

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

September 18, 2019

7:00 PM

Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Ferencin, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Atkinson, Mayor Gifford, Mr. Trabel, and Ms. Halleman. Also, in attendance were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Pete Lehr (Solicitor), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), and guests.

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

The documents listed below were provided to Council for the August 5, 2019 Council meeting:

1. Agenda for 9/18/2019
2. Minutes of July 24, 2019 Council Meeting
3. Minutes of August 5, 2019 Council Meeting
4. Draft Minutes of August 21, 2019
5. Memo to Council for PMRS & PSAB MMO 2019 Payments
6. Curb cut request from Erika Ocasio – Jose Rosario-Diaz

DRAFT MINUTES

- Minutes of August 21, 2019 Council Meeting – DRAFT (Please submit revisions to Ms. Voges in writing)
- No Minutes for September 3, 2019 Council Meeting – rescheduled due to chambers being over capacity

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of July 24, 2019 Council Meeting
- Minutes of August 5, 2019 Council Meeting

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt			x			
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRESENTATION(S) - n/a

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Agenda Items - n/a

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ADVISE FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OF UNAUTHORIZED AND MISLEADING USE OF THE NAME “BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL,” AND DERIVATIONS THEREOF, AS PART OF PROFILES, PAGES AND GROUPS, PROHIBITING SUCH UNAUTHORIZED USE, AND FOR THE TAKING OF ALL RELATED ACTIONS

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Borough Code (8 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 101-3501) vests the powers of the Borough in its Council; and

WHEREAS, while Council has authorized the creation of an official website of the Borough, it has not authorized the creation of any official social media profile, page, or group of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of Council that there exists a Facebook page entitled “Borough of Fountain Hill” and possibly other profiles, pages and groups on Facebook and other social media platforms, which may mislead members of the public into believing that they represent official Borough social media sites; and

WHEREAS, a regular meeting of Borough Council was held on September 18, 2019 for the purposes of authorizing the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to take such steps as they deem necessary to curtail, to the extent possible, unauthorized and misleading use of the name “Borough of Fountain Hill,” and derivations thereof, on social media platforms until such time as Council creates official social media sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to take such action as they deem necessary to prevent the unauthorized and misleading use of the name “Borough of Fountain Hill,” and derivations thereof, as well as the Borough Seal, on social media platforms until such time as Council authorizes the creation of social media sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill that no officer of the Borough shall create or maintain a social media profile, page, or group, under the name “Borough of Fountain Hill,” or any derivation thereof, or using in any manner the Borough Seal, until such time as Council specifically directs or authorizes him/her to do so on behalf of the Borough.

[Remainder of page left blank intentionally.]

Duly adopted by Borough Council at a special meeting held on the 18th day of September, 2019.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Francis Ferencin			X			
Norman Blatt	X		X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Mayor Gifford						

ORDINANCES – n/a

MOTIONS

- Approval of the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Uniform/Non-Uniform Pension Plans

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Francis Ferencin	X		X			
Norman Blatt			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Mayor Gifford						

OLD BUSINESS - n/a

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter asked for approval of the expenditures as detailed in the Check Detail Reports for the General, Health & Sanitation, Sewer, and Liquid Fuels Funds for August 2019.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Francis Ferencin			X			
Norman Blatt			X			

Doug Trotter	x		x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

B. Public Works (Jordan, Atkinson, Trotter)

Ms. Jordan read the Public Works employees' hours worked during the month of August 2019 as reported by the Public Works Supervisor, Mr. Quarry.

C. Police (Atkinson, Trotter, Gifford)

Chief Bachert noted that unused medicines can be dropped off at St. Luke's Hospital and the Fountain Hill Police Station on 9/26/2019 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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

none

E. Fire (Trabel, Ferencin, Halleman)

Mr. Trabel read the partial September EMS responses.

F. Recreation (Ferencin, Atkinson, Blatt)

Mr. Ferencin reported the scheduled closing of the swimming pool on August 11, 2019. The end of season financial reports for both swimming pool and park program will be provided at the next Council meeting.

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

Ms. Halleman read the sewer and garbage collection reports for the month of August.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

- Request for curb cut at 18 Warren St. Erika Ocasio & Jose Rosario-Diez

Neither Public Works, nor the Police objected to the request.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt		x	x			

Doug Trotter			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Council member Francis Ferencin was pleased that the St. Luke’s diorama had been removed from the council chamber extending the public’s seating space.

Mr. Ferencin organized a Community Garage Sale on Cherry Street for Saturday, September 21, 2019. He asked for permission to have the nearby alley blocked off for that event during the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Francis Ferencin			x			
Norman Blatt	x		x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Mayor Gifford						

Mr. Ferencin was concerned that many residents worry about the possible loss of a local police force as a result of Mayor Gifford’s recent social media campaign. In response, Mayor Gifford apologized to all Council members, except to Leo Atkinson and Norm Blatt, assuring that it was not her intent to vilify anyone but raise awareness about the issue.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Gifford thanked everyone for having attended the September 17, 2019 Special Council Meeting dealing with police coverage in Fountain Hill. She explained that she was permitted to use the social media platform to inform of the issue and engage the residents in the discussion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

The resident on 834 Tombler Street welcomed tonight’s Resolution No 2019-32 advising social media platforms of unauthorized and misleading use of the name of “Borough of Fountain Hill”. The speaker recommended to publish the written – or possibly even live stream recordings of the - Minutes as timely as possible.

Mr. Brian Ferencin suggested to expand the Borough’s recreational activities to Peewee Football and/or Soccer Leagues on the Stanley Park fields.

The resident on 834 Tombler Street requested "Permit Parking" on Tombler Street because residents from the surrounding apartments and St. Luke's Hospital nurses frequent the parking spaces and preventing Tombler Street residents parking in front of their homes. Council President Atkinson responded that a COMPREHENSIVE parking plan is needed and promised to take this issue up in the future. Mr. Spencer suggested to also contact St. Luke's Hospital and ask them to educate their employees and students to make use of the St. Luke's readily available parking facilities.

Mr. Spencer stressed the importance of local government's transparency and suggested to post the Council Meetings' agenda on the Borough's website and appoint someone to create an official Borough Facebook account.

The resident at 1215 Broadway commended Mayor Gifford on her recent social media campaign as a way to reach out to the community.

Mr. Patrick Figueroa stated that any government official's public outreach should be scrutinized and only go through official channels. *Mayor Gifford reiterated that her Facebook posting was permitted.*

The resident at 1212 Broadway emphasized that all social media postings should be objective and not selective.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – as needed – none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Blatt and unanimously accepted.

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By: _____
Leo Atkinson - President of Council

SUBMITTED BY

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Officer

ATTEST:

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

Next Ordinance – 854
Next Resolution – 2019-33