

Minutes
BOROUGH COUNCIL
September 6, 2022
7 P.M.

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Ms. Graham. Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe and Mayor Johnson were absent. Also, in attendance were Eric Gratz (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Dave Berger (Solicitor), and guests.

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 August 24, 2022 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			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED

Ms. Iris Kale of 852 N Clewell Street addressed Council regarding the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Delaware Ave and Clewell Street. When practicing safe crossing of streets with her daughter on the walk to the school she encountered a driver not observing the crosswalk and put her at risk of getting injured. Ms. Kale is asking Council to better mark crosswalks (e.g., signage, yellow markings). Council President Blatt agreed that “Pedestrian Crossing” signs at intersections are needed. Mr. Gratz pointed out that the crosswalk markings are painted but faded. The markings will be refreshed during the micro-surfacing on Delaware. Mr. Gratz also explained that any traffic signals need to be approved by PennDOT (even on Delaware Ave). Chief Bachert pointed out that “crosswalk warning” signs cannot be put on Broadway because it is a state road, but they can be put on Delaware Ave. Mr. Gratz will research options and present them to Council to find a solution.

MAYOR'S REPORT – n/a.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

- Roadwork Update

The Delaware Avenue resurfacing, the pedestrian crossing project, and the curb and sidewalk will start late October and completion is expected toward the end of November.

The Broadway Curb & Sidewalk bids came in higher than the awarded MTF Grant amount. Mr. Gratz suggested to complete the full scope of work as proposed (new curb and sidewalk up to where the pedestrian crossing project is) and potentially use the 2nd tranche of the ARPA funds or re-scale the project.

The Community Coalition will meet on September 10 at 10:30 am at the Pool Pavilion. The previously discussed draft of a donation policy will be presented at the next workshop meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

- Awarding the MTF Funded Broadway Curb and Sidewalk Project contract to T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. (low bidder) in the amount of \$1,233,486.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

- Approving payment to Kobalt Construction. for the Jeter Avenue Project in the amount of \$140,833.57 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

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

Philip Trabel		x	x			
Erica Graham			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Johnson						

OLD BUSINESS – None.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Blatt thanked the Recreation Committee and the Playground Staff for a well-run summer program.

Council President Blatt recognized the one-year anniversary of Mr. Gratz as Borough Manager.

Council President Blatt noted that the July community coalition meeting was well attended.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Berger reported on some of the collection efforts and mentioned that only one foreclosure is left to attempt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance **(Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)**

Council President Blatt asked to approve the motion made by Mr. Trotter to pay the bills as presented.

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

- Public Works **(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) – None.**

- Police **(Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)**

Council President Blatt mentioned that the Police CBA negotiations are ongoing.

Chief Bachert reminded of the upcoming drug drop off at the Police Station.

Council President Blatt reminded that the September 17 electronic recycling event is limited to Fountain Hill residents and will take place between 10 am and 2 pm.

- House & Ordinances (Rufe, Graham, Jordan) – None.
- Fire (Trabel, Graham, Rufe)

Mr. Trabel read the August Fire report.

- Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) – None.
- Health & Sanitation (Graham, Johnson, Trabel)

Ms. Graham read the August Sewer/Garbage collection report for August.

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

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan reported that “Books on the Hill” is growing.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Blatt asked for a motion to amend the agenda and allow Council to hold an Executive Session to discuss a legal action.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 pm Council President entertained a motion to adjourn the public meeting and go into executive session. 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

SUBMITTED:

BY: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 871
Next Resolution – 2022-27

APPROVED