

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 3, 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. Trabel, and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Sergeant Hochwarter, 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 April 21, 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

- Ann Felker – Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT)

Ms. Felker gave a presentation on the program offering well maintained used bicycles for qualifying adults providing affordable transportation. The program is made possible through a Community Development Block Grant with the County of Lehigh. The Office and CAT Bicycle Cooperative on 1935 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018 (cat@lvcat.org) will accept applications until September 15, 2021.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford encouraged everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine; there is no longer a waiting list and no scheduling is needed.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

- Semi-trucks on Brighton Street

Mr. Branco reported that tractor trailers are causing damage on Brighton Street and to a certain extent on Benner Ave. An engineering study delineating the road construction is needed to potentially restrict traffic. Mr. Branco asked for a motion to initiate the engineering study.

	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						

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Jordan announced that Mr. Branco was honored by the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs for managing the Borough’s affairs. Council congratulated him as well.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2121-11

APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO LEHIGH COUNTY FOR 2021 CDBG FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill does hereby authorize Anthony Branco, Borough Manager, to act as the official to prepare and submit the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Application to the County of Lehigh for funding for the reconstruction project of Kieffer Street from Delaware Ave to Jeter Avenue, and portions of Jeter Avenue east of Kieffer Street.

	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. Trabel asked if gas lines will be replaced beforehand. Mr. Branco will contact the utility company as soon as the grant is awarded to find out if any gas line work is planned.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt reminded of the May 6, 2021 Executive Session to be held at 6 PM at Borough Hall to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Trabel asked about opening Borough Hall for Council meetings. Ms Johnson stressed that all members of Council will be required to wear a mask before Borough Hall should be opened for meetings. Mr. Branco pointed out that due to social distancing requirements only 12-15 guests could be accepted in Borough Hall. Ms.Jordan mentioned that people generally had more access to the meetings than in Borough Hall meetings because of the ease of access. Mayor Gifford wondered if both virtual and in-person meetings could be held. Mr. Trotter still reminded that participation was limited because of social distancing unless zoom meetings are also provided. Council President Blatt is expecting in-person Council meetings might be possible within the next month or latest by July.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

- Motion to approve the the bills presented

	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) none**
- C. Police **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson) none**
- D. House & Ordinances **(Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) none**
- E. Fire **(Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)**

Mr. Trabel read the April fire report.

On behalf of the Voluntary Fire Department Mr. Trabel asked to expand the training facilities to homes at Dodson Street.

- F. Recreation **(Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)**

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Branco presented the 2021 YMCA pool contract again including the revised increased management fee. Mr. Branco explained that the contract stipulates that it is the YMCA's responsibility to secure lifeguards.

Mr. Branco also noted that only day passes will be sold this year. He then asked for a motion to accept the revised contract.

	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						

Ms. Johnson reported that at this point no official park/playground program is planned for.

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

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

- H. Personnel **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**

Mr. Trotter reported that Ms. Kelly Moser was hired as the zoning clerk starting May 10, 2021 for 20 hrs/week at an hourly rate of \$15.

Mr. Branco reminded that Ms. Hagan will provide the last office cleaning on May 11, 2021 before resigning. The Public Works department will clean in the interim until a new cleaning service company is secured.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan reported that the Bethlehem Area Public Library is open now. Special procedures are in place to adhere to disinfection rules.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr Spencer of 1035 Jeter Avenue addressed Council as the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board and criticized that a recent application for a variance was deemed approved because a Zoning Hearing Board meeting could not be held timely.

He again stressed the importance of developing rules and procedures while working with the solicitor to provide advice. He requested Council’s approval of funds to pay for legal fees. Council President Blatt stated that his request will be addressed again with the Finance Committee and a response will be provided before the next meeting on May 17, 2021.

Council President Blatt announced that a ballot box is placed in the lobby of Borough Hall for voting by mail constituents. The ballot box is under constant surveillance and secure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

An Executive Session will be held on May 6, 2021 at 6 pm at Borough Hall regarding personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 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