants may now have a plate or a placard to apply. P. Trable clarified that now the Handicapped Spaces would be assigned. President McCandless confirmed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 885 - Weed and Vegetation Ordinance

N. Blatt questioned how this ordinance is different than the previous ordinance. S. McCandless noted that this new ordinance was more specific than the previous ordinance and comprehensively defines what would be prohibited.

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President McCandless wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that we would be working on programs for the upcoming year.

Also, President McCandless thanked the Public Works Department for the great job they did on the snow removal.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

D. Berger noted that the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting for 600 N. Hoffert Street had been continued until January 20, which may also be continued to February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance - It was noted by A. Burkhart that due to the transition of Finance Officers the reports are not complete, and they will be updated and provided at the upcoming meeting.

Public Works – A. Jordan noted the Public Works did a wonderful job on the recent snow.

Police – N. Blatt noted that two part-time officers are being considered for hire and again thanked the Police and surrounding communities for their efforts on the December 24, 2024 incident at the pharmacy.

Chief Bachert asked if Council would be interested in receiving an update on the impact of a Boardinghouses. It was determined that it would be beneficial.

House & Ordinance – President McCandless noted that there were two ordinance updates on this month’s agenda and that there would be more in upcoming months.

Fire – P. Trable reported on the number of emergency calls and the number of responding volunteers. P. Trable thanked the department for their response to the recent kitchen fire in town. Chief Reisling reported that the Fire Department recognized a young resident with a Heroism Award for protecting his young sister during the kitchen fire incident.

W. Rufe also thanked the Fire Department for helping Santa get around during the Santa Run. He also commended the Fire Company on their social media presence. President McCandless also thanked the department for their commitment to the many community events throughout the year.

Recreation – J. Johnson reported that there would be Recreation Committee Meeting in January to start planning ahead for the summer. The park and pool with both be open for the summer of 2025.

Health & Sanitation – A. Burkhart noted that the reports for Health and Sanitation would be presented at a future meeting.

Personnel – D. Trotter reported that there were no Personnel Committee meetings during the previous month.

IT Committee – J. Johnson reported that the social media policy for the Borough require that comments be turned off, and that will be reinforced in future posts.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR– No speakers requested Privilege of the Floor

ADJOURNMENT – President McCandless requested a motion for Adjournment.

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

ATTESTED

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

By: _____
Stewart McCandless - President of Council

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager