

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 20, 2021
7:00 P.M**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Trabel, Mr. Rufe, and Ms. Johnson. Mayor Gifford participated via phone. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), and Chief Bachert (Police Chief).

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

Council President Blatt requested a moment of silence for long-time borough employee Joseph Gatta who recently passed away. Mrs. Jordan also mentioned Eugene Szabo who recently passed away.

MINUTES

- Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 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				
Helen Halleman						X
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Gifford						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

Council President Blatt asked for a motion for the below items:

- Extension of the Black Dog Partners Land Use Application until the end of December at the request of the developer to allow for further review by the Borough Engineer. This extension was requested by the developer via their attorney.

	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						

- Allow for a temporary one-way closure of streets around the school during pick-up and drop-off times for a trial period during the month of November.

After some discussion and concerns voiced by Mayor Gifford, this matter was tabled for a future meeting to allow more time for review and additional discussions with the school district. Mayor Gifford proposed reverting to the “old plan” from years past that the school has utilized.

OLD BUSINESS

- Council President Blatt reminded everyone of the Public Budget Meeting Dates – 11/3, 11/10, and 11/17 (as needed). These will be advertised in the next addition of the Bethlehem Press.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Borough Manager Gratz shared that Sharon Amatoyger has been hired and already started as the part-time Zoning Office Clerk. She is retired from the district magistrate and is acclimating to the position quite nicely.
- Mr. Gratz stated that he and Public Works Director Jason Quarry spoke with a candidate for the vacant public works laborer position. The candidate is going to shadow Jason for a few hours to get a close look at what the job entails. If he is interested, a future interview with members of the Public Works Committee will be scheduled.

- Chief Bachert reminded everyone that Saturday October 23rd is National Drug Takeback Day. Fountain Hill Police will be participating from 10am until 2pm at their headquarters. Residents can stop by and dispose of unused medications.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items –.

- Mr. Chuck Zurick of 734 Delaware Avenue addressed council regarding a illuminated sign at his neighbor’s property at 736 Delaware Ave, Equinox Property Management. He believes this sign to be in violation of §507, section F. (shielding) in the zoning code. President Blatt asked Council if they support a vigorous enforcement of law, to which there was no opposition. President Blatt directed Mr. Gratz to have Mr. Wargo vigorously enforce the law, including the section Mr. Zurick referenced. Mr. Rufe alluded to further discussion/action at the November 1 meeting with some resources from the House and Ordinance Committee at their last meeting.
- David Johnsen 1451 Jeter Ave questioned Mayor Gifford about the “old plan” regarding the school traffic. He suggested a crossing guard at Church St in lieu of the traditional position at Broadway. Mr. Johnsen and Mr. Trabel discussed how students are dropped off on Moravia Street and how a one-way street would potentially benefit the situation. Mayor Gifford weighed in on the issue as a resident of Moravia Street who personally opposes the situation and feels the school should be doing more on their end. President Blatt assured Mr. Johnsen that council shares his concerns regarding student safety and that the matter is actively under review and further discussions will be had.
- Ariana Johnsen 1451 Jeter Ave commented that the responsibility should not fall totally on the school and that borough should take an active part in the problem-solving process. She suggested there is little harm in trialing this traffic solution in the interest of safety for the children.
- Mr. Blatt mentioned that the borough staff is working with Bethlehem Water on the amount of some quarterly sewer bills which residents found to be higher than expected. He explained that the calculated amount is based on water usage data from Bethlehem City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:46 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: _____
Norman E. Blatt Jr.- President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: _____
Eric C. Gratz, Borough Manager

ATTEST:

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

Next Ordinance – 865

Next Resolution – 2021-18

APPROVED