

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**July 6, 2021**

**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. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mayor Gifford, and Ms. Halleman. Mr. Trabel was initially absent but did come later. Also, in attendance were Anthony Branco (Interim Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Pete Lehr (Solicitor) and guests.

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

**MINUTES**

- Motion to approve of the June 16, 2021 Minutes

|                     | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan    | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe        |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter        |        | x   | x   |    |         |        |
| Philip Trabel       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Helen Halleman      |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Mayor Gifford       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED**

Mr. Remling at 1105 Delaware Ave is still concerned that the Zoning Officer erred in the zoning interpretation and decision regarding the Game Time Sports Bar & Grille (“Game Time”) on 1028 Broadway. Council President Blatt reported that Council had invited Mr. Remling to submit his issues in writing. At the directive of Council, the Borough Solicitor responded to Mr. Remling’s concerns in a Memorandum dated 7/1/2021 and shared it with both Mr. Remling and the counsel for Game Time, Ronald E. Corkery, Esq., who represents Munhel Makhoul, the sole member and manager of Stephan Investments, LLC. Mr. Lehr concluded that the Borough, acting through its Zoning Officer, did not err as to the zoning interpretations. Mr. Remling recommended that Council rejects Mr. Lehr’s Memorandum and reiterated his concerns regarding Game Time. On behalf of Council, with the exception of Council Member Rufe, Council President Blatt stated that Council considers the matter closed.

Ms. Roderick of 1104 Seneca Street reminded that Public Works had not contacted her in regard to her recent request to have the crosswalk painted yellow on the even side of 1100 block of Seneca. Council Member Jordan will communicate with Public Works again. Mr. Branco explained that the current ordinance does not require to paint the curb at crosswalks. Chief Bachert pointed out that the vehicle code disallows parking within 20' of a crosswalk. Ms. Roderick insisted that visuals showing the no parking area at the specific intersection would enhance the public's safety. She offered neighbors' surveys and pictures supporting her argument. Council President Blatt asked Ms. Roderick to leave the supporting documents with Mr. Branco after the Council Meeting.

Mr. Ronald Corkery, Esq., counsel of Game Time, addressed Council regarding Mr. Remling's objection to the Zoning Officer's interpretation and decision associated with the Game Time project. He found Mr. Remling's behavior inappropriate in light of the evidence. The Zoning Board is a quasi-judicial board that only meets when an appeal exists.

Ms. Connie Potts of 1110 Graham Street, a former zoning board member, stated that the Borough procedures regarding the Game Time project were questionable. Council President reiterated that the Game Time project issue is considered closed.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford commended the Police keeping fireworks perpetrators in check. Council Member Rufe assisted in the effort. Chief Bachert reported that several violators were arrested. Mayor Gifford encouraged residents to contact the legislative representative to introduce legislation banning the sales of fireworks.

Mayor Gifford participated in the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the "Game Time" tavern. She liked the lovely place and encouraged everyone to keep an open mind on this enterprise. Council President Blatt also wished the entrepreneur well.

Mayor Gifford was celebrating the decrease of covid cases.

#### BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- City of Bethlehem's Lead Hazard Control Grant Initiative

Mr. Branco reported on the above Lead Hazard Control Initiative as presented to Council in the Memo dated 6/15/2021. He asked for a Motion to support the City of Bethlehem regarding that initiative.

|                     | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan    | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe        |        | x   |     |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter        |        |     |     |    |         |        |
| Philip Trabel       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Helen Halleman      |        |     |     | x  |         |        |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Mayor Gifford       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

- The sanitary sewer inspection is almost complete. The contractor is currently inspecting the laterals.
- The residents of 943 Long Street housing complex had asked to consider a slowdown sign on the alley to allow elderly residents to walk on the alley. Chief Bachert said he was not aware of any speeding. However, Council President Blatt suggested to have a slowdown sign posted at the request of the tenants of 943 Long Street. Mr. Trabel asked about temporary speed bumps as an alternative. Mr. Branco did not recommend it because they interfere with snow ploughing.

|                     | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan    |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe        | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter        |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Philip Trabel       |        | x   | x   |    |         |        |
| Helen Halleman      |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Mayor Gifford       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

NEW BUSINESS - None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT – None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

- Motion to pay bills as presented

|                  | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson    |        | x   | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe     |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter     | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |

Philip Trabel  
 Helen Halleman  
 Norman E. Blatt Jr.  
 Mayor Gifford

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- B. Public Works                    **(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) - none**
- C. Police                            **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson) – none**
- D. House & Ordinances       **(Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) – none**
- E. Fire                               **(Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)**

Mr. Trabel read the June Fire report. He reported that the Fire Department would like to replace its department’s lights with LED lights to save energy and asked Council to approve it.

|                     | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan    |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson       |        | x   | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe        |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter        |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Philip Trabel       | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Helen Halleman      |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Mayor Gifford       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

Mr. Trabel also reminded that Volunteers are still needed to serve as fire fighters.

- F. Recreation                       **(Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)**

Ms. Johnson reported that the pool is now open Mondays through Sundays. A Fountain Hill resident had inquired about managing the concession stand at the pool. The resident already has a catering business and would like to sell drinks, Hot Dogs, French Fries, and Chicken Tenders etc. at the pool. She provided proof of insurance coverage. Only the background check is still outstanding. Ms. Johnson asked Council for a Motion to allow her to operate the Concession Stand.

|                     | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan    |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Jamie Johnson       | x      |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Wilbert Rufe        |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Doug Trotter        |        | x   | x   |    |         |        |
| Philip Trabel       |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Helen Halleman      |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. |        |     | x   |    |         |        |
| Mayor Gifford       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

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

Ms. Halleman read the June sewer & garbage collection reports.

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

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Ms.Roderick of 1104 Seneca Street claimed that the Police and Public Works departments treat different groups differently. She asked for the same consideration in all areas of the Borough. Mr. Branco asked Ms Roderick to leave her phone # with him, so he could follow up on that complaint.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed)

Council President Blatt reminded Council Members of the July 8, 2021 scheduled Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

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BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Norman E. Blatt Jr.- President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager