

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 2, 2022
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, and Mr. Trabel. Mr. Rufe and Ms. Graham were absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Dave Berger (Solicitor), and guests.

Council President Blatt called the meeting to order and asked for everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

Council President Blatt welcomed Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong to the meeting. Mr. Armstrong thanked the Borough for allowing the County to place the ballot box at Borough Hall. When inquired by Mr. Trabel Mr. Armstrong reported that different kind of assistance is available to ensure that every eligible voter can cast a vote, be it in-person, mail-in ballot or proxy ballot.

He also announced that Lehigh County created the new position of County Liaison and introduced Yorman De La Rosa who will be tasked to foster the communication between local government and community groups.

MINUTES

- Approval of the minutes of April 20, 2022

Council President Blatt asked for a vote on a motion by Ms. Jordan to approve the Minutes of April 20, 2022 as amended.

	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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

- Mr. Michael Zovko of 507 Greene Ct. stressed again his interest in forming a citizens' committee in the hopes of getting a community center where the pool would be a critical part of it. He asked Council again to seriously re-consider the permanent closing of the pool and with the help of the citizens' committee find ways to realize a future community center.
 - Ms. Margaret Beier of 1412 Graham St. shared Mr. Zovko's initiative to keep the pool open.
 - Ms. Carolee Fuzza, a former resident of Fountain Hill, also addressed Council in support of the pool. She had contacted Ms. Laurie Moyer, Lehigh County Grants Management Specialist, and reported that a special Community Development Block grant is available to fund the pool. However, the grant stipulates that only Fountain Hill residents will be allowed to use the pool. Ms. Fuzza also mentioned community fundraising to help operate the pool and offered her support for these community efforts.
- Mr. Gratz explained that Council has to authorize to authorize him to apply for the grant. In addition, Mr. Gratz pointed out that staffing shortage is another issue regarding the pool operation. Mr. Gratz referred Ms. Fuzza to the upcoming citizens' meeting on May 12, 2022 at Borough Hall and invited her to attend.

Council President Blatt reported that an executive session was held after the public meeting on April 20, 2022 to discuss the replacement of the Zoning Officer. No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Johnson thanked St. Luke's for the invitation to sit in on Admiral Levine's roundtable discussion on mental health. Mayor Johnson also "threw the first pitch" at the Fountain Hill's Little League first game.

He thanked Council President Blatt and Mr. Quarry (Public Works Supervisor) and the Shade Tree Commission for putting the program together for Arbor Day.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough had reached out through Zip recruiter and LinkedIn to recruit a new Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer. A qualified candidate is scheduled for an interview on May 3, 2022. In the meantime, the Borough Manager continues to facilitate zoning applications and reviews with the assistance of Mr. Berger (Solicitor) and the third-party code enforcement agency.

The 902 Grant from DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) was awarded in the amount of \$35,000 to purchase recycling bins. The number of recycling bins to be purchased will be partially subsidized by Health & Sanitation Fund funds. The new recycling bins are the rolling kind and will still be sold for \$10/piece.

The first tranche of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds was awarded in 2021 and dedicated to stormwater infrastructure improvements. The second tranche of ARPA will be disbursed sometime in June/July 2022 and Council will have to decide on the spending for that part of the award within the scope of the provisions of the act.

Mr. Gratz updated on the Broadway and other Borough road projects. He reported that the 2021 CDBG grant (Community Development Block Grant) for the total reconstruction of Jeter Avenue between Kieffer and Clewell was advertised for bidding. The 2022 CDBG was applied for by the deadline to help fund the continuation of the Jeter Avenue reconstruction.

UGI is expected to finish its work on Broadway in the 900 and 1400 blocks to replace the gas lines and updating the tie-ins of the individual sewer laterals to the main service lines. At the that time, the Borough is planning to start its curb and sidewalk project. Shortly thereafter, PennDOT is scheduled to mill and overlay Broadway and doing the handicapped ramps that are not in the scope of the Borough's project. Mr. Gratz pointed out that PennDOT's work might not be finished until the end of the year in anticipation of delays. After the completion of Broadway, the pedestrian crossing at Broadway/Delaware Ave. including signage and flashing lights – will be updated.

In addition, micro-surfacing will be done on Delaware and St. Luke's Place (funded through Liquid Fuel funds). Only rolling single lane closure will be needed for one day.

Also, Public Works will be tackling some alleys, starting with Maple Street.

Next, the 1100 block of Sioux Street and the total reconstruction of Warren Street will be going out for bidding next.

NEW BUSINESS

The Little League approached Mr. Quarry regarding the replacement of a water heater and new exterior lighting. The question is how much of the cost of material, manpower and labor does the Borough want to share. A lease agreement between the Little League and the Borough could not be located. Council President Blatt asked for Council's consensus to cover the above-mentioned cost. Ms. Johnson supported the cost sharing and suggested to update leasing records. Mr. Gratz will be discussing with the Little League if they only need the field or also the snack bar and building. Council consented to allow Public Works to help with the general maintenance items. Any extraordinary items will be brought to Council's attention.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 19

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL,
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS
MATERIALS FOR SMALL QUANTITIES IN THE BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2022 ROAD
PROJECTS.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			

Jamie Johnson		X	X			
Wilbert Rufe						X
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Erica Graham						X
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 20

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM AND THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL FOR USE OF YARD WASTE FACILITY.

The intergovernmental agreement will formalize the past verbal agreement because the City of Bethlehem has some increases third-party cost that will lock the Borough in for three years.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

ORDINANCE NO. 867

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, §302 PROHIBITIONS IN SPECIFIC PLACES, AMENDING SCHEDULE 1 (A) TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF RONCA STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION WITH LYNN STREET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH BERGEN STREET.

The ordinance was properly advertised and the property owners whose properties abutted Ronca Street were notified as well.

	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					

ORDINANCE NO. 868

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL CHAPTER 27, ZONING, PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ZONING HEARING BOARD FROM FIVE (5) MEMBERS TO THREE (3) MEMBERS AND ONE (1) ALTERNATE MEMBER WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE BOROUGH.

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

MOTIONS

- Council President Blatt asked for a vote on the motion made by Ms. Johnson to approve the sale of the 1996 KME Fire Engine for \$8500.

The highest bidder on Municibid offered \$8,500 after the fire engine was listed twice. The bidder is buying it for fire department in Peru and is replacing a 1973 fire engine.

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

Mayor Johnson

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- Approving final payment to Pipe Services Corp. in the adjusted amount of \$46,722.49 as recommended by the Borough Engineer (Video inspection of the sanitary sewer system including the main line and sewer laterals)

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

- Waiving the baseball field rental fee for Salisbury Youth Association in lieu of fieldwork and equipment use

The Salisbury baseball field has a sink hole and cannot be used. The Salisbury Youth Association worked out a use schedule with the Fountain Hill Little League and is asking to waive the baseball field rental fee in lieu of fieldwork and equipment use provided by them for this season.

	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						

- Waiving the baseball field rental fee for Southside Slugger Youth Baseball 16u in lieu of fieldwork and equipment use

A lot of Fountain Hill children are involved in this group as they aged out of the Fountain Hill Little League. The Southside Slugger Youth Baseball provide the liability in the insurance as required. They also ask to waive the baseball rental fee in lieu of fieldwork and equipment.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Fountain Hill Pool

Council President Blatt referred to the recent public discussion regarding the permanent closure of the pool. He re-iterated the Borough's efforts reaching out to the community for its sentiment on the future use of the pool. He acknowledged the most recent public support to keep the pool open and therefore, he asked for Council's opinion on how to move forward.

Ms. Jordan explained her recent motion to permanently close the pool because of the lack of the public's interest in it. In light of Mr. Zovko's citizens' initiative, she is willing to re-consider and simply maintain the pool in 2022 and wait for the outcome of Mr. Zovko's citizens' initiative. Ms. Johnson supported that suggestion.

Mr. Berger intervened and explained that a motion amending the recent motion to permanently close the pool would be needed to keep the pool pumps running in 2022. A motion is needed for Council to consider the amendment of the recent motion. When inquired by Mr. Trabel, Mr. Quarry explained that the pool is currently fully drained. He wanted to know if the required repairs to operate the pool in the future should be entertained now. Mr. Gratz suggested to wait for the upcoming citizens' meeting and evaluate the sincerity of the public's interest before funds are committed to the pool. In the meantime, Mr. Gratz will also get some information from Lehigh County's grant specialist regarding pool funding. Mr. Berger emphasized that a procedural vote is needed at the June Council meeting if amendment is sought.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to reconsider amending the motion to close the pool. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trotter.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson	x		x			
Wilbert Rufe						x
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Erica Graham						x

Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x		
Mayor Johnson					

- Hellertown Pool Agreement

After Mr. Berger had raised concerns regarding liability for the Public Works crew helping at the Hellertown pool, Mr. Gratz contacted Hellertown again. Hellertown proposed a 10% surcharge on every pass sold to Fountain Hill residents as a contribution towards Hellertown's maintenance. It removes the Borough from any potential liability and gives Fountain Hill residents an option to have access to a public pool. Mr. Gratz detailed that Fountain Hill residents would be able to purchase a season pass or a multiple pass at the Hellertown rate and the Borough would subsidize the rate difference between residents/non-residents plus the 10% surcharge. Daily admission rates are the same for residents/non-residents.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Easter Egg Hunt was a welcome event.

The opening ceremony at the Little League field was well organized.

Council President Blatt thanked the Shade Tree Commission and the Public Works department for the preparation of the Arbor Day event held at Upper Dodson Ballfield on April 29, 2022.

Council President Blatt reminded of the Memorial Day celebration on May 27, 2022 at 1 pm at the Triangle across from the ball field.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Council President Blatt asked for a vote on the motion made by Mr. Trotter to pay the bills as presented.

	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						

Public Works

(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Mr. Quarry referred back to the earlier discussion on upcoming road projects.

Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

A list of intersections where parking will be restricted because of insufficient line of sight were discussed during the meeting before the Council meeting. Speed checks will be held on Delaware Ave.

House & Ordinances (Rufe, Graham, Jordan) – None.

Fire (Trabel, Graham, Rufe) – None.

Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Potential summer programs were discussed, such as a community garden above the pool Ms. Johnson was advised though to have a soil test done beforehand.

The offices of Jeannie McNeil and Magistrate Amy Zanelli offered to provide large screens for showing movies in the park. The purchase of new movies would be funded by volunteers. Community yard sales are considered.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Borough will entertain a summer program this year for the morning and evening hours. Staff is secured for the morning hours, but staff is still needed for the evening hours.

Ms. Johnson reminded to keep the park clean and properly dispose of trash. Motor bikes are not allowed on the basket ball courts. Violators will be reported to the police.

Health & Sanitation (Graham, Johnson, Trabel)

Council President Blatt read the Sewer/Garbage collection reports for April 2022.

He inquired about the possibility of sheriff's sales for high accounts. Mr. Berger responded that sheriff's sales will be considered for extremely high accounts.

Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

The new Fire Truck is operational. The Fire Department is receiving CPR training.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Jason Brandon thanked Council for reconsidering the closure of the pool.

Mr. Tim Brown of 615 S Bergen St is encouraged about the citizens' interest in the pool and hopes that grants will become available to support the pool operation. Mr. Gratz reminded that

public grants do currently support the Broadway Curb & Sidewalk construction and the Broadway/Delaware intersection. However, availability of grants are constantly monitored.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (As Needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:18 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, President of Council

SUBMITTED:

BY: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 874
Next Resolution – 2022-21

Approved