

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
May 18, 2022  
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Ms. Graham and Mayor Johnson. Mr. Trabel joined a little later. Mr. Rufe and Ms. Johnson were absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager) 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 May 2, 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
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham		x	x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

**PRESENTATION(S)** - None.

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

**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR REVIEW** – None.

**DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW** - None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Playground/Recreation

Council President Blatt inquired about the summer playground program. Mr. Gratz reported that the former Public Works supervisor’s daughter, Kaylee Levernier, had applied for the coordinator position and would be available to both work the morning (9-12 am) and evening hours (6-9 pm). Additional qualified applicants applied as playground assistants. Mr. Gratz asked about the start of the program. Ms. Jordan noted that the Bethlehem Area School District schools go on summer break on June 9 and the park program traditionally started the Monday after school closing, June 13.

Dependent on the availability of the playground staff, the program is scheduled to run through mid-August.

Mr. Gratz mentioned that Mr. Quarry, the Public Works Supervisor, had suggested to lock the basketball rims two weeks before the playground program starts to give his crew enough time cleaning and preparing the grounds - especially in light of the recent littering occurring again. Council consented.

Mr. Gratz had discovered that the current ordinance only expressly prohibits motor vehicle use in the Lechauwecki Park and not in the other parks. He will further look into the issue and report on it.

- Hellertown Pool Agreement

Council President Blatt summarized the Hellertown Pool Draft Agreement stating that Fountain Hill residents may purchase multiple (eight) use and season passes in Fountain Hill at the Hellertown residential rate Fountain Hill Borough will supplement the difference between the residential/non-residential rates plus a 10% surcharge – payment will be made at the end of the pool season. Daily rates do not differentiate between residential and non-residential status. The resolution to vote on the inter municipal agreement will be presented at the June 6 meeting.

- Pool Grant Follow-up

Mr. Gratz informed that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is available for pool funding. However, CDBG funding is restricted to only fund projects that benefit at least 50% low-income residents. Even though Fountain Hill generally qualifies for more than 50% low-income families per the latest census records, it would be extremely difficult to enforce the exclusive use of the pool by Fountain Hill residents.

- Memorial Day Event – May 27, 1pm – Spiegel Street triangle across from the Little League field

Council President Blatt reminded of the upcoming Memorial Day event to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military and invited everyone to participate.

- KME Fire Engine sold/transfer (complete)

The KME Fire Engine was sold and paid for at the day of the transfer. It will ultimately be boated to Peru as its final destination.

- Little League Building repairs (complete)

The Little League building repairs were completed by the Public Works department crew.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)**

- Electronics Recycling Event

This year, Fountain Hill will hold an electronics recycling event. Mr. Gratz asked Council to define acceptable recyclable electronics and timing of the event. Republic Services will provide the dumpster above the Little League field as part of their contract with the Borough. Council President Blatt asked if a recycling fee should be charged. Mr. Gratz responded that the Health & Sanitation fund balance would allow to fully fund this year's event to Fountain Hill residents with proof of residency. Ms. Graham suggested to limit the number of recyclable items accepted to avoid abuse of the program. Council finally consented to hold the electronic recycling event on a Saturday at the end of the Little League season. It will be free to Fountain Hill residents but limit the number of electronic items ("everything with a plug") to five per resident to cap the Borough's cost.

Mr. Gratz had also reached out to Salisbury Township to potentially partner with them for this recycling event. However, Salisbury declined because the township's garbage hauler contract already includes curbside recycling. Mr. Gratz will consider discussing this service when the next refuse collection contract will be negotiated.

- Notification Software

In light of the recent discussion about the success of reaching out to the public, Council discussed other options than the venues already in use (website, facebook, newspaper) – such as notification software. Mr. Gratz will do some more research. Mr. Gratz did caution though that the success of a public alert system is dependent on residents willing to sign up.

**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

- Motion to approve the hiring of Keith Zehner as the Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, effective May 26, 2022

The Personnel Committee recommended to offer Mr. Zehner the position as Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. His annual salary will be set at \$65,000 with all the benefits for non-uniform employees, including 2.5 weeks of paid vacation.

Council President Blatt entertained a motion to approve his hiring.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson						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 appointment of Brian Liabile to the position of Crew Leader, Public Works, with a \$1.25 per hour raise as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Based on the recommendation of the Public Works Committee Council President Blatt entertained a motion to approve Mr. Laible’s appointment.

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

- Hiring of Kaylee Levernier as the Recreation Program Coordinator/Manager for Summer 2022

Ms. Levernier is offered \$20.00/hr. without benefits working both the morning and evening hours. Mr. Gratz mentioned that Ms. Levernier would also be interested in facilitating other recreational activities, such as movie night.

Council President entertained a motion to approve her hiring.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)**

Council President Blatt reminded again of the upcoming Memorial Day celebration. He also inquired if individual memorial bricks are still available to purchase. Mr. Gratz responded that none have been sold within the past months. However, memorial bricks are still offered for purchase.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:33pm Council President entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Graham 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

Approved