

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

August 3, 2020

7:PM

Due to Governor Tom Wolf’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Disaster Declaration on March 6, 2020, a virtual/remote public Council Meeting was held via phone/zoom. The remote participation option for residents was provided on the Borough’s website www.fountainhill.org). The meeting was also streamed live on Facebook at: Leo Atkinson on Fountain Hill Council. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman and Mayor Gifford. Also, remotely participating were Mr. Pete Lehr (Solicitor), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), and Wayne Hochwarter (Acting Police Chief).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Atkinson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

- Motion to approve Minutes of July 6, 2020

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford emphasized the importance of adhering to the CDC COVID-19 guidelines and wearing face masks.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

- Via Memo, Mr. Branco informed Council of Fire Chief Reis’s resignation because he had moved farther away from the Borough. He is replaced by Mr. Derek Richmond as the new Fire Chief.
- Via Memo, Mr. Branco asked for a motion to approve the advertising of the Request for Bids for the Refuse Collection from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	X		X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter		X	X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Mayor Gifford						

NEW BUSINESS – None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS

- Request from the Fire Department to remove the trees on the west side of the building - Quote of \$2,000 from ECHO Tree Service.
Council asked to table the request for this motion and ask the Fire Department to get some more competitive bids for the tree removal and make the tree removal contingent on the replacement with another type of tree that does not attract Lantern Flies.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Mayor Gifford						

- Motion to award the CDBG project, Stanley Ave. and N. Hoffert St. to Grace Industries for a total cost of \$250,700.00

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe		x	x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Leo Atkinson			x			
Mayor Gifford						

OLD BUSINESS

- Social Media policy – tabled – no updates.
- Parking Ordinance – H&O – no updates.
- Verizon 5G proposal

Several Council Members would like Verizon to create some Wi-Fi hotspots in the Borough as part of its potential 5G network deployment in the Borough. Mr. Lehr noted that the creation of Wi-Fi hotspots cannot be legally conditioned on the installment of a 5G network. Verizon is not bound to make any additional offers other than is legally required by the Federal Communications Commission.

Ms. Halleman again raised concerns that the Verizon 5G network could interfere with any of St. Luke’s hospital satellites. Mr. Manzanares of St. Luke’s responded that he does not expect any such interference.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Atkinson encouraged everyone in the community to follow the COVID-19 health guidelines.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lehr reported that the property owner’s mortgage company reimbursed the Borough for the lawn care expenditures to clean and maintain the property on 609 Norway Place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

(Trotter, Atkinson, Jordan)

Mr. Trotter presented the Check Detail reports for the month of July and asked for a motion to approve them.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		X	X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter	X		X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Mayor Gifford						

B. Public Works

(Jordan, Trotter, Rufe)

Ms. Jordan reported that seven (7) candidates have been interviewed to fill the vacancies in the Public Works department, followed by a 2nd interview by the Public Works Supervisor.

Two candidates were favored – one of them has a CDL license, the second candidate is studying for a CDL license. Ms. Jordan asked for a motion hire both candidates contingent on all background checks.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	X		X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter		X	X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Mayor Gifford						

Ms. Jordan asked for Council’s approval to have two 2,000-gallon (Diesel & Gasoline) tanks be given away to any interested party.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	X		X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Wilbert Rufe			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Helen Halleman			X			
Leo Atkinson			X			
Mayor Gifford						

It was suggested to have Mr. Lehr draw up a “Hold Harmless” document for the transfer of the tanks.

C. Police (Atkinson, Trotter, Johnson) – None.

D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) - None.

E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe) – None.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel)

Ms. Johnson reported that she was researching any community activities, such as Yoga, that could be safely offered in the park.

Ms. Halleman opposed the fence around the playground and pleaded to have it removed.

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

Ms. Halleman read the Sewer and Garbage collection reports for the month of July. She would like to see delinquencies decrease. State Representative Jeanne McNeill’s office had initiated robo calls to residents offering potential payment assistance. It was suggested to further research in a future Healthy & Sanitation Committee meeting.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Atkinson, Jordan) – None.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Mike Spencer of 1035 Jeter Avenue asked to have any updates on Council Meetings not only listed on the calendar, but specifically announced on the website.

Ms. Halleman asked for updates on both Chief Bachert’s and Mr. Branco’s health status. She wished them a speedy recovery.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 PM Council retreated to an executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the acting chief of police.

Council President announced that Council would not return to the public meeting after the executive session and Council adjourned.

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

By:

Leo Atkinson - President of Council

SUBMITTED BY

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

Next Resolution 2020-30
Next ordinance 858