

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 19, 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, and Mayor Gifford. Ms. Halleman was absent. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), 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 May 3, 2021 Minutes

| | Motion | 2 nd | 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 – None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

Council President Blatt reported that an Executive Session regarding personnel matters was held on 5/3/2021 and resumed on 5/10/2021.

MOTIONS

- Mr. Branco asked for a Motion to approve the 1st payment to Pipe Services for the video-recording of the sewer lines in the amount of \$75,838.15.

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

Mr Trabel asked about the status of the inspections. Mr. Branco explained that the video inspections are still ongoing.

- Council President Blatt asked for Motion to appoint the Meyner Center to assist in the Borough Manager search. The cost shall not exceed \$6,000.00 plus expenses. Meyner Center was the agency to hire the current Borough Manager, Mr Branco, in the past as well. Background check will be part of the expenses. Mayor Gifford suggested that the Police Department should provide the background check.

| | 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 | | | | | | |

- Right to Know Officer

Currently, Mr Branco is the right-to-know (RTK) officer. He suggests the Solicitor to serve as right-to-know officer temporarily until a new Borough Manager will be hired.

Police chief suggested to potentially use the Police Secretary, Paula Henning as general right-to-know officer. Mr. Branco emphasized that because of the number of RTK requests he would

not recommend adding that to her workload. Both Ms. Jordan and Mr. Trotter recommended to appoint the Solicitor as RTK Officer as of June 1, 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 | | | | | | |

Mr. Rufe abstained because he would have preferred to have more time to discuss the appointment of the Solicitor as RTK officer.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Council President Blatt announced Mr. Michael Spencer’s resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board as of 5/10/2021. He asked for a motion to accept his resignation and a recognition letter.

| | 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 reported that Ms. Liz Fox resigned from the Zoning Hearing Board because she is moving out of state. He asked for a motion to accept her resignation and recognize her for her service.

| | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Annamarie Jordan | | x | x | | | |
| Jamie Johnson | | | x | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilbert Rufe | | x | | x | |
| Doug Trotter | x | | x | | |
| Philip Trabel | | | x | | |
| Helen Halleman | | | | | x |
| Norman E. Blatt Jr. | | | x | | |
| Mayor Gifford | | | | | |

- On behalf of Ms. Lori Hein of Stanley Avenue, Mr. Branco read her letter to Council. Ms. Hein asked for more police presence on the playground because of reckless drivers ignoring Stop Signs etc. Chief Bachert noted and will initiate more patrolling.
- Mr. Branco reported that two Cleaning Service companies have submitted proposals for Borough Office cleaning services so far. He is expecting more proposals to be submitted. Public Works is cleaning the Borough offices and Police Department in the meantime.
- Council President Blatt suggests holding in-person council meetings at the next July Council Meeting

Mr. Rufe required that masks will be worn at Council Meetings and social distancing (i.e. 3 ft.) will be adhered to. Council as a whole agreed that Governor Wolf's regulations are to be followed and mask wearing will be required at Council Meetings. Ms. Johnson stressed that no parallel Zoom meeting will be held. She will only facilitate the Facebook livestream.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

- Mr. Remling of 1105 Delaware Ave had not been aware of the new bar & grill opening on Broadway. As a resident he stressed that the Zoning Hearing Board should determine if the establishment is a tavern or a restaurant. He noted that the distinction is important because the Borough Zoning Ordinance requires a special exception for a tavern. He questioned if a zoning meeting was held beforehand. Mr. Remling also stated that no handicapped parking is provided. Council President Blatt stated that the Council Meeting is not the right forum for discussing this matter and offered to discuss with Mr. Remling at another occasion. Mr. Remling would rather discuss in public according to the Sunshine Act.
- Mr. Dan Bonnell of D&W Cleaning asked about advertising of the cleaning job. Mr. Branco asked him to contact him.
- Council President Blatt reminded of the importance of Memorial Day. Mayor Gifford is still looking for residents' input to be included a virtual memorial service via email or phone.

- Mr. Quarry mentioned that a major pump repair at the pool needs to be done before this year's pool season.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – as needed – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:51 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 Ordinance – 862
Next Resolution – 2021-11