

Yardley Borough Council Meeting
June 19, 2018

The meeting was held in Council Chambers with the following members present;

Ryan Berry	David Bria	Sandi Brady
Bryon Marshall	Caroline Thompson	Matthew Ross

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Interim Borough Manager Paula Johnson, Solicitor E. Closser and Borough Engineer Tom Beach. President Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Mr Berry moves to approve the minutes of June 5, 2018, which is seconded by Mr Bria. Motion carries.

Progress Reports;

Solicitor

No report

Borough Assistant Manager

Ms Johnson submitted a written report to Council.

Mayor

Mayor Harding draws two names, from the group of people that filled out the recent CAB survey, to be the recipients of a gift card from the Continental Tavern.

Police Chief

No report

Borough Engineer

- North Main Street Sidewalk project should be finished this week, with clean up and restoration left to be done.
- The Main & Afton Signal Improvements project is continuing its work with PennDot
- A draft bid package has been provided to the Borough for the 2018 Road Program.

Council Vice President

Mr Bria met with Perry Warren about the North Main Street Traffic Study, and some ideas were discussed, including the possibility of some painted crosswalks.

Council President

- Mr Marshall asks the Solicitor if he has done anything inappropriate, or unethical with respect to the hiring of a new Borough Manager. The Solicitor responds no, pointing to the fact that Mr Marshall has recused himself from executive sessions and voting, and made clear his intentions from the beginning. Mr Marshall then states that he is withdrawing his name from consideration for the position of Borough Manager, in hopes that Council can move forward and work together.
- Mr Marshall appoints David Bria, Matthew Ross, John Celentano, Susan Taylor, John McCann, Rich Wayne and Susan Harvey to the Mary Yardley Bridge Committee. The Committee is still open to new members.

Council Committees

General Government

- Ms Thompson reports that there will be a moderated Town Hall discussion on the 2019 Budget, and applications will be accepted for that position. The budget request deadline is July 1st.
- Allegations that campaign videos were posted on the official Yardley Borough Facebook page have proved to be false.
- Mr Bria has heard some concerns from the Sewer Authority about the Borough's Bond rating. Ms Thompson responds that the information is being provided, and there is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Community Outreach

Ms Thompson reports that there is an opening on the EAC (Environmental Advisory Commission). Interested applicants should be willing to participate in a grant process.

Public Works

- Mr Berry reports that the Committee discussed their budget requests, which will be submitted to General Government by the deadline.
- Mr Beach reports that a corrugated metal pipe on University Drive appears to be causing a sink hole. Mr Beach suggests televising the line, and the area will be stabilized temporarily.
- Mr Bria states that steps have been taken to improve procedures for opening the Delaware Canal floodgates during heavy rains. The call list has been updated, and Yardley Borough Police officers are being trained in the operation of the gates.

Community & Economic Development

Mr Ross reports that budget requests will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Public Safety

No report

Bill List

Ms Thompson moves to approve the Bill List dated June 19, 2018, which is seconded by Mr Bria. Motion carries.

Public Comment

Robert D White, 17 Ludlow Rd, speaks on behalf of his father, Robert B White, who owns property on North Main Street. Council has received a letter from Mr White’s attorney, and a copy of an easement agreement for the property. Mr White believes that a drainage pipe has not been installed correctly, which causes water to pool and results in a value loss on the property. Mr Marshall will review this with the Borough’s Engineer.

Sandy Bowker, 84 North Main St, thanks Perry Warren’s office for including the North Main Street residents on the Traffic Study. Ms Bowker points out that the study did not include the weight or width of the trucks, which they feel is important. Ms Bowker suggests that a committee be appointed, for the safety of the residents.

Brian Welch, 22 Reading Ave, asks if there were any change orders for the North Main Street Sidewalk project. He is told that there may be one or two minor change orders at the end. Mr Welch comments that he is happy with Septa’s repair to his yard, which was damaged by a truck during work on the train station. Mr Welch also noticed that the retaining wall at the top of the left hand handicap ramp has shifted about 1 3/4”. Mr Beach will contact Septa about this.

Certificates of Appropriateness

18-14 16 East Afton Ave (2 signs)

Mr Bria makes a motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness 18-14, which is seconded by Mr Ross. Motion carries.

18-15 189 South Canal St (Addition & Exterior Renovation)

Mr Bria makes a motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness 18-15, with the recommendations made by HARB, which is seconded by Mr Ross. Motion carries.

Old Business

1. Adoption of Ordinance No 475 Amending Chapter 1 of the Borough Code.....Ms Thompson
Ms Thompson moves to adopt Ordinance No 475, which is seconded by Mr Berry. Motion carries.
2. Resolution 18-06 EAC Grant Submission Authorization.....Mr Berry
Mr Berry moves to adopt Resolution 18-06, which is seconded by Ms Brady. The grant amount is \$95,500, with a 15% match required, of approximately \$25,500, which can be in kind match, using volunteer hours. Motion carries.
3. Resolution 18-07 Authorizing Signatories for Loan Requisitions...Ms Thompson
Ms Thompson makes a motion to adopt Resolution 18-07, which is seconded by Mr Berry. Motion carries.
4. Hiring Process for Borough Manager.....Mr Bria
Mr Bria states that the committee hopes to hire a new manager by the Oct 2nd Council meeting. Mr Marshall appoints Mr Bria, Ms Brady and Mr Berry to the Search Committee.

Mr Bria moves that the Search Committee be authorized to proceed with the hiring process in accordance with the attached document, with a budget not to exceed \$2,000. Motion is seconded by Ms Brady. Ms Thompson suggests holding an executive session to determine a salary range. Ms Thompson also points out that some community members would like to be part of the search process, and is told there will be open meetings. Mr Berry asks if there are limitations on advertising, given there is not a salary range, and is told that those advertising sites will not be used.

Dave Collins, 97 N Delaware Ave, approves of the Committee's time line, and questions whether there has been a decision on part-time or full time. Mr Collins also wants to know how the progress of the search will be reported.

The Search Committee will give a report at each Council meeting, and a decision has not been made on whether the position is part-time or full-time.

Tom Loveless, 123 North Main St, feels the job should be defined first, as far as hours, salary education requirements and demands of the job. Ms Brady explains that the Search Committee did do an analysis of the job, and the recommendation was for a part-time manager, but Council was not able to move forward with this recommendation. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business

1. Equipment Update Authorization Request.....Ms Thompson
Ms Thompson moves that Council approve an initial expenditure of \$1,157 (or an amount reasonably close to this approximation) for set up and hardware cost, and a monthly expenditure of \$70 per month for 25 Mbps bandwidth speed (\$840 per year) to allow for separate public and private borough networks and sufficient bandwidth for live streaming and other Council functions. Motion is seconded by Mr Ross. Pete Guidotti, 44 S Bell Ave, suggests looking into a free WiFi option that may be available to Municipalities. Mr Collins reminds Council that the Sewer Authority rents space in Borough Hall and is part of the Wifi network. Ms Thompson amends her motion to add that the \$70 per month would only be spent if the free Wifi option was not available. Motion seconded by Mr Ross, and passes unanimously.
2. Live stream Equipment Request.....Ms Thompson
The Communications Advisory Board sent out a survey, with questions about live streaming Council meetings. 195 people responded, and the majority were in favor of this. Ms Thompson suggests the purchase of an iPhone or tablet, a Mevo camera, and two microphones for live streaming. The videos could be viewed on YouTube. Ms Thompson moves that Council approve and expenditure not to exceed \$2,500, to the Communications Advisory Board for the purpose of purchasing equipment to enable live stream/video and audio recording of Council meetings. Motion is seconded by Mr Bria. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourns at 9:00pm

Submitted by,
Cheryl Cler