

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 18, 2020
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 provided 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, Ms. Halleman and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Jason Quarry (PW Supervisor), Derek Richmond (Fire Co. Chief), and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President of Council Jordan called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT -Norm Blatt

Ms. Jordan asked for a motion to elect the new Council President.

	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 Blatt			X			
Mayor Gifford						

The newly elected Council President humbly accepted the nomination and continued the meeting.

MINUTES

- Minutes of November 2, 2020

	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 Blatt			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRESENTATION(S) - None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None.

MOTIONS

Mr. Blatt asked for a motion to approve the Proposed Budget for 2021 as it was presented to Council and made available for public inspection for ten (10) calendar days.

	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 Blatt					x	
Mayor Gifford						

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 31

A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania:

THAT a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real properties within the Borough of Fountain Hill subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2021 as follows:

SECTION 1. Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 9.13 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.913 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

SECTION 2. Tax rate for the Fire Department, the sum of 0.08 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.008 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

SECTION 3. Tax rate for Library Services, the sum of 0.40 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$0.040 on each one hundred dollars of assessed value.

SECTION 4. That any resolution, or part of resolution, conflicting with this resolution be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this resolution.

	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 Blatt					x	
Mayor Gifford						

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Letters of Interest for the vacancy on the Stormwater Authority Board. This term expires on 12/31/2021.

- Mr. Michael Matey, 1305 Broadway
- Mr. Philip Trabel, 540 S. Benner Avenue
- Iris Kale, 852 N. Clewell St

Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Trotter voted for Mr. Matey.

Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman, and Mr. Blatt voted for Mr. Trabel.

Mr. Trabel received the majority vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- 2019 904 Recycling Grant Awarded - \$4,999.41
- SLUHN – Fire Truck donation & contract approval directing Mr. Branco to proceed

Mr. Branco announced that St. Luke’s Hospital Network is the private donor to contribute to the purchase of the Fire Truck with a first installment of \$100,260 in 2021 and a second installment of \$100,260 in 2022.

All of Council and Fire Chief Derek Richmond expressed their gratitude for this generous donation. Mayor Gifford asked Mr. Branco to send an official Thank You note to St. Luke’s on behalf of Council and the Mayor.

Since the funding for the purchase of the fire truck is fully secured now, Mr. Branco asked for Council’s approval to proceed ordering the fire truck as it was specked out.

	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 Blatt			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Ms. Halleman cited an article in The Morning Call that police officers in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton are now equipped with body cameras. The article stated that Easton paid for its new cameras with a \$90,000 Department of Justice grant that was matched by the city. Ms. Halleman encouraged Chief Bachert to investigate the use of body cameras as well. Chief Bachert acknowledged while the cameras have many useful benefits, they also have the potential to unjustly invade an individual’s right to privacy.

Mr. Mike Spencer of 1035 Jeter Ave congratulated Mr. Blatt on his nomination as Council President. As he commended Council and administration on the 2021 budget proposal holding property taxes steady, he asked to justify capital reserves and potentially decrease property taxes in the future. The Finance Director acknowledged the need for policy defining the level of the fund balance and also discouraged the use of general statements regarding fund balance levels.

Mr. Rich Rolen, the former Deputy Chief of the Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Co., asked Council again to review his termination.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – as needed – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jordan and unanimously approved.

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By: _____
Norm Blatt - President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 2020-32
Next Resolution – 858