

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 2, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

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. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman and Mayor Gifford. Also, remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Chief Bachert, Jason Quarry (PW Supervisor), Tom Wargo (Zoning & Codes Officer), Derek Richmond (Voluntary Fire Co. Chief), Pete Lehr (Solicitor), and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President of Council Jordan called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

- Minutes of October 21, 2020

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

- Minutes of October 26, 2020

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Rich Rolen – Deputy Chief Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Co.

On October 22nd, Mr. Rich Rolen was terminated as a member of the and Deputy Chief of the Fountain Hill Fire Co. by Fire Chief Derek Richmond. Mr. Rolen asked Council for a formal hearing to appeal his termination and asked to be re-instated as a Deputy Fire Chief. Fire Chief Richmond upheld his decision to terminate Mr. Rolen.

Mr. Lehr (Solicitor) noted that the Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Co. is a separate organization based on its January 19, 2011 Constitution and By-Laws, and the Borough has not exercised any oversight over it. A “formal appeal” is not offered.

Officer Fritzingler valued Mr. Rolen’s contribution to the Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Co.

Mr. Alfred Albrecht, President of the Fountain Hill Voluntary Fire Co., regrets Mr. Rolen’s termination and would like to see him re-instated as a member.

Mr. Mike Spencer of 1035 Jeter Ave expresses that Council should apply Ordinance 348 exercise its oversight.

Council Member Trabel recommended that the Borough should not get involved in the Fire Co.’s personnel decisions.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Gifford thanked both the Police Department and the Voluntary Fire Co. for having put on a fantastic Halloween event.
- Recommendation by Chief Bachert to hire Mr. Matthew Devers as a part-time Police Officer with the potential of employing him full-time in the future. Mr. Devers has passed all required background checks.

	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
Mayor Gifford						

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Branco asked Council for approval to offer the old lawn mower for sale at the municipal auction.

	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
Mayor Gifford						

NEW BUSINESS

- PennDot Maintenance Agreement – Broadway ADA Ramps

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

- Payment to Grace Industries in the amount of \$24,925.27 – Wiley Street

	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			
Mayor Gifford						

- Payment to Grace Industries in the amount of \$183,228.84 Payment Application No. 1– in conjunction with CDBG Grant 2019 for Stanley Ave – N. Hoffert St

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

- Discussion/Review of applicants for the Council Vacancy

Of the three applicants for the Council vacancy, Mr. Norm Blatt was nominated to be effective immediately.

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

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

MOTIONS- None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Branco reported that work on the Office Security is expected to be completed within two to three weeks.

In conjunction with the Broadway Curb & Sidewalk construction project, PennDOT is reviewing the Highway Occupancy Permits (HOPs) for access to the State right-of-way.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lehr reminded that the election of the new Council President is scheduled for the next Council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Atkinson, Jordan)

- Presentation of bills to be paid

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

- B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) – None.
- C. Police (Trotter, Johnson) – None.
- D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) – None.
- E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe) – None.
- F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) – None.
- G. Health & Sanitation (Halleman, Johnson, Trabel)

Ms. Halleman read the October 2020 collection reports for Sewer & Garbage utilities.

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

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan reported that the Bethlehem Area Public Library is open for limited “browsing”.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Ms. Debbie Spadaccia of 1004 Broadway asked if the Borough plans any activities for Christmas. She had provided some special treats for the Halloween event and would like to contribute as well for Christmas. Mayor Gifford welcomed the offer. In addition, Mayor Gifford and the Police Chief also mentioned that the annual “Toys for Tots” collection at St. Luke’s Hospital is taking place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 PM Council Vice President Jordan asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: _____
Annmarie Jordan - Vice-president of Council

SUBMITTED

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager

Next Resolution 2020-30
Next Ordinance 858