

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 17, 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. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman, and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Mr. 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 March 1, 2021 minutes

	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						

PRESENTATION(S) – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR –

Mr. Mike Spencer at 1035 Jeter Ave raised concerns to approve Ordinance No 860 “Expanding the Fire Department’s permitted Use of Real Estate Tax funds”.

RESOLUTIONS – none.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 860

AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 700, CODE OF
ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
EXPANDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT’S PERMITTED USE

OF REAL ESTATE TAX FUNDS FOR INSTANCES LEVIED
FOR THE DEBT PAYMENT OF ALL OPERATING COSTS AS
PER 8 PA. STAT. AND CONS. STAT. ANN. § 1302(a)(6).

Mr. Trabel made the motion to table the approval of Ordinance No 860 to the next meeting after discussing with the Fire Chief.

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

MOTIONS – none.

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Blatt inquired about the status of opening the Swimming pool. Ms. Johnson reported that the YMCA offered the same conditions in its management contract, but is still working on securing sufficient life guards. Details will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Council President asked Council for a vote to change labor attorneys and retain the law firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC to replace White and Williams LLP. Mayor Gifford and Council were very impressed with Mr. McAuliffe Miller’s (representative of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC).

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

Council President Blatt asked to notify the respective law firms accordingly.

Mayor Gifford reminded that no Easter egg hunt was planned this year. Instead, an Easter Bunny drive thru on Saturday before Easter is planned.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

Mr. Rufe reported that a local business owner with a loading dock on the corner of N Clewell and Itaska has problems using the loading dock at times because of vehicles parked too close. Mr. Rufe proposed a "No Parking" sign at that corner about 6.5' from the curb. He estimated that only 1/2 of a parking lot would be lost. The issue will be discussed in the House & Ordinance Committee and presented to Council. Both the Police Chief and Public Works will review as well.

Mr. Rufe mentioned the need for a recycle day for appliances and electronics. Mr. Quarry informed that GER Solutions recycles electronics and other hazardous materials.

Mr. Rufe recommended to set up a Social Media presence for the Borough to provide an interactive platform for communicating with residents. Ms. Jordan reminded that the existing Social Media Policy is restricted to only provide information and not comments. Council consented to further discuss at the next meeting.

Chief Bachert reminded that the Police will collect unused drugs on April 24 between 10 AM and 2 PM.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Trabel inquired when Council Meetings will be held in-person again. Even though Council favored in-person meetings, COVID-19 restrictions still prohibit a safe return to in-person council meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson and unanimously approved.

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 Resolution – 2021-6
Next Ordinance – 860