

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 1, 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 provided 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 Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Mr. Wargo (Zoning Officer), Pete Lehr (Solicitor) 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 the February 17, 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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- Presentation by Mr. Michael McAuliffe Miller of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Mr. Miller described the firm’s capabilities in the area of labor and employment matters to service as outside counsel for labor and employment matters. The firm has extensive experience in representing public employers across the Commonwealth at the state, county, city, township, borough and authority levels and routinely training public sector elected officials, managers, in-house counsel, etc. on employment-related issues.

- Mr. Spencer of 1035 Jeter Ave suggested to publish legal notices on the Borough’s website and/or social media.

He requested an update on the refuse collection complaints that were discussed at the February 17, 2021 Council Meeting. Council President Blatt referred the issue back to the Health & Sanitation Committee for review.

Mr. Spencer raised the question what benefits the additional hiring of a part-time Zoning Assistant would bring.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford encouraged residents to get vaccinated. She also praised residents' neighborly behavior assisting others in need during the recent winter storms.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Branco reported that at the February 10, 2021 Fountain Hill Stormwater Authority Meeting Hanover Engineering is communicating with the owner of a retention basin on his property to potentially extend the basin as a proper control measure to meet water quality standards.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 6

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN THE BOROUGH AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSMISSION OF A NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UNTIL MAY 3, 2021, AND FOR THE TAKING OF ALL RELATED ACTIONS

	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						

ORDINANCES

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 861.

ORDINANCE NO. 861

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUIRING TESTING, INSPECTION, REPAIR, AND REPLACEMENT OF BUILDING SEWERS AND SEWER LATERALS AND PROVIDING FOR REMEDIES AND PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.

	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						

MOTIONS – none.

OLD BUSINESS – none.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt reminded that the Playground is open now. Old signage is posted on the premises. New signage is on order.

In regard to the refuse collection complaints expresses at the February 17, 2021 Council Meeting, Council President Blatt suggested to discuss any options in a Health & Sanitation Committee meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lehr reported that Salisbury Township intends to appeal the favorable summary judgment in the ongoing litigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter asked for a motion to approve the expenditures paid in the month of February 2021.

	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						

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Ms. Jordan reported that Cody Zrinski's (one of the Public Works employees still in probation) CDL testing is postponed because of the DOT's scheduling conflict. She asked for a motion to extend his probationary period until he completes the CDL test.

	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						

Mr. Branco suggested a memorandum of agreement to end the probationary period as soon as he passes the CDL test. Council President Blatt asked for an amended motion.

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

Ms. Jordan reported that David Jones, the recently hired Public Works employee, resigned for personal reasons.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Mr. Branco reported that the DCED authorized to use remaining Office Security grant funds to redo the police lobby area and order a new police camera security system.

D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) – none.

E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe) – none.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Ms. Johnson reported that the YMCA submitted the draft pool management contract. It will be reviewed in the upcoming March 17, 2021 committee meeting and then presented to Council. Council President Blatt inquired about a potential Playground program for the summer. Ms. Johnson referred to next committee meeting to discuss costs involved with the program and additional costs related to CDC sanitation requirements.

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

Ms. Halleman read the February Sewer/Garbage collection reports.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter asked Mr. Wargo explain his need to hire an additional part-time Codes/Zoning office secretary. Mr. Wargo explained he needs assistance to help with the paperwork related to the expanded rental activities.

Mr. Trotter asked for a motion to approve the hiring of a part-time secretary for 20 hours/week for \$15/hour based on Mr. Wargo’s explanation and the Finance Committee’s recommendation to provide the assistance.

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

Mr. Rufe suggested that the Rental Fees should be increased by \$15/unit to pass the cost of the additional part-time employee on to landlords. Mr. Branco reminded that levy of these fees must not result in a profit and recommended not to raise the Rental Fee. The solicitor stated that the desire to potentially increase the Rental Fee needs to be approved via a separate resolution. Council

President Blatt asked Mr. Branco to prepare such a resolution and present at the next Council Meeting.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES – none.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Spencer of 1035 Jeter Ave supported Mr. Rufe’s suggestion to increase the Rental Fees to help fund the hiring of the part-time secretary.

Mayor Gifford agreed with Mr. Rufe’s suggestion to increase the Rental Fees but cautioned to not strain the landlord/tenant relationship. Mr. Wargo pointed out that close to \$40,000 Rental Fees 2020 are in arrears and the Rental Fees were increased to a total of \$60/unit beginning in 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) - none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jordan 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 862