

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 17, 2021
7:00 P.M**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Halleman. Mayor Gifford attended via phone. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Ed Bachert (Police Chief) , and guests.

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

MINUTES

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to

- approve the Minutes of the November 1, 2021 Council Meeting, as amended for corrections

	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						

- to approve the Minutes of the November 3, 2021 Committee of the Whole , as amended for corrections

	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						

PRESENTATION(S) - none

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED - none

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO FILL THE VACANCY FROM THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. ANNAMARIE JORDAN.

	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						

Mr. Rufe is the newly appointed representative.

Mayor Gifford and Council President Blatt thanked Ms. Jordan for her longstanding dedicated service as a representative to the Bethlehem Area Public Library Board.

ORDINANCES - none

MOTIONS

- On behalf of the Borough Manager, Council President Blatt asked for a motion to advertise the Proposed Budget for 10 days.

	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					

In light of the outstanding decision on the wage increase for the administrative staff for 2022, Mr. Gratz recommended to either ask for a motion to approve a wage increase for all administrative staff members or to go into an executive session if only select staff members will receive a wage increase. Council President Blatt asked to interrupt the public meeting and Council to convene for an Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, the public was invited back to the Council Chamber and Council President Blatt announced a five (5) % wage increase for the office clerks, the Finance Director, the Zoning Officer, the Police Chief and the Police Secretary.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to advertise the budget as amended for the wage increase.

	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						

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the salary change for the Public Works Supervisor retroactively as of November 1, 2021.

	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						

OLD BUSINESS

- School Traffic

Based on the Borough Manager's reporting, Council President Blatt stated that the temporary traffic plan, including a one-way street designation was approved by all parties and will begin on December 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Public Works Candidate Interviews

Ms. Jordan reported that three candidates were interviewed and an offer was extended to one candidate. His acceptance is still outstanding. In the meantime, a fourth candidate applied, but has not been interviewed yet.

- Christmas Decorating Door Contest.

In response to popular demand, Council President Blatt, Mayor Gifford and Council as a whole favored this community activity. Mr. Gratz assured that mall prizes could be paid out the General Fund.

- Ms. Johnson announced that the New Bethany Ministries of Bethlehem will hold the 24th annual Luminaria Night on December 11, 2021. Through the sale of kits, several different charities benefit from Luminaria Night. Different options to purchase Luminaria kits are available (New Bethany Ministries website). She encouraged residents to participate.
- Chief Bachert announced that the Police will be raising funds for "Helping Hands" again throughout the Christmas season.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Council President mentioned that the recent incident on Clewell Street was well handled by the police and the EMS and Voluntary Fire Department provided a great response.

Council President concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 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 – 865
Next Resolution – 2021 - 19