

**MINUTES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023  
7 P.M.**

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Trabel, and Mayor Johnson. Ms. Johnson had an excused absence. Also in attendance were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Keith Zehner (Zoning Officer), Ed Bachert (Police Chief), 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 of September 5, 2023 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			
Stew McCandless			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

**PRESENTATION(S)** – None.

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

Mr. Brandon Zuriek of 629 S Hoffert St addressed Council to look into the denial of a fence permit application because the existing fence is extending on the borough's right-of-way. Council President Blatt referred the issue to be reviewed by Mr. Berger and the Zoning Officer.

Ms. Lisa Harris of 1215 Moravia St addressed Council to find out who owns the grass alley that runs the length of 1215 Moravia St. Council President Blatt initially recommended to locate the ordinance that would have designated ownership to the Borough and allowed it to vacate the alley. Mr. Zehner then explained that the Borough never took ownership of this alley, and therefore, the alley is unowned land that no one owns or controls. Hence, any neighbors' properties abutting the alley may not plant or construct anything that would obstruct the neighbors' access to their properties.

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Meeting Schedule for Budget 2024 Discussion:**

October 25, 6 pm Start	General Fund, Liquid Fuels, Capital Projects
November 1, 6 pm Start	Sewer, Health, Fire, Library
November 15, 6 pm	Any unfinished budget business, IF NEEDED (will be advertised accordingly)

Council consented.

**DRAFT ORDINANCES FOR REVIEW & ADVERTISEMENT**

**ORDINANCE NO. 879**

*AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, SECTION 302 (c)(3), TO DELETE/ADD CERTAIN HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES.*

**ADD:**

<i>STREET</i>	<i>SIDE</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
<i>Seneca St</i>	<i>front</i>	<i>750</i>

The application is in the packets and was reviewed by the Police Chief and Public Works Supervisor.

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to advertise the ordinance.

	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						

**OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **Electronic Recycling – October 2023**

Council President Blatt referred to the brochure announcing the electronic recycling of up to 5 items on October 21 between 10am and 2 pm for Fountain Hill residents, and proof of residency is required.

➤ **Proposed Zoning Text Amendment Regarding Signage – St. Luke’s Hospital** (was referred to the House & Ordinance Committee on 8.7.2023 for review)

Mr. Rufe reported that the “weed” ordinance will be finalized at the next House & Ordinance committee meeting.

Mr. Rufe then invited Mr. Manzanares, Vice President of Operations St Luke’s Hospital, (in the audience) to speak on the status of the hospital’s proposed “signage” zoning text amendment. St. Luke’s representatives had participated in the last House & Ordinance Committee meeting, and all parties had engaged in a robust, productive discussion. In connection with the respective petition for the zoning amendment, an application and escrow fee were submitted to advance the petition.

On behalf of the House & Ordinance Commission, Mr. Rufe asked Council to approve referring the matter to the planning commission (both local & county) for review.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)**

- **Payment Application No. 1 Grace Industries, Inc. – Sioux Street Reconstruction – ACTION ITEM**

Hanover Engineering Review/Recommendation letter (in the packets)

Council President Blatt asked if there was a motion to approve the above. Payment.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson						x
Wilbert Rufe			x			

Doug Trotter  
 Philip Trabel  
 Stew McCandless  
 Norman E. Blatt Jr.  
 Mayor Johnson

x		x			
		x			
	x	x			
		x			

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

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on Delaware Ave had asked the Fire Co. to participate in its “Trunk & Treat” night. Mr. Al Albrecht of the Fire Co. asked Council for permission to close Cherokee Street between Bishopthorpe and Clewell streets during that event. Council President Blatt suggested to add the request to the October 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting agenda.

Fire prevention week will be coordinated with Fountain Hill Elementary School.

On behalf of the current twenty (20) volunteer fire fighters Mr. Albrecht asked for permission to participate with one Fountain Hill fire truck at other local Halloween parades - such as in Emmaus and Hellertown. Council President Blatt asked to submit dates and deferred to the next council meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Personnel Matter) & ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:30 pm Council President Blatt asked to adjourn the Council meeting and asked Council to move into an executive session to discuss a police and personnel matter. Ms. Jordan made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL  
 LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By:

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

ATTESTED

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jason Quarry, Interim Borough Manager

SUBMITTED

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

Next Ordinance – 880  
Next Resolution – 2023-20

Approved