

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2017**

7:00 P.M.

1. Council members present were: Mr. Rapp, Ms. Jordan, Mr. Trabel, Mr. Blatt, Ms. Halleman, Ms. Gifford, and Mr. Trotter. Also in attendance were Bethany Sebesta, Finance Director, Jason Quarry, Public Works Supervisor, and guests. Mayor Rosado and Anthony Branco, Executive Administrator were absent.
2. Council President Rapp called for the pledge to the flag. Councilwoman Gifford welcomed Council President Rapp back and for his service to the Borough.
3. Council President Rapp indicated the next item on the agenda was the review of minutes:
 - Minutes of October 18 2017 the Meeting – DRAFT (Please submit revisions to Ms. Sebesta in writing)
 - Minutes of the October 23, 2017 Special Meeting – DRAFT (Please submit revisions to Mr. Branco in writing)
 - Minutes of the October 30, 2017 Special Meeting – DRAFT (Please submit revisions to Mr. Branco in writing)
 - Minutes of the November 6, 2017 Meeting – DRAFT (Please submit revisions to Ms. Sebesta in writing)
4. Presentation(s): none
5. Privilege of the Floor – Discussion on Agenda Items
 - Mr. Michael Reed of 833 N. Clewell St. addressed Council regarding the Library tax. Council President Rapp explained that the Library tax was remaining unchanged in 2018. Mr. Reed also expressed concern about what services he was receiving for the millage increase in 2018. Council President Rapp explained to Mr. Reed that the Borough's expenses are increasing annually and that the Police Department and Public Works Department are all funded by real estate taxes. Mr. Reed expressed concern over the number of televisions set out for garbage collection. Council Vice-President Blatt explained to Mr. Reed that those individuals are cited and that the Borough would look into Lehigh County's Recycling Drive.
 - Ms. Emma Jane Ammend of 834 Tomblor St. asked Council why they cannot utilize the Borough's "rainy day" fund to make up the difference in expenses for the 2018 budget. Ms. Ammend stated that the taxpayers of the Borough are not wealthy and their taxes continue to increase. Councilwoman Halleman

stated that the Borough is continuing to lose tax base because more properties are becoming tax-exempt. Councilwoman Gifford stated that she wished Borough residents would reach out to State Legislatures about the tax-exempt properties in the Borough. Councilman Trotter explained to Ms. Ammend that the Borough is responsible for the services it provides and that those service costs keep increasing. Council Vice-President Blatt explained to Ms. Ammend the quantitative amount an assessed property of \$130,000 would increase in 2018. Councilwoman Halleman proposed using .5 mils from the fund balance, borrowing from the Borough's Sewer Fund, or closing the pool to balance the 2018 budget.

- Mr. Ed Stech of 1320 Stanley Ave. asked Council if it is possible to break up real estate tax payments into installments like the Bethlehem Area School District does. Ms. Sebesta explained that the cost of hiring either a third-party collection company or a full-time tax collector will likely be a large expense. Ms. Sebesta was directed to set up a Finance Committee Meeting to further look into the issue. Mr. Stech also asked Council why the Casino Grant is facilitated by Lehigh County. Council Vice-President Blatt explained that is how the grant was established by state law.

6. Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MEETING SCHEDULE
CALENDAR FOR 2018**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Fountain Hill does hereby approve the Meeting Schedule Calendar for 2018 as follows:

2018 COUNCIL MEETINGS: First Monday of each month @ 7:00 pm; Third Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

January 2 Tuesday
January 24 (4th Wednesday)
February 5
February 21
March 5
March 21
April 2
April 18
May 7
May 23 (4th Wednesday)
June 4
June 20

July 2
July 18
August 6
August 22 (4th Wednesday)
September 4 (Tuesday)
September 19
October 1
October 24 (4th Wednesday)
November 5
November 21
December 3
December 19

PLANNING COMMISSION: Second Monday of each month @ 7 pm (as needed)

January 8
February 12

July 9
August 13

March 12
 April 9
 May 14
 June 11

September 10
 October 8 (Columbus Day)
 November 12
 December 10

ZONING HEARING BOARD: Third Monday of each month at 7 pm (as needed)

January 15 (Martin Luther King)
 February 19 (Presidents Day)
 March 19
 April 16
 May 21
 June 18

July 16
 August 20
 September 17
 October 15
 November 19
 December 17

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Philip Trabel			X			
Carolee Gifford		X	X			
Hellen Halleman			X			
Annamarie Jordon			X			
Norman Blatt	X		X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Larry Rapp			X			
Mayor Jose Rosado						

7. Ordinances:

First Reading

ORDINANCE # 839

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, ESTABLISHING THE REAL ESTATE AND OTHER TAXATION FOR BOROUGH PURPOSES FOR FY 2018.

SECTION I - The Real Estate Tax Rate for all Borough purposes for Fiscal Year 2018 is as follows:

General Fund	7.63 mills (Municipal government operations)
Fire Department	0.08 mills (Debt payment on fire apparatus)
Library Services	<u>0.40 mills</u> (Provision of Library services)
Total	<u>8.11 mills</u>

These taxes are to be levied on all properties in the Borough subject to taxation for Borough purposes.

GENERAL REPEALER

All Ordinances or parts of ordinances, especially Ordinance #830, and all resolutions or part of resolutions, inconsistent herewith shall be and are herewith repealed.

SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision, sentence, clause, phrase, section or part thereof shall for any reason be found unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not effect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, sections, or parts thereof, but the same shall remain in effect. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Borough that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part included herein.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision of this Ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2018.

DULY ENACTED AND ORDAINED on this 6th day of December, 2017, by the Borough of Fountain Hill in lawful session duly assembled.

Council President Rapp explained that this Ordinance will be on the December 4th Agenda.

8. Motions: none

9. Old Business:

- Release of final payment to Barker & Barker in the amount of \$12,788.75 minus \$2,091 for Hanover Engineering, the total to be released is \$10,697.75. Council Vice-President Blatt stated that he believed it would cost most in litigation than \$2,091 to pursue.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Philip Trabel			X			
Carolee Gifford			X			
Hellen Halleman			X			
Annamarie Jordon	X		X			
Norman Blatt			X			
Doug Trotter		X	X			
Larry Rapp			X			
Mayor Jose Rosado						

- Mr. Tom Redding, Tax Collector, is requesting permission to charge a \$5 fee for duplicate tax records. This would give Mr. Redding the authority to charge anyone

other than a Borough resident the fee. Council President requested this issue be placed on the December agenda.

10. Council President's Report: none

11. Privilege of the Floor – Discussion on Non-Agenda Items: none

12. New Business:

- Councilwoman Jordan announced that she will be removing herself from the Planning Commission due to scheduling conflicts. Council President Rapp directed her to submit a letter to Mr. Branco.
- Council Vice-President Blatt inquired about moving the Borough's Library services to Hellertown Library. Councilwoman Jordan stated that the referendum states the services are to be utilized through the Bethlehem Area Public Library.
- Councilwoman Gifford announced that the Borough's Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 3rd and Epic Church will be hosting the hospitality event afterward.

13. Adjournment:

Councilwoman Gifford made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:32pm.

Councilman Trabel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany Sebesta, Assistant to the Executive Administrator

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

By: _____
Lawrence Rapp, Council President

ATTEST:

By: _____
Anthony Branco, Executive Administrator