

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
September 15, 2020**

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

David Bria	Uri Feiner	Kim Segal-Morris
John McCann	Matthew Ross	Matt Curtin

Council member(s) not in attendance: Caroline Thompson

Also in attendance were Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineer Liz Colletti, Solicitor Ernest Closser, Mayor Chris Harding, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson.

I. CALL TO ORDER – David Bria, President

The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 7:33pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Thompson not present

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McCann announces that fundraising for Mary Yardley Bridge is at FODC.org to donate.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Perlmutter, 18 West College Ave, spoke regarding the public works meeting and how Whiskey Hill curb is a safety issue and would like the engineers to go out. Mr. Ross states that Ken Smith will be going out.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED September 15, 2020

- A. Approval of Minutes dated September 1, 2020
- B. Bills List dated September 15, 2020
- C. Certificate of Appropriateness – 20-18 Siding
- D. Special Event Permit – School Portraits in Buttonwood Park 10/19-10/21
- E. Special Event Permit – Music Classes in the Park – September-October

Mr. McCann motions to approve the consent agenda dated September 15, 2020, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Dr. Perlmutter questions if the event for the Music Class has insurance which Manager. Johnson states they provided. Mr. Bria states that council will consider events for the fee schedule in the budget meeting. The motion carries 6-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Updates

- Police Awards – congratulates recipients
- Fill vacancy in the Police Department – Officer Joseph Dragon

Ms. Segal-Morris motions to extend a conditional offer to Mr. Dragon as part-time police officer pending certification and training to which was seconded by Mr. Ross. Chief Kelly states he will only be paid the hours that he works and will be trained at a quarter of the hours it normally takes to train due to his experience. Motion carries 6-0. Mr. Dragon will be sworn in at a later date and Mr. Bria thanks the entire police force for all they do as well as Mr. Feiner.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Updates

- One additional item to report outside of submitted report. Resident at 18 Van Horn had concerns of run off behind his property after the ML7 expansion and a few trees had fallen.
- 2 Motions for tonight. First is Resolution Number 20-09 for the MTF Grant to be submitted at the end of the month for the North Main Street Sidewalk. Mr. Ross moves to approve 20-09, the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$405,791.50 which is seconded by Mr. McCann. Motion carries 6-0.
- Mr. Ross motions to approve the change in scope of the Main and Afton intersection, which is seconded by Mr. McCann. Motion carries 6-0.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Main & Afton Intersection

Penndot will send someone out to do an inspection for ADA and what can be done. Ms. Colletti checked with traffic engineer and Main and Afton does not receive enough pedestrian traffic to have an all red phase however, having an advanced pedestrian phase was allowed when pedestrians crossed Main Street. Weston Morris questions if would have the option to do alternative switching which Ms. Colletti states we can ask about that but with the current contractor, it's not an option because reconfiguring the phases of the traffic lights affect each other and impacts traffic in and out of the Borough. We would have to also check the permits and could apply to a safety grant. Mr. Feiner agrees this should be looked into.

B. Mary Yardley Bridge

Meeting with DCNR which Mr. Ross and Ms. Johnson attended. Learned DNCR's elevation project is moving forward and will be raising the tow path up to a 39 elevation which changes our plans. DCNR will not be strict with staying in easement and more concerned with creating a project that increased the utility of that area and restore proper alignment with tow path. The project now includes rehabbing the tow path which opens up funding through DCNR. A schedule will be provided with the next report to include changes. Mr. Feiner asks about grading and eliminating the steps. Susan Taylor states that a donor asked to see rendering of the bridge which Ms. Colletti states will send it to

the committee. Mr. McCann expresses that fundraising is still going on and urges fellow council members to donate.

C. PECO Property

We are waiting on appraisal from PECO.

D. North Main Street Sidewalks - Phase II

Additional survey work needed to occur so tie-ins to the driveways are properly graded. 108 North Main was only resident we did not get in contact with.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ordinance 485 – Non-Uniform Pension Plan

Mr. McCann motions to adopt ordinance 485 which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris. Mr. Curtin asks for further explanation as to which Ms. Johnson states PMRS wants everyone to look at their pension plans and review. Nothing has changed on either plan. Dr. Perlmutter requested a copy of the ordinance and would like to see the contract and who is participating in the pension and is concerned about transparency at which Mr. Bria explains the Right-To-Know Law and residents can request these documents. Ms. Johnson explains how the funding works and that it is state funded. Mr. Curtin states that we have a system that works and we are happy with it. The motion carries 6-0.

B. Ordinance 486 – Police Pension Plan

Mr. McCann motions to adopt the Police Pension Plan which is seconded by Mr. Ross. The motion carries 6-0.

D. Resolution 20-08

This resolution waves contributions from the police officers to the pension plan. Ms. Segal-Morris motions to adopt the resolution which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Mr. Curtin raises the question that this is not a change and we are just ratifying what is done yearly. The motion carries 6-0.

E. Yearly Salt Bid with Consortium 2020-2021

Morton Salt was the lowest bidder at \$47.75 per ton delivered and \$47.00 per ton undelivered. Mr. Ross motions to accept the bid which is seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion carries 6-0.

D. Elevation Grant 2020

There are six homes on the list to be elevated and the cost to submit for the grant is \$7200 which the borough would be reimbursed for expenditures. There is a \$500 application fee per property. Mr. McCann motions to approve the Elevation Grant which is seconded by Mr. Ross. Mr. McCann states this would be well appreciated by the residents who live down in the floodplain. Mr. Curtin asks where the funding comes from on this which there is already an account set up for grants. Dr. Perlmutter is concerned that a large amount of money is going to consultants. The motion carries 6-0.

F. Air Conditioning Unit

The Air Conditioning Unit in Council Chambers needs to be replaced. The 20 year old unit will cost about \$7700 to be replaced. Ms. Segal-Morris asks about comparing quotes. The bid threshold is \$21,000. Mr. Curtin agrees this should be done now and not wait. Peter Guidotti, 44 South Bell, questions about the discussion on construction on 2nd floor and to calculate the extra needs into the new unit.

G. 2021 Draft Budget

The budget will keep the same format as last year as it is more transparent. We are anticipating a budget deficit this year of \$50,000-\$70,000 due to COVID-19. We are deferring expenses such as the roof on the Annex, doors at Borough Hall, and upkeep of Borough hall, sidewalks, MYB, and police car. Income that is being affected in our current budget is real estate income taxes, fines, violations, building permits, contributions from private sectors therefore we are recommending a tax increase of 4 mils – 2 mils to the General Fund and 2 mils to Capital Reserve. For the average tax payer it would be about \$107 increase for 2021 with \$53.60 going to the General Fund and \$53.60 going to the Capital Reserve Fund. Most of projects and updates for 2020 have been delayed into 2021 budget, for example, the doors, Mary Yardley Bridge, police roof which will be \$134K-\$177K to replace. The budget will enable the Borough to deliver top community initiatives. Council discusses the tax increase and inflation and the format and process of the budget. They also discuss the benefit of raising taxes and how taxes haven't been raised since 2017 and how properties can be reassessed as well as utilizing our line of credit. Dr. Perlmutter states that residents should look into this and make sure there is transparency and cut back on expenses. Mr. Crook, 104 North Main St, discusses the line of credit and when it needs to be paid off.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Updates

Line of credit \$50,000 was successfully closed on 9/04/20.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Thanks Chief Kelly for annual awards ceremony

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Vacant – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee
Nothing to report.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission
Nothing to report outside of engineer's report.

C. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Commission met on 9/3 with new member Chris Campellone and Julie Buehler and will be reaching out to Newtown's HRC.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority
Will discuss council committees by next meeting

E. Caroline Thompson
Not Present

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic & Architectural Review Board
fodc.org is open for donations to the Mary Yardley Bridge Fund and welcome Mr. Curtin.

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

F. Matt Curtin – Met with general government and with Paula and Patty to educate on the accounts for the budget. Thanks Mayor Harding, Chief Kelly, and Ms. Johnson for arraigning in ceremony.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. McCann states a resident on Main St would like a stop sign at North Main and Dolington Rd. Mr. Bria explains that could be a partner project with LMT. Mr. Feiner suggests a roundabout.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

Victoria Czechowski, 56 West College, mentions the clean-up for Lake Afton Oct 17th 8am-12pm and to support the FOLA.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCann motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm, which is seconded by Ms. Segal-Morris. The motion passes 6-0.

Submitted by,
Patty Sargent