

**Minutes  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
October 7, 2024 - 7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in person at Borough Hall. Council members present were Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel, Mayor Johnson, Amy Burkhart (Borough Manager), David Berger (Solicitor) and guests.

Council President McCandless called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Council President McCandless asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

**MINUTES** - Council President McCandless asked the Council to approve the minutes from September 18, 2024. Ms. Jordan made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel abstained by Ms. Johnson and Mr. Rufe. The remaining members unanimously approved.

	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						

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

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Johnson had no report.

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT** – Borough Manager Burkhart had no report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion of 2025 Street Project – Hertzog** - A. Burkhart reviewed the 2025 Street Project for Hertzog Avenue. Estimates have been received from Hanover Engineering. The estimates are for both mill and overlay or reconstruction of the street. The cost estimates include a significant amount for curb and sidewalk. That is something that the Borough will need to determine how to pay for that portion of the project. This section of town is not CDBG eligible, so there would be no ability to use that grant source to reduce the cost.

N. Blatt noted that previously if the Borough had the money available, the Borough would consider paying for the sidewalk portion of the project. But if the Borough did not have money for sidewalks it remained the responsibility of the residents. It was noted

that ADA ramps could be paid for with Liquid Fuels funds. Council asked if there were other funding sources, like PennVest, that might be able to offset, or finance some of the sidewalk/curb costs. It was recommended that residents collaborate to contract together, thereby getting a lower cost. It was noted that residents should be provided with as much advance notice as possible to allow them time to make arrangements.

**Discussion of MTF Street Project** – A. Burkhart reported that Hanover Engineering provided a cost estimate for the use of the MTF funds awarded to the Borough. The grant is specifically to sidewalk replacement on Broadway. The amount of grant awarded should allow the Borough to replace 2-3 blocks of sidewalk and curb in that area.

There was discussion on the sidewalks that were previously repaired on Broadway, and the location of the new project. It was noted that the MTF grant is specific for these blocks and could not be reallocated to Hertzog.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Garbage Contract Update** - A. Burkhart provided an update on the Garbage and Recycling hauler bid. Three bids were received with various bid options. Whitetail Disposal is the apparent low bidder. The contract terms were either a 3-year contract with 3 1-year renewals or a 5-year contract. Additionally, there were alternatives provided to Unlimited Garbage and Cart Only Garbage. A. Giacobbe from Whitetail Disposal was on hand to answer questions.

A concern was voiced that limiting the service and raising the rates may be difficult for residents. It was noted that a 5-year contract would provide the Borough the time to prepare for the next step in the Garbage management process. It was stated that the price of the Borough's garbage contract would increase with the new contract. Additionally, it was noted that maintaining a single hauler in the Borough is most beneficial for the residents. The ability to phase in a cart option was discussed.

A. Giacobbe discussed Whitetail's desire to work with communities and the communication that will be provided to residents as part of the services provided. D. Berger clarified the Council would need to choose one of the options that have been bid. Council asked if Whitetail had the opportunity to tour the Borough to determine their ability to service the community effectively. It was asked if the schedule and zones would remain the same. A. Giacobbe would need to refer back to the routing department to get clarification on those specific question.

Communication to residents about the new garbage hauler was discussed. It was also noted that residents could register for service alerts through Whitetail's website. Questions about residents who may not want a 96-gallon, or for residents who may want more than one cart were clarified.

**Update on Street Projects** – The request for payment for the 2024 street project was received and is on the agenda for approval

**Lining of Manholes** – It was noted that the contractor is currently in Salisbury and should working in the Borough soon.

**Fire Ladder Truck lighting repair update** – The Ladder truck will soon be out for lighting repair as previously approved.

**Upgrades to pool pump system** – The Borough continues to work through the purchase of the pool pump.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE** – There were no new resolutions to be passed.

**ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE** – There were no new ordinances to be passed.

**MOTIONS**

**Request Council accept the bid from Whitetail Disposal for Municipal Solid Waste beginning January 1, 2025.** A motion was made by N. Blatt to approve the 5-year contract with unlimited pickup from Whitetail Disposal.

Discussion – W. Rufe asked if anyone was considering the 3-year option as opposed to the 5-year option. It was clarified that the 3-year contract has 3 1-year renewals for a total of 6 years. It was noted that the contractor’s option to not renew the contract is no longer part of the new contract.

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

**Request Council accept and approve the requested Municipal Planning Code Review Period time extension for Elementary School.** A request was received from the school to extend the review period to November 30, 2024.

It was asked if there was a downside to providing the extension. D. Berger clarified that the plan has a lot of comments that still need to be resolved before it is presented to Council for approval.

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

**Request Council accept and approve the requested Municipal Planning Code Review Period time extension for 950 Cherokee Street.** The Borough has not yet received a request for an extension.

A motion was made to table the request.

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

**Request Council approve the payment request from GoreCon in the amount of \$161,083.39.**

	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						

**Request Council approve payment of the 2024 PMRS & PSAB MMO**

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

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President McCandless reported on the following activities.

- This week is fire prevention week. Please check your smoke detectors.
- Trunk or Treat / Trick or Treat – October 25, 2024, 6-8 p.m.
- Drug Take Back - October 26, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Budget Meetings
  - Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 6 p.m.
  - Thursday, November 14, 2024, 6 p.m.
  - Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 6 p.m.
- Electronics Recycling November 16 – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Upper Dodson Field.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

D. Berger noted that the Zoning Hearing Board continued to October 21, 2024 – 913 Seneca will be moving forward. Also, as an update on collections, there should be about \$28,000 collected by the end of the month for past-due accounts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** - D. Totter reviewed the financial reports and made a motion to accept the reports and to approve the disbursements.

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

**Public Works** - A. Jordan turned the report to J. Quarry who noted that leaf collection will begin on October 14, 2024.

**Police** - N. Blatt reiterated the Drug Take Back event. Additionally, he noted that there was a need to reschedule the Police Committee meeting that was originally scheduled for October 7. It was determined that the meeting would be rescheduled, and notification would be provided to members.

**House & Ordinance** - S. McCandless reported that the committee is working on the handicapped parking and weed ordinances. There was a question regarding how long it would take to order handicapped signs.

**Fire** – P. Trable reported on the number of fire calls in the past month.

**Recreation** – J. Johnson had no additional report.

**Health & Sanitation** – W. Rufe reported on the current and delinquent garbage accounts.

**Personnel** – D. Trotter had no additional report.

**IT Committee**– J. Johnson had no additional report.

**SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

**Library** - W. Rufe noted that the SouthSide Library Branch was currently closed.

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

**Coalition Report** – Mike Zovko, 507 Green Court, reported on Coalition activities providing an update on the most recent meeting in which they brainstormed new ideas for their organization. Those activities included a community garden, a community picnic, a Halloween Parade, a pool day, a pavilion, and pool activities.

N. Blatt asked about the Veterans Breakfast for 2024. M. Zovko indicated that it was a good event for those who attended and wanted to make efforts to get more veterans to the event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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