

Minutes
BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 20, 2024 - 7 P.M.

The Meeting of Fountain Hill Borough Council was held in person at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order, all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call was conducted by Council President McCandless. Councilmembers present were Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, President McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel, Mayor Johson, Borough Manager Burkhart

Absent were Mr. Rufe

President McCandless announced that there had been an Executive Session prior to the Council meeting to interview potential Finance Officers.

It was noted that the minutes of the November 4, 2024, meeting were not complete and would be provided at the next meeting of the Council.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED & AGENDA ITEMS – No speakers requested Privilege of the Floor

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence New Bethany – New Bethany requested a \$500 contribution to their organization. N. Blatt indicated that making a contribution would be a bad precedent and also Borough Code has regulations regarding the types of contributions that can be made by a municipality. There was no further discussion on the subject.

Budget Review – A. Burkhart reviewed the Proposed Budgets which included the General Fund Budget at \$5,186,952.70 which includes a proposed 1 mill increase in Real Estate Taxes. Further, the Health and Sanitation Budget proposes the quarterly garbage fee to be \$130.00 per quarter in 2025. There were no substantial changes noted in the 2025 Sewer Fund Budget, Library Fund Budget, or the Fire Fund Budget. It was stated that the increased millage for the Borough will allow the Borough to continue working on the community's goals including police protection and recreation initiatives. It was noted that there was a motion on the agenda to advertise the 2025 Budgets for public review and that the final approval of the Budgets would occur in December. President McCandless reminded everyone that the millage increase is the first time the Borough has increased taxes in the last five years.

Tax Collector Stipend / Tax Certifications – Additionally outlined in the 2025 General Fund Budget there was a request from the Tax Collector to increase his annual stipend and the cost of Tax Certifications. The Borough Manager will investigate the process of achieving both of those and should have additional information at the next meeting.

Meeting on December 18, 2024 – It was announced that the meeting on December 18 would be held and that there will potentially be a presentation by the Bethlehem School District for Council to review and approve the school's Land Development Plans for the

new elementary school.

OLD BUSINESS

Manholes – The Borough continues to work in the area and will begin work in town soon.

Pool Pumps – The Borough continues to work through the purchase of the pool pumps for the 2026 season.

Elementary School Presentation – The Elementary School is scheduled to present at Council on December 18 (not December 2) for their Land Development Plans.

Parking Ordinance – The Handicapped Parking Ordinance was circulated to Council for review as requested at the December 4 meeting. A. Burkhart asked if there were any other revisions requested. None were voiced. It was noted that there was a motion later in the agenda to advertise the ordinance.

Weed Ordinance – The ordinance was not circulated and will be circulated for the next Council meeting.

MOTIONS

There was a motion to accept and approve an extension request for the Fountain Hill Elementary School, 1330 Church St. The new deadline for the Land Development Review will be December 20, 2024

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

There was a motion to approve the advertisement of the 2025 Proposed Budget for public inspection.

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

There was a motion to approve the advertisement of the Handicapped Parking Ordinance.

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

There was a motion to table the advertisement of the Weed and Vegetation Ordinance. –

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President McCandless announced the following items:

- Burn Ban is still in effect due to dry conditions.
- Tree Lighting - December 8, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Tree Sale – Begins on November 23.
- Santa Run – Will be held on December 21. Gifts will be accepted at the Fire Company on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.
- Borough Hall will be closed for Thanksgiving

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – No speakers requested Privilege of the Floor

ADJOURNMENT

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Wilbert Rufe						X
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stewart McCandless			X			

Norman E. Blatt Jr.
Mayor Johnson

		X			

ATTESTED

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

By: _____
Stewart McCandless - President of Council

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 883
Next Resolution – 2024-14

APPROVED