

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting  
April 16, 2019**

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

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

Council members not in attendance: Mike Ruttle

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

**Minutes (Time Stamp 7:30 pm)**

Mr. Berry moves to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Bria.

Amendments:

Borough Engineer's report – amend “why grant submitted was requested twice” to say “why grant submitted was rejected twice.”

Old business #4 – Mr. Berry only made first comment, the second comment is unattributed.

Old business #4 - Ms. Thompson – Is in favor of the motion in order not to delay the process.

A vote was held and the motion, as amended, carries with Mr. Ross abstaining.

**Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:34 pm)**

**Solicitor**

Conservation easement was officially recorded with the County on April 5, 2019.

**Borough Manager**

1. Memorial Day Mile – looking for walkers and runners to participate.
2. Per capita and occupation tax bills have been sent out and some questions have been received by the office. This tax covers all homeowners and renters and no senior citizens. The bill is about \$30 for most people. Questions can be directed to the Borough office or to the tax collector.

**Mayor**

Carry the Load Rally – Wednesday 5/1/19 at 3:00 to 3:30 at Veteran's Monument in Yardley.

**Police Chief**

1. Drug Takeback collection program will be held on Saturday 4/27 from 10-2pm. Expired and unused prescription may be turned in at the Police Department during that time.

2. There was recently a software failure on most of the police office systems. Officer Bailey worked significant overtime to get things back and running. Many thanks to him.

#### Borough Engineer

1. Liz from Engineer's office has a meeting with PECO regarding Morgan Avenue to discuss next steps on their plans for that lot.
2. Grant opportunity – Department of Community and Economic Development, greenways, trails and rec program. Maximum grant is 250,000 and requires a 15% match. The grant could be used to replace Mary Yardley Bridge and improve trail and make it ADA accessible. The application is due by end of May. The Council will need to make a resolution to approve the funding match.
3. Main/Afton signals – On schedule to be submitted this week.
4. 2019 Liquid Fuels Road Program – Hope to accept bids in May and make awards in May/June.
5. 31 N. Delaware is done.

Mr. Berry asks that Mr. Beach please forward grant info to Community and Economic Development Committee and include what the resolution would entail. The bridge committee is meeting 4/17 and they should see the grant information. Ms. Brady notes that this grant came through Perry Warren's office to our attention.

#### Council Vice President

Mercer County Airport terminal expansion. The outcome of the recent meeting held by Steve Santarsiero's office was that taking legal action to try to stop airport expansion will be cost prohibitive and unlikely to succeed. The best option now is to lobby congress on the issue. Representative Fitzpatrick is member of the Quiet Skies Caucus so the Township will send letter and recommendations to his office to bring before the Caucus and Congressional committee heads. The goal of the effort is to trigger an environmental impact study.

#### Council President

Mr. Marshall recognizes Michael Thompson and EAC members who recently received a \$69,900 grant.

Mr. Bria notes that grants are administered once projects are done and based on reimbursements. We need to hit critical reporting targets along the way to guarantee reimbursement.

#### Council Committees

##### Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

1. Drafted letters of congratulations to Gold and Silver Award winners in the Sandy Run Girl Scout Service Unit. The bridging ceremony is 5/7 to which Council is invited.
2. Rich Wayne submitted his resignation from Sewer Authority. Applications for filling the spot on the Authority will be open immediately.  
Mr. Bria motions to accept the resignation of Rich Wayne from the Sewer Authority, which Mr. Berry seconds. Motion passes.

Ms. Brady asks about the timeline for appointing a new member. Ms. Thompson hopes to fill the position as soon as possible.

#### General Government-Ms. Thompson

The budget calendar is finalized and will be presented to Council for a vote in May.

#### Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

1. Planning Commission – Comprehensive review of floodplain ordinance will be undertaken. The goal is to recommend to Council prospective changes to the ordinance to allow homeowners certain freedoms that are currently do not have with regards to their properties and to clear up definitively what is and is not permitted. The review also hopes to provide a consistent understanding of FEMA requirements in relation to the flood insurance program as well as make recommendations around the CRS program. Mr. Berry's goal is to provide facts and resources to the Planning Commission, to increase communication and understanding between Council and Commission, and to gather community input on the needs and wishes of the residents in the floodplain. The goal is to have the review completed in three months at the most. In May there will be a public joint working meeting between the Planning Commission and Council in May. This meeting will be advertised to the community.

Mr. Bria asks if the Planning Commission is amenable to Council passing the changes recommended at the last Council meeting (vertical elevations and accessory structures) prior to the comprehensive review. Mr. Berry says that question should be addressed to the working meeting in May.

Mr. Bria notes the statement about adhering to minimum FEMA standards in the floodplain. That is a clear policy shift from what the Borough's objectives have been in the past. The consequences of this policy shift need to be fully understood. Mr. Berry notes that the Planning Commission can go above and beyond the minimum requirements.

2. Mr. Berry has asked the Planning Commission to make recommendations regarding the State's decision to legalize medical marijuana.
3. Mr. Bria will meet with the Friends of Mary Yardley Bridge Committee.
4. Mr. Berry attended the April meeting of Reading Avenue Committee. The focus of the committee is how best to preserve and enhance the property with volunteers and community groups. On April 27<sup>th</sup> there will be an informal assessment of the property to identify what could and should be done next year to the property in order to prepare budget requests as needed.
5. Mr. Bria – Falls Township Supervisors Meeting dealing with the Elcon development is the same night as CED meeting. Mr. Ross offers to go to the Falls Township meeting to represent Council on the Elcon matter.

#### Public Safety – Ms. Brady

1. Three months ago Ms. Brady and Ms. Johnson attended the Delaware Canal Advisory Committee meeting and made a request to prioritize surveying to tow path running through Yardley. The surveying is taking place now on a three mile

section of the path. The data will be analyzed and it may be found that it is cost prohibitive to raise the path which is desired outcome.

2. A letter requesting a decrease in the speed limit on Delaware Ave has been sent by Perry Warren's office to PennDot.

#### Public Works-Mr. Ross

1. Discussed paving project going out to bid.
2. Discussed electric car charging spots but Borough may not have spots to commit to this.

#### **Bill List (Time stamp: 8:02 pm)**

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the 4/16/19 bill list, which is seconded by Ms. Brady. A vote was held and the motion passes.

Mr. Berry asks if Ms. Mazzitelli's role as consultant falls under the grant for elevation projects. We should be mindful of her billings.

#### **Correspondence (Time stamp: 8:03 pm)**

None

#### **Public Comment (Time stamp: 8:03 pm)**

John McCann, 174 N. Main Street – Notes that trash trucks started at 5:38 am this past weekend and this is a quality of life issue in the Borough. Ms. Johnson notes the start time of 6:00 am earliest. Mr. Marshall asks Ms. Johnson to send a letter to the trash collection company regarding honoring the start times in the contract.

Kim Prickett – 483 Big Oak Road. Ms. Prickett asks if Ms. Perlmutter has paid for the tree removal on her property. Mr. Closser notes she did not pay and we are in the process of filing a lien. Mr. Marshall comments that the lien is being filed, a first for this Council, and the effort is moving ahead to collect the money. Mr. Bria notes that he is not happy with that answer as notification was made to Council in July of 2018 and he asks Mr. Marshall why the process is taking so long. Mr. Marshall reiterates that the process is moving forward and he will send the statute regarding the lien process will be sent to Council.

#### **Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 8:10 pm)**

1. 19-04 64 South Main Street (doors)
2. 19-05 35 South Main Street (signs)

Mr. Bria moves to approve Certificates of Appropriateness 19-04 and 19-05 subject to the recommendations made by the HARB, which Mr. Ross seconds. A vote was held and the motion passes.

**Old Business (Time Stamp: 8:10 pm)**

1. Community Outreach Appointment/Reappointment  
Process Guidelines.....Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson presented updated guidelines for the appointment and reappointment process, details of which are included in the meeting materials. These processes will go into use immediately.

Ms. Thompson asks for Council consensus on the nonbinding appointment/reappointment process. Consensus is granted.

2. Board/Commission Appointment and Reappointment Form.....Ms. Thompson

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the Board/Commission Appointment and Reappointment Form, as attached to the meeting materials, which Mr. Bria seconds.

Dave Collins, 97 N. Delaware, chairman of Yardley Borough Sewer Authority, is confused about the process. In the past applicants had to interview in front of Council as well as members of the relevant authority or committee. Ms. Thompson notes that applicants are asked to attend a meeting of the committee to which they are applying. A vote was held and the motion passes.

3. Final Payment Certificate for 31 Delaware Avenue Elevation.....Mr. Ross

Mr. Ross moves to approve payment certificate for \$29,741.59 to Delta Inspection Services, which Mr. Bria seconds. Dave Collins, 97 N. Delaware, objects to the process of paying out the final grant amount prior to the building being inspected and given a certificate of occupancy. A vote was held and the motion passes.

**New Business (Time Stamp: 8:25 pm)**

1. Vote to Advertise for Hiring of Full-Time Police Officer.....Ms. Brady

Ms. Brady read the advertisement, included in the meeting materials, which will be published for the position of full-time police officer. Ms. Brady motions to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the position of full-time civil service police officer in a newspaper of record on April 26, 2019 and that advertisement also be disseminated via social media, which Mr. Berry seconds. A vote was held and the motion passes.

Mr. Berry motions to adjourn at 8:30, which is seconded by Mr. Bria.

Submitted by,  
Mary Ann McLean