

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
July 20, 2022  
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, and Mr. Blatt. Ms. Graham was absent. Mr. Trabel arrived later. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), and guests.

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 July 5, 2022**

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the Minutes as amended.

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

**PRESENTATION(S) - Fountain Hill Elementary School New Food Pantry – Paige Hoffman (BASD)**

Ms. Paige Hoffman, community school coordinator at Fountain Hill, addressed Council in regard to Bethlehem Area School District's (BASD) plans of building a food pantry at Fountain Hill Elementary School. She reported that 86 % of Fountain Hill Elementary students qualify and participate in the reduced lunch program. The school plays an important role to battle the students' food insecurity. In addition, the weekly "Backpack Program" provides meals and snacks to take home for the weekend. That program relies on individual donors. The BASD approved a lease agreement with the Fountain Hill Community Grocery Partnership to build and operate a food pantry at Fountain Hill Elementary School. The Fountain Hill Community Grocery Partnership (nonprofit) is dedicated to fundraising for the future pantry. Food will be supplied by Second Harvest Food Bank. The nonprofit is still looking to raise funds to pay for the construction of the pantry.

Ms. Johnson asked if the future remodeling of Fountain Hill Elementary school will interfere with the food pantry. Ms. Paige explained that the new school's opening won't be until seven years out. She hopes that the food pantry design will be included in the new school's design. In regard to building permit requirements, Mr. Gratz mentioned that waiving building permits is not recommended as a way to assist with the project. Donating funds is preferred. Council President Blatt suggested to have the solicitor review the Borough Code rules dealing with allowable donations. When inquired Mr. Gratz added that the scope of the building permits will depend on the actual plan.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED** – None.

### **DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR REVIEW**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 24**

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE DEGRADATION FEE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, SECTION 305, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL.

Mr. Gratz explained that the current Degradation Fees are based on 2016 levels and need to be updated.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 25**

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2022-05, FEE SCHEDULE, TO ADJUST THE STREET EXCAVATION ESCROW FEE.

The Excavation Escrow Fee is currently a flat \$1000 fee. It is to be adjusted depending on the scope of the excavation as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

**DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW** – None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Playground Update

The Playground Program has been a great success – so far 100 children have registered. Two additional employees are to be approved for hiring to be able to staff all hours appropriately

- Community Coalition Meeting

Council President Blatt and Council Member Johnson summarized the July 7 and July 20 Community Coalition meetings respectively. The goal is to save the pool and also have community

days at the pool. Grant opportunities are under review. They members plan to meet every other week to move from the conceptual stage to a more concrete stage.

- Jeter Avenue Reconstruction

The work will begin next week. The contractor will have four weeks to complete per the grant stipulations. The road will be unsurpassable for some time (ca. 3-4 weeks). The owners were notified accordingly. The hospital and Fire Department will be notified when the exact start day are confirmed by the contractor. Public Works coordinated the garbage pickup with Republic Services.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)**

Mr. Rufe recommended to have a communication system in place to communicate more efficiently with residents aside from Facebook and the Borough’s website. Mr. Gratz is reviewing several products that would fit the Borough’s needs both in functionality and cost.

**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

- Motion to approve the hiring of Halle Zrinski as a part-time seasonal recreation assistant at the rate of \$15/hour

	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						

- Motion to approve the hiring of Lauren Gallina as a part-time seasonal recreation assistant at the rate of \$15/hour

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:34 pm Council President entertained a motion to adjourn. 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 – 871  
Next Resolution – 2022 - 26