

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
November 1, 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, Mr. Trotter and Ms. Halleman. Mayor Gifford attended via phone. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), Dave Boehrer (Fire Chief), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), and Mr. Pete Lehr (Solicitor) 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 October 20, 2021 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			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED - none.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Gifford thanked for well wishes she has received.

She also commented on a wonderful trick or treat night and thanked all participants.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

- In reference to a recent repeated resident's complaint letter regarding trash pickup, Mr. Gratz reported that the number of complaints has increased. All complaints have been resolved. However, he recommended to have the solicitor potentially look into the contract terms and send a letter to Republic Services to discuss these contract issues.

Council consented.

- Mr. Gratz reported that Office Security Grant money is left to afford the purchase of an additional camera for the council chamber to be able to live stream council meetings. Council consented.

NEW BUSINESS

- The "Gametime" tavern request for a 5-minute pickup zone in front of the restaurant (potentially 3 parking spots)

Mr. Gratz asked for Council's general standing to this request before investing in traffic studies and amendments to existing ordinances.

Council generally agreed but raised concerns to potentially limit to only (two) 2 parking spots.

RESOLUTIONS - none

ORDINANCES - none

MOTIONS

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the temporary Fountain Hill Elementary Traffic Plan Trial for (one) 1 month.

Mayor Gifford stressed that the temporary trial would encourage the dialogue between the school and the nearby church.

	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. Gratz asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a Pick-up Truck for the Fire Department in the amount of \$71,000 funded through the Fire Fund to replace the old vehicle in the fleet.

A request for bidding is not necessary because the vendor is a Costars state contractor.

	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. Gratz asked for a motion to approve the side agreement between the Borough and the Public Works Association to better match wage levels with other municipalities.

Mr. Trabel inquired if the elimination of one Public Works position would not impair the Public Works functionality. Mr. Quarry confirmed that a total of five (5) employees would suffice to avoid service interruptions.

	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						

- Council President Blatt asked to accept with regrets the resignation of Cody Zrinski from Public Works.

	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. Gratz asked for a motion to direct the borough solicitor to work on expanding and tightening the ordinances related to outdoor lighting.

When reviewing residents' complaints regarding outdoor lighting intrusion, the House & Ordinance Committee discussed the PA Outdoor Lighting Commission's "Invasive Lighting" resource and recommended it to the Solicitor when reviewing the respective ordinances.

Mr. Trabel inquired if the existing lighting installations would be affected by a more restrictive ordinance. Mr. Lehr will review but thinks that the ordinance could be applied retroactively.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to direct the borough solicitor to review the proposed ordinance.

	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						

- Council President Blatt also brought up the subject of rental qualifications. He asked for a motion to ask the solicitor to review and refine the definition of rental properties and related licensing requirements.

	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

- Council President Blatt reminded everyone of the Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6pm first Committee of the Whole budget meeting. The General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund. will be discussed.

He reminded that the public is invited to observe.

#### COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Blatt was happy that the trick or treat night was changed from Friday to Sunday due to rainy weather. He thanked the residents for participating.

Council President Blatt reminded everyone of November 2nd election day. Polls will open at 7 am and close at 8 pm .

Council President Blatt noted that parking on Delaware Ave is already tight during snow emergencies. The current traffic situation on Bergen between Delaware Ave and School Street might remove parking restrictions.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lehr reported on the status of the ongoing litigation with Salisbury Township. The court had referred the matter back to the parties to mitigate and reach a mutually acceptable agreement. He noted that the "Perpetuity" issue is still upheld by Salisbury Township, but should be removed and is being negotiated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**

- Mr. Trotter asked for a motion to approve payment of the bills as presented.

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

**B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)**

Mr. Quarry noted that Public Works started the leaf pickup and asked residents to contact the Borough office as needed.

**C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)**

Chief Bachert stated that the new reporting system currently does not provide the usual monthly police reports. He also reported that the unused medication drive was completed recently.

**D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan)**

Mr. Rufe reported that the Lighting ordinance, rental definition, and potential speeding limitations on Long Street were discussed. The committee did not find a large-scale speeding problem on Long Street requiring to take any action. He asked to notify the residents accordingly.

**E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)**

Mr. Trabel reported that the delivery of new fire truck might be postponed to February 2022.

The Christmas Tree sale will start again a week early like last year (before Thanksgiving); each tree will sell for \$40. Details will be published on the Volunteer Fire Department's facebook page.

Dave Boehrer recited some of the fire report incidents. He also stressed again that volunteers are still needed - training and gear will be provided.

Since the Borough Manager is qualified and fully licensed to drive the critical Fire Vehicles, Dave Boehrer asked if Mr. Gratz would be allowed to drive a truck during the daytime – as his time allows – when no volunteer is available.

Council and Mr. Gratz consented.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Ms. Johnson thanked resident for participation in trick or treating.

She also reminded that a Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Light refreshments will be served, and Santa will be on site.

Ms. Jordan noted that in the past year residents had asked to delay the ceremony to 5 pm because it was still light at 4 pm. Ms. Johnson will coordinate with the Fire Department.

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

Ms. Halleman read the Sewer & Garbage collection reports for October.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) - none

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan reported that "Books on the Hill" is going well.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

The resident of 678 Ostrum Steet, introduced himself as the Region 1 appointed Director. He serves as the neighborhood candidate for the school board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed) - none

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jordan and unanimously approved.

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BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Norman E. Blatt Jr.- President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager