

**Yardley Borough Council
Special Meeting
December 11, 2018**

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

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

Also in attendance were Sargent Will Golden, Solicitor E. Closser, Mayor Chris Harding, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson. President Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Pete Giudotti, 44 S. Bell, asked a question about the repeal of the occupation and per capita taxes noted in the minutes from the 11/20/18 meeting. The minutes seem to indicate that a vote was taken to repeal Chapter 24 of the Borough Code. Mr. Guidotti asks for clarification of this statement. Mr. Closser notes that the intention of the statement was to draft a repeal of the occupation and per capita taxes, which are part of Chapter 24, not a repeal of all of Chapter 24. At the meeting on 12/4/18 it was discussed that the general government committee has decided not undertake repeal of these taxes for the 2019 budget. Therefore no changes to Chapter 24 will be needed.

Certificates of Appropriateness

None

Old Business

Appointment of Financial Assistant.....Ms. Thompson
Ms. Thompson makes a motion to hire Patricia Sargent for the part-time position of financial assistant, which Mr. Ross seconds. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the candidate and the hiring process. More than 70 applications were received. Five phone interviews were conducted and references were checked. This candidate has a strong financial background both with the State of New Jersey and Bloomberg as well as budget experience. The committee feels very confident with their choice. January 7th will be the start date. The position is 24 hours a week, \$21/hour, no benefits. Ms. Brady asks if the office hours will change. They will remain the same for now. The current hours are consistent with other local municipalities. Motion passes.

New Business

Zoning Office Agreement.....Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross moves to terminate the agreement with Keystone Municipal Services in accordance with the termination provision in the agreement, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. The written notice of intention to terminate will go out immediately and termination will be effective in 60 days. Motion passes.

Mr. Ross moves to appoint an interim zoning officer, Mike Mueller, at the rate of \$59/hour, which is seconded by Mr. Bria. Ms. Brady notes that Mr. Mueller is remote so what will the process be. Ms. Johnson answers that many municipalities use remote services and also video conferencing. Ms. Johnson will handle management and billing matters. There is no end date for interim appointment but a search for a permanent replacement will be undertaken. Many municipalities our size use a remote zoning officer. Mr. Mueller could come to town if he had to but the majority of the decisions and work can be done remotely. Ms. Thompson offers that it is a good opportunity to test this business model and it could save a lot of money.

Dan Mohn, 132 Longshore Avenue, asks what about attendance at zoning and planning meetings, can he attend those meetings remotely. Currently nothing is scheduled for zoning and planning in December and January. Mr. Guidotti asks what the day-to-day process will be if the officer isn't in the office for someone who comes in with a zoning need. Will he have formal hours the same as the existing hours. Ms. Johnson doesn't think the demand is there to justify a person during specific hours. Mr. Marshall notes that there are ways to work through issues of a remote person. Ms. Thompson suggests getting a job description/process from another municipality with a remote zoning officer to see how this is handled on a day-to-day basis. Motion passes.

Ms. Thompson motions to adjourn at 7:50, which is seconded by Mr. Bria.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean