

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
June 2, 2020**

The meeting was held via Zoom with the following members present:

Caroline Thompson	David Bria	Ryan Berry
Kim Segal-Morris	John McCann	Uri Feiner
Matthew Ross		

Council member(s) not in attendance:

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineers Tom Beach and Liz Colletti, Zoning Officer Wes Foraker, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – David Bria, President
The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 7:32.

A moment of silence was held for victims of police violence.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
All council members and Mayor Harding present.
- IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
None
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - John Bachalis, 181 Harper Avenue. Mr. Bachalis expressed concern over recent violence and rioting during protests in other cities and inquired about precautions being taken in Yardley. Chief Kelly indicated that patrols have been indicated in the last week and staffing levels are continually being evaluated. The Chief is in regular communication with Council and the community and anyone who feels in danger should call 911 immediately.
- VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED June 2, 2020
 - A. Approval of Minutes dated May 19, 2020
 - B. Bills List dated June 2, 2020
 - C. Certificate of Appropriateness 20-11-Fence-104 South Main StreetMs. Thompson makes a motion to adopt the consent agenda dated June 2, 2020, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Updates

- Service Statistics for May 2020: There were 536 calls for service, issued 2 parking tickets, issued 52 traffic citations, most for excessive speed, issued 1 non-traffic citation for a criminal matter, investigated 8 traffic accidents and 2 arrests were made.
- Extra patrols are out every night with steady blue and red lights on as a deterrent. Staffing levels will be evaluated after this weekend to determine if extra patrols need to continue.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- North Main Street sidewalk, Phase 2 – Engineer checked with PennDot on existing HOP which is now technically expired if work is to be continued to Cold Springs or the easement. RVE recommends survey and design work be done for work to the maximum at the easement and then bid out options for either Cold Spring or easement. A lengthy discussion followed regarding grant options, rights of way, handicapped accessibility, crosswalks, length of the sidewalk, HOP, timelines, etc. No action is needed at the moment but suggests getting moving with survey work as soon as possible as that is required for all the next pieces for the new HOP.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Main & Afton Intersection – Reimbursement paperwork was submitted last week and should have 212k reimbursed in next two months. Expenses left after the grant include 50k which needs to be budgeted for the rest of Main and Afton work.

B. Mary Yardley Bridge - Received an updated quote for epoxy coating that was decided upon at last meeting. Current full estimate (incl remaining design work, construction, inspection) \$252,962. Timeline – hoping to have final design by end of June then submit for general permit through DEP. Hoping to start construction in September, pending guaranteed funding for construction.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding costs, estimation of cost process, mobilization line items, step construction, fundraising targets, Borough's contribution, labor costs.

C. PECO Property – A meeting is pending for the purchase of the property.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Updates

Public Works contractor wants to do line painting while there is less traffic in the Borough and Manager is seeking Council's approval. The cost will be no more than \$2100.00 and it can be paid out of street improvement fund. Lines will not include crosswalks or yellow curbs.

Ms. Thompson moves to approve up to \$2100 for line repainting, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

A vote was held, and motion passes 7-0.

B. Post Office Lease

Counteroffer was received in which Borough would pay the commission and receive a higher rent.

Mr. McCann motions to accept counteroffer for rental space for the post office, which is seconded by Mr. Ross seconded. A vote was held and passed 7-0.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor confirmed complete confidence in Chief Kelly's handling of any public safety issues that may arise.

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Ryan Berry – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee
Reading Ave Committee is researching other grant opportunities or and looking into partnerships if approved by Council.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission
Nothing to report.

C. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, TTN
Airport Updates
Nothing to report.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority
Nothing to report

E. Caroline Thompson – General Government Committee, Parks & Recreation
Board
Nothing to report

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic &
Architectural Review Board, North Main Street Traffic Committee.
CED met regarding revising flood plain ordinance in light of PEMA and FEMA
recommendation. Also they are discussing revitalizing the business enhancement team to
do outreach to Borough businesses and offer support.

G. Uri Feiner – Community Outreach Committee, Experience Yardley, Shade Tree
Commission
Nothing to report.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Quiet Streets Yardley – Ms. Thompson

Parks and Recreation has suggested closing some streets for pedestrian-only traffic since there has been so much traffic on the canal during the quarantine time. Punting this issue to CED for development of walking maps of Yardley.

B. Outdoor Dining Yardley Borough – Ms. Thompson

1-Eateries will be allowed to reopen for outdoor dining this weekend. There is a suggestion to loosen parking restrictions so those parking areas can be used for outside dining. Also suggesting closing Buttonwood Plaza to traffic for outdoor dining. A lengthy discussion followed on this topic including many local business owners regarding code enforcement, table management, cleanup, safety during storms, parking and allowing pedestrian right of way on sidewalks.

Ms. Thompson motions to loosen enforcement of ordinances on parking for establishments that own parking areas and allow use of sidewalk space for outdoor dining inclusive of dates from 6/5 to 7/7, which is seconded by Mr. Feiner. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

2- Use of the alleyway between Spa on Main and Firehouse Cycles – This topic needs more consideration so an ad hoc committee will be formed to discuss options.

3-Permit Fees

Mr. Ross motions to waive the Borough's portion of the permit fees, for temporary permits only, with an end date of 7/7/20, which is seconded by Mr. Berry.

David Applebaum, 39 Breece. Experience Yardley is working on some initiatives to support restaurants in Yardley, including a Visa card which could be used at any restaurant in Borough.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

C. Advanceable Term Note – Ms. Thompson

Moving discussion to next meeting.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Reopening of Yardley Borough Playground – Tot Lot – Ms. Thompson

Per the Bucks County Health Department, playgrounds can be opened immediately with added safety signage.

Ms. Thompson motions to reopen the Tot Lot on 6/5 with additional safety signage, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

Mr. Berry – notes his preference to wait for LMT to open their playgrounds, during the green phase, since they are the surrounding community.

A vote held and the motion passes 6-1.

- Peaceful protests are scheduled on Thursday 6/4 from 5:30-5:55 and also Sunday 6/7. Not a lot of information is available but Chief Kelly is aware and force is prepared with extra patrols.

- David Applebaum – Thanks for signs in Borough for Pennsbury grads.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:40, which is seconded by Ms. Siegel-Morris. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean