

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 4, 2021
7:00 P.M**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Blatt, Mayor Gifford, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Mr. Trotter and Ms. Halleman. Also, in attendance were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Jason Quarry (Public Works Supervisor), Dave Boehrer (Fire Chief), Mr. Berger in absence of 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 September 22, 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

- Ms. Ariana Johnson of 1451 Jeter Ave addressed Council following her email dated 10/1/2021 to the Borough Manager. She raised concerns to the unsafe situation during student drop off and pick up at Fountain Hill Elementary School. Council President Blatt stated that the “Want Ad” is posted both on the Borough’s website and its fb page. Since the Crossing Guard position has not been filled yet, the Fountain Hill Police do help out. However, Mayor Gifford pointed out that the Police Officers’ first obligation is to respond to incoming calls. Mayor Gifford and the Police Chief are scheduled to meet with the Fountain Hill Elementary Principal on 10/13/2021 to find a solution to this problem. On behalf of Ms. Johnson, Council President Blatt announced that Ms. Johnson’s husband offered to temporarily help out as a Crossing Guard also. Ms. Halleman asked parents to get involved with the students’ drop off and pick up. Mr. Trabel wondered if the Fountain Hill

Elementary School has a School Safety Patrol Officer through the School Safety Program. Mayor Gifford confirmed that a School Safety Patrol Officer is in place though.

- 734 Delaware Ave Property Owner, Charles Zurick

Mr. Charles Zurick of 734 Delaware Ave, supported by his wife Sharon, daughter and son-in-law, addressed Council reiterating his complaint against his neighbor on 736 Delaware Ave, Equinox Property Management (Equinox), intruding on his family's home with continuous lighting and an erected barrier fence. In support of the complaint, Mr. Zurick referred to the Magistrate's citations for a nuisance against Equinox regarding the lighting. He questioned if the neighbor's permits were rightfully issued or if they can be revoked.

Mr. Berger stated that if the light stays on after 10 PM, it is an enforcement issue and the Borough's remedy is to issue a citation. Council President asked the Solicitor to look into other remedies to solve the issue.

Mr. Rufe suggested to review the Borough rules for lighting and will initiate a respective House & Ordinance Committee meeting.

- 721 Frederick Street – Rental License

Ms. Carol Gerenser received the above home as a gift from her mother. The mother continues to reside at 721 Frederick St. Ms. Gerenser does not rent the home to her mother. She asked to make an exception to the rental license requirement. Council consented with the request. Council President Blatt will talk to the Zoning Officer in this respect.

Mr. Berger recommended to define a rental property to avoid these kinds of situations.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford thanked Ms. Jordan and Mr. Rufe for helping out at bookmobile's grand opening. Mayor Gifford reminded that Trick or Treat will be held on the last Friday in October between 6 and 8 PM.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

In his physical absence, Mr. Gratz informed Council by memo of:

- Scheduled Meeting with the Bethlehem Area School District regarding Moravia St traffic for 10/13/2021 at 1 pm at the school.
- A cistern was uncovered at the public works building. The hired contractor filled it with concrete and stone.
- A Community Survey for Pool was added to the Borough's website and its Facebook page. The bill cards that will be issued on 10/15/2021 will also reference the Community Survey inviting residents to respond.

Residents had suggested to add a blank space to the survey for comments on social media discussion forums. Ms. Jordan explained that community input will be offered at a public meeting.

- Establishment of an official Borough Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FHBoro/>)

The public is invited to “visit and like” it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council President announced the upcoming Public Budget Meeting Dates to be held on 11/3, 11/10, and 11/17 (as needed).

As in the past, Council will meet as a Committee as a Whole.

- Ariana Johnson email dated 10/1/2021 to Borough Manager regarding Fountain Hill Elementary School student drop off and pick up.
Ms. Johnson referred to her address at the beginning of the Council Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to approve the below resolutions.

- Resolution 2021-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TA SET ASIDE FUNDS.

	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						

- Resolution 2021-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH

THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADA RAMPS DURING THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT PROJECT.

	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						

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

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

- 2021-2022 Agreement with Humane Society for the safe shelter of stray animals
Police Chief welcomes the agreement.

	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						

- Mattress Trash Bag Cost Deferral

Council agree that the Fountain Hill residents (proof of residence required) will be allowed to pick up a mattress trash bag for free at Borough Hall.

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

Helen Halleman			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Gifford						

OLD BUSINESS - None.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt hopes that the Books on the Hill will be successful. He also reminded of Fire prevention week next week. The Fire Chief said no events are scheduled this year. Council President Blatt recommended to check the batteries in smoke detectors and review a family escape plan. Fire Chief Boehrer added that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors even come with batteries lasting 10 years. Ms. Halleman thanked Mr. Boehrer for his many years of volunteering for the fire department.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Berger reported that the developers for the 1336 Russell Ave project are ready to move forward with the new plans to be presented at the next council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

- Motion to pay the bills as presented

	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						

- Motion to pay the MMO for 2021 as presented by Ms. Voges

	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					

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Mr. Quarry reported that the Public Works crew is wrapping up the paving season He reminded residents to report any potholes before winter sets in.

Ms. Halleman specifically thanked the Public Works department for a great paving job at the intersection of Tumbler and Ostrum streets.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson) - None.

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

Mr. Rufe will report at the next Council Meeting.

E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)

Mr. Trabel present the September Fire report.

The Voluntary Fire Department will assist the police with handing out candy for Halloween.

Christmas trees will be sold again this season at the park.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) – None.

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

Ms. Halleman read the Sewer & Garbage collection report for September.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – None.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan thanked Council and Mayor Gifford for their continuous support for “Books on the Hill”. She extended her gratitude to the Public Works Department for helping to set up the book mobile.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms Jordan 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: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 865
Next Resolution – 2021-18