

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
June 16, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

Due to Governor Tom Wolf's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Disaster Declaration on March 6, 2020, a virtual/remote public Council Meeting was held via phone/zoom. The remote participation option for residents was published on the Borough's website [www.fountainhill.org](http://www.fountainhill.org). Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, and Ms. Halleman. Mayor Gifford had an excused absence. Also remotely participating were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Tom Wargo (Zoning Officer), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), and guests.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Blatt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTES**

- Motion to approve of the June 7, 2021 Minutes – as amended - including Council's approval of the 1336 Russell Ave extension of the Land Use Application until the end of August 2021.

|                     | 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       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

PRESENTATION(S) - None.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

- Agenda Item – None.
- Non-Agenda

Ms. Maricee Roderick of 1104 Seneca St. asked to have 20' off the crosswalk painted yellow on the even side of the 1100 block of Seneca to clearly mark the area that vehicles are prohibited from parking. She was recently ticketed for having parked supposedly too close to the crosswalk. She

stated that she could not see lines marking the appropriate distance from the crosswalk. She further remarked that the crosswalk is heavily used and vehicles that are parked too close to the crosswalk create a safety issue for pedestrians. At the advice of the Police Chief, she has already contacted the Public Works Department to paint the critical areas yellow but has not received a positive response to her request. Council President Blatt responded that the 20' setback requirement is state law and will bring Ms. Roderick concern to the Public Works Supervisor.

RESOLUTIONS- None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

- Approve Motion to pay contractor’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment Application to Pipe Services Corporation in the amount of \$57,868.92 for Sanitary Sewer System Inspection and Defect Assessment. Mr. Brad Youst of Hanover Engineering has reviewed, marked-up, and signed the application and recommends payment in the above amount.

|                     | 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       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

- Motion to approve \$500 bonuses to all life guards – breaking it up in \$100 upfront and the remaining \$400 at the end of the season after the lifeguard completed 180 hours.

Ms. Johnson just completed her life guard certification and after speaking with Vanessa Rex, representative of the Bethlehem Area YMCA, explained that other municipalities also offer bonuses to hire life guards and Fountain Hill is in competition with them. Ms. Johnson further noted that budgeted pool expenditures would cover the bonuses because the pool will only be open for a short season.

When inquired by Mr. Trabel Ms. Johnson explained that despite interest in taking the YMCA life guarding class, only five applicants actually participated in the certification class signaling the ongoing shortage of life guards to be hired. Ms. Johnson’s son did not complete the pre-certification, but he will be helping as a cashier at an hourly rate of \$9. Ms. Johnson finally reported that as of now the pool will be tentatively open on Friday, June 25, 2021, since it takes 2 weeks to process the employee paperwork.

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

When inquired by Ms. Halleman Ms. Johnson stated that four cashiers are hired and staffing the pool that is presumptively only going to be open on weekends (i.e. Friday to Sunday). It is the understanding of Council that the YMCA management contract will be pro-rated based on the days that the pool will be open.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Request for a Handicap space at 1113 Jeter Ave. by Maryann Kipila – tabled at the 6/7/2021 Council Meeting.

Mr. Quarry and Chief Bachert confirmed that the handicapped space would not interfere with law enforcement.

Ms. Halleman raised concerns that Council did not receive any detail backup documentation for the request. Council President Blatt reminded that Council had agreed not to request detail health documentation to observe applicants’ HIPPA rights.

|                     | 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       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

- Council Member Rufe was contacted by Mr. and Ms. Julian & Megan Pelekanakis of 1366 Puggy Lane to present to Council and Mayor Gifford a written statement asking that the piece of public land (i.e., “Paper Street” between Clearfield Avenue and Puggy Lane) that abuts their property to remain public and not being sold into private ownership. They state that a neighbor has illegally built several structures, dumped old tires, construction waste,

gravel etc. on this piece of land. They are encouraging the Borough to remove the structures and trash and no longer tolerate the neighbor's illegal behavior.

- Council President Blatt reminded Council that the deadline for submitting applications for the Borough Manager position will expire on Friday, June 18, 2021. Subsequently, the Executive Session to discuss this personnel matter will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 5 PM at Borough Hall. The Executive Session will not be open to the public.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Officer Vazquez asked to put two vending machines (sodas, chips etc.) near the entrance of the pool for patrons to fill the void of a concession stand. He will be solely responsible for the purchase of the vending machines, the content of the products sold, and absorbing any potential losses.

Council President Blatt requested signage on the machine stating ownership and contact information if anything is wrong with the machines.

|                     | 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       |        |     |     |    |         |        |

- Ms. Jordan announced that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) sent out a 1.4 mill. award as a Multimodal Transportation Grant to ensure a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the commonwealth. An amount of \$203,829 will be allocated to improve the intersection of Broadway and Delaware Avenue.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Non-Agenda –

- Mr. Jeff Remling at 1105 Delaware Ave inquired of Council President had discussed his previously raised concerns regarding the new tavern. Council President Blatt personally looked at the location but had not been able to discuss with Mr. Wargo, the Zoning Officer.
- Council Member Trabel questioned Mr. Remling several questions regarding the new tavern. Council President reminded Mr. Trabel that Privilege of the Floor is for the public to address Council and not for Council to address the public.

- Council President Blatt wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and observe that fireworks are illegal.
- Ms. Harris wanted to know if the Zoning Meeting is public. Council Member Johnson will find out and respond on her personal fb page.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 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

Next Ordinance – 863  
Next Resolution – 2021-15