

**MINUTES**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**November 6, 2023**  
**7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. McCandless, and Mayor Johnson. Mr. Trabel came in later. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Rufe were absent. Also in attendance were Amy Burkhart (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), Dave Berger (Solicitor), and guests.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes –

✓ Minutes 10/18/2023

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

✓ Minutes 10/25/2023 Committee of the Whole (Budget)

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

✓ Minutes 11/1/2023 Committee of the Whole (Budget)

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

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED**

Mr. John Spadaccia of 1034 Broadway addressed Council regarding the frequent nuisance problems related to the Gametime Sports Bar & Grille on 1028 Broadway. He noted that the establishment is operating like a bar at nighttime and not like a restaurant resulting in multiple nuisance complaints to the police. Mr. Spadaccia questioned how “Gametime” was approved and wanted to know what can be done about the disturbance it creates.

Council President Blatt replied that the permitting process and the Zoning Officer’s position were questioned numerous times but independently examined by a representative of the solicitor’s office. It was determined that the permitting and code enforcement were properly done. However, if “Gametime” does not act like a good neighbor and is loud and boisterous interfering with the residential neighbors’ property rights, Council President Blatt advised to file complaints with the police and keep track of those complaints. In addition, Council President Blatt advised to complain to the Liquor Control Board. The Liquor Control Commission’s primary function is to enforce the state law on alcohol regulation and liquor licensing. It is authorized to grant or deny license applications, frame rules, and conduct hearings and appeals at administrative disciplinary proceedings. In summary, residential neighbors’ remedies are filing civil complaints against “Gametime” and/or file a complaint to the Liquor Control Board. Mr. Berger concurred with Council President’s statement. Mr. Berger clarified that the Borough is only responsible for the permit that was issued for the operation at the time. However, if an unauthorized change of use is believed to have taken place, a formal zoning complaint can be filed. The Zoning Officer will investigate the complaint and if he confirms the unauthorized change in use, civil enforcement is available.

Chief Bachert reported that multiple complaints have been cited as ordinance violations and communicated to the Liquor Control Board as well.

Ms. Marie Smith of 515 S Benner Ave reiterated Mr. Spadaccia’s complaints and stressed her frustration with the ongoing situation. She stated that she filed numerous complaints with the police, contacted the State Representative’s office, and filed a formal complaint with the Liquor Control Board. Mr. Berger explained the liquor license needs to be renewed every year and the Liquor Control Board has the authority to revoke a license. Therefore, Mr. Berger recommended to continue filing complaints and thus creating a record of continued violations.

Chief Bachert stated that the officers drive by Gametime randomly and when answering calls regarding disorderly conduct.

Finally, Ms. Debbie Spadaccia of 1034 Broadway gave more examples of Gametime’s patrons behaving disorderly and was happy to hear that the police are citing offenders all the time.

Mr. John Spadaccia inquired about an “orange placard” posted on one of the back doors at Gametime. Mr. Berger explained that this type of orange placard only needs to be posted for thirty (30) days after a change of ownership has occurred.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Johnson reminded residents to vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT**

- ✓ Grants – LSA, DEP, DCNR

Ms. Burkhart reported that she is in the process of submitting grant applications for the Local Share Grant, the 904 Recycling Performance Grant and the DCNR funded recreation grant in support of a Pickleball court.

- ✓ ESRI ArcGIS

Ms. Burkhart is reviewing the renewal options to potentially downgrade the ESRI -Arc GIS subscription to a standard version for the coming year.

- ✓ Dodson Street Park House Remediation / Demolition  
The Dodson Street Park House demolition will start in a few days.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony December 3rd, 2023

The tree lighting ceremony will be held on Cherokee Street and start either at 4 or 4:30 pm (starting time will be reviewed and determined).

**RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE – NONE.**

**ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE - NONE**

**MOTIONS - NONE.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Budget 2024

After having deliberated the proposed budgets 2024 as a Committee of the Whole, Council President Blatt asked if there was a motion to advertise the Proposed Budget 2024 – as amended – and make available for review.

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

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Council President Blatt reminded of election day.

The drug drop off was successful.

Council President Blatt thanked the Community Coalition for organizing the borough cleanup. On behalf of the Community Coalition, Mr. Mike Zovko of 507 Greene Ct. reported that their work on the pool is wrapping up. Because of little interest, the Veteran’s Day Breakfast - scheduled for November 11 - will be either canceled or postponed.

The Community Coalition will hold its next meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7 pm at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

Council President Blatt thanked everyone for their participation in the Recycling event.

“Trunk or treat” was a big success.

The Fire Department will hold a Christmas tree sale beginning the day after Thanksgiving.

Council President Blatt alerted that Broadway has many crosswalks after the completion of its reconstruction and reminded motorists to pay close attention.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT – None.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- o Finance **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**
- o Motion to pay the bills as presented –

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

- o Public Works **(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)**

Mr. Quarry reported that leaf pickup season is in full swing.

The Ostrum Street (Phase 1) will be completed at the end of the week.

- o Police **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)**

Chief Bachert reported that Officers Krasley and Tosado will receive awards for bravery for their participation in fighting the house fire on Seneca Street.

- o House & Ordinances **(Rufe, Jordan, McCandless) - None.**
- o Fire **(Trabel, Rufe, McCandless)**

Mr. Trabel read the recent fire report and gave a membership update.

- o Recreation **(Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) – None.**
- o Health & Sanitation **(McCandless, Johnson, Trabel)**

Mr. McCandless read Sewer/Garbage collection report for October.

- o Personnel **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None.**
- o IT Committee **(Johnson, Rufe, Jordan) – None.**

**SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

Ms. Jordan encouraged to check out the central library’s and Books on the Hill’s current events.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items - None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 at 7 pm.

At 7:50 PM Council President Blatt asked to adjourn the Council meeting. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Mr. McCandless and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman E Blatt - President of Council

ATTESTED

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

SUBMITTED

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

Next Ordinance – 880  
Next Resolution – 2023-25

Approved