

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
November 6, 2019**

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

Ryan Berry Caroline Thompson David Bria Matthew Ross

Council member(s) not in attendance: Mike Ruttle, Sandi Brady, Bryon Marshall

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineers Tom Beach and Liz Colletti, Borough Manager Paula Johnson, and Financial Assistant Patty Sargent. Council Vice President Bria called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes (Time Stamp 7:30 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Berry.

Ms. Thompson requests an amendment to the minutes pertaining to new business regarding the first variance considered. She requests that the term floodplain be changed to floodway in the sentence, "The variance is for approval to build a deck in the floodplain along Delaware Avenue."

A vote was held and the motion passes as amended.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:31 pm)

Solicitor

n/a

Borough Manager

- The 2008 Ford Expedition has been sold and \$950 was made on the sale.
- Wes and Manager met with DCNR and their new park ranger, Devan Buzzard. Mary Yardley Bridge and flooding concerns were discussed.
- Ken Smith excavated and corrected two sink holes in Buttonwood Park.
- New flagpole will be installed before Veterans' Day

Mayor

n/a

Police Chief

- Chief Kelly presented service statistics for October 2019. The police department handled 498 calls for service, issued 90 traffic citations, issued 6 parking tickets, 1 non-traffic citation, investigated 3 traffic accidents, and made 9 arrests, 3 of which were for DUI. The traffic accident numbers are on target to be the lowest in five years.
- Sargent William Golden completed FBI Leda Executive Management Class. The class was paid for through a grant from the Bucks County Chiefs of Police Association.

Sargent Golden is 2/3 of the way to a trilogy which is very rare for the FBI Leda program.

- Police support carve-a-thon and Canal-o-ween and there were no reportable incidents.

Borough Engineer

- Yardley Walk upper dam. Lennar did submit application to DEP. Comments were addressed and work will start in the near future.
- Main/Afton signal – Still waiting for PennDot.
- Liquid Fuels speed humps on Breece – Weather problems compromised the schedule of replacing the speed bumps with speed humps. All works has to be completed by 11/15. Road program is still scheduled to come in under budget this year.
- Grant opportunities – Mary Yardley Bridge project. DCNR gave approval to go ahead with survey work. The engineer asks for consensus to spend the funds to do a survey. Consensus was granted to go ahead with survey.
- EAC Growing Greener grant – Moving forward in the near future and trying to minimize costs by using volunteers.

Mr. Bria offers that he will enlist the help of some of our elected officials to see if they can intervene to push the Main/Afton project forward since PECO has been delaying approval for a long time.

Mr. Berry asks about the status of the sidewalk grant and the engineer expects to hear this month.

Council Vice President

n/a

Council President

n/a

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

Two interviews have been held for openings on zoning and planning committees. Another interview is scheduled for this week. The expect to be making appointment recommendations at the next meeting.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

n/a

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Berry

Suggestions from PEMA on the proposed floodplain ordinance revisions should arrive soon. Mr. Berry suggests inviting PEMA rep to a Council meeting in the future so they can be questioned directly by all of Council.

Public Safety – Ms. Brady

Mayor Harding read update including:

- DCNR plans to raise the towpath in April, 2020. Will transition this to Wes Foraker.

- PennDot regarding banning trucks on Main Street will transition to Paula.
- Crosswalk grants. Engineer and Borough Manager will handle this project.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

n/a

Bill List (Time stamp: 7:43 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the bills list dated 11/6/19, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 7:44 pm)

- Mayor Harding cited correspondence from the American Legion and VFW regarding their Veterans' Day march at 10:15 Monday, November 11th. All are invited.
- Resignation letter from Ms. Brady was read into the record and is attached to the minutes. The resignation is effectively immediately.
 - Mr. Bria made a statement regarding his witnessing of the events at the polling place. The accusations against Mr. McGovern were presented on the spot without a chance to review the materials. Mr. Bria believes in due process and the situation will be investigated thoroughly.

Mr. Berry motions to accept Sandi Brady's resignation from Yardley Borough Council, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Harding expressed his disappointment in Mr. Bria's handling of the situation at the polling place.

Ms. Thompson states that racism is not okay and Council does not condone any statements that were made.

Mr. Berry states that the statements are reprehensible.

Carol Petty, 46 Cadwallader Court. It is sad to see her resign. Mr. McGovern is duly elected with these accusations against him. The investigation should go forth and if the accusations are true he should not sit on Council and the results of the investigation should be public.

Mr. Berry appreciates Ms. Brady's work on Council.

A vote was held and the motion passes.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 7:53 pm)

- Property owners in the Whiskey Hill neighborhood, Rich Wayne, 115 Windsor Road, Don Steinberg, 116 Windsor Road and Patrick Budd, 152 Windsor addressed Council to discuss the recent work that was done regarding drainage and curbs in their

neighborhood. The engineer will address the issues regarding areas where drainage work performed in October was unnecessary, areas where work is needed, and develop a remediation or removal plan for both cases, including pothole repairs.

- Brian Welch, 22 Reading Ave, asked a follow-up question regarding the grant from PECO. Borough Manager is looking to see if the previously discussed grant can be applicable to the Reading Ave property.

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 8:05 pm)

19-25 26 South Canal Street (AC/Heat)

Mr. Berry motions to approve certificate of appropriateness 19-25 with HARB recommendations, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.

19-26 40 East Afton Avenue (Roof)

Mr. Berry motions to approve certificate of appropriateness 19-26 with HARB recommendations, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.

Old Business (Time Stamp: 8:06 pm)

1. Bid Award Snowplowing, Salting and Sanding.....Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross moves that Yardley Borough aware a three-year snow removal contract, beginning November 6, 2019 and ending October 31, 2022, to Effluent Retrieval Services, at the prices stated in the bid Proposal #3 submitted by Effluent Retrieval dated October 16, 2019, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.
2. Trash Bids.....Mr. Bria
Ms. Thompson motions to conduct a second round of bidding in order to receive more competitive pricing, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.
3. 2020 Draft Budget Presentation.....Ms. Thompson
Paula Johnson and Patty Sargent presented draft budget. The budget is posted on the website under the finance tab for community review.
Michele Sharer – 31 N. Main. Will there be money for Lake Afton? This will be discussed according to Ms. Thompson.
4. Vote to Advertise Public Inspection of 2020 Draft Budget.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson motion to advertise the public inspection of the 2020 draft budget, which Mr. Ross seconds.
Mayor Harding – How often is the Borough audited? The auditor comes in quarterly and conducts a full audit once a year.
Mr. Berry notes that taxes weren't raised for 10 years then they were raised in 2016 and haven't been raised again since.
A vote was held and the motion passes.
5. Vote to Advertise the 2020 Tax Levy Ordinance.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson motions to advertise the 2020 tax levy ordinance, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.
6. Update to the Emergency Operations Plan.....Mr. Foraker

Wes Foraker presented new policy for policing public events. The information is included in the meeting materials.

Mr. Berry motions to accept revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan as submitted, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:27 pm)

1. Vote to Advertise Amendment to the Planning Commission Board.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson makes a motion to advertise and ordinance of the Borough of Yardley, amending Chapter 1 of the Yardley Borough Code to provide for an odd number of members of the planning commission of not less than three nor more than nine members, which Mr. Ross seconds.
Mr. Berry invites community to join planning commission.
A vote was held and the motion passes.
2. Christmas Parade and Santa’s Workshop Banner.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson motions to approve banner permit application as submitted, which Mr. Ross seconds. Motion passes.
3. Procedure Moving Forward Regarding Council Vacancy.....Mr. Bria
Borough Code specifies procedure for filling a vacancy. There is no prescribed process, but the vacancy needs to be filled in 30 days. Council can decide on the process for filling the vacancy. If the vacancy doesn’t get filled the vacancy gets pushed to vacancy board and needs to fill in 15 days after that. This term expires at the end of 2021.
Mr. Bria suggesting following what LMT Board did recently. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Ross will spearhead the effort. Hoping to conduct interviews at the next meeting and vote to appoint at following meeting. There may be a need for a special meeting depending on number of applications and timing with Thanksgiving.
After discussion it was decided that applications will be due by 11/19 and interviews and appointment will take place on 12/3.
Consensus is given for the committee to develop a procedure and advertise the position once the process is defined.

Ms. Thompson motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:37, which Mr. Berry seconds.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean