

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

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

Sandi Brady Ryan Berry Bryon Marshall
Caroline Thompson

Council member(s) not in attendance: Mike Ruttle, David Bria, Matthew Ross

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

Change in Agenda:

Old Business Agenda Item 1 moved up

Hiring of Full-Time Police Officer.....Ms. Brady

Ms. Brady, Chief Kelly, and Mayor Harding spoke about the civil service commission process undertaken to make a hiring recommendation, spoke highly of all three candidates who were certified. Chief Kelly spoke at length about Officer Harris' life, service record, and his qualifications that will make him a valued addition to the force. Chief Kelly noted that with this hiring the Department will be at full staffing of 5 full-time Police Officers, the first time since 1986.

Ms. Brady moves to extend a conditional offer to hire Joseph C. Harris IV as a probationary full-time Police Officer effective Saturday August 3, 2019, which Mr. Berry seconds.

Mayor Harding administered the oath of office.

Minutes (Time Stamp 7:40 pm)

Mr. Thompson moves to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2019 meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. A vote was held and the motion passes.

Mr. Berry moves to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2019 joint Sewer Authority and Council meeting, which is seconded by Ms. Brady. A vote held and the motion passes with Ms. Thompson abstaining.

Progress Reports (Time Stamp: 7:40 pm)

Solicitor

8/7/19 and 8/8/19 – Mr. Closser will attend a Pennsylvania Municipal Legal Update put on by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs in Harrisburg and will report back to Council about any pertinent matters

Borough Manager

- Scheduling accountant to come in for 2nd quarter review. All looks good so far.
- Draft budget is on agenda tonight.
- Prepared a bid packet for the snow bids which will be on next agenda.
- Summer newsletter is here. Final issue 2019 is going out to print end of August.
- There was some illegal paving in the flood plain on River Road. Has been taken care of by code enforcement officer.
- Mr. Berry – Asks about Growing Greener grant bid. The bid not gone out yet. Liz Colletti from Remington Vernick reports that they can do some of the work. Waiting for some feedback on what can be done immediately rather than waiting a month or two to go out to bid.

Mayor

- Recognition of other local chiefs who stepped in to help with interviews for our new police officer.
- Next radio show will be on Tuesday 7/23 from 2-3 p.m.

Police Chief

- Nothing to report.
- Mr. Berry asks Chief Kelly about the mailbox vandalism. The Chief responds that because there were thefts it is a federal matter and he cannot comment.

Borough Engineer

- Potential grant opportunities.
Sidewalk Grants - Phase 2 for North Main sidewalk. DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant which is due at the end of July. Grant ranges from \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 and there is no match. Consensus needs to be granted tonight to decide if Council wants to pursue the grant and for how much.
Mr. Berry asks if we need HOP. Mr. Beach answers no, that would be part of the design process. A discussion followed regarding how much to ask for and how much sidewalk to plan to do as part of this grant. The total amount to ask for doesn't need to be decided right now. Mr. Beach advises to make this grant part of a phased project and this would be Phase 2.
Jim McGrath, 93 N. Delaware – Recommends making access to Mary Yardley Bridge and project to replace that bridge may make our grant request more attractive.
Consensus was granted for a \$1,000,000 grant request.
- 2019 Liquid Fuels Road Program – Contracts are on the way to the Borough Manager. There should be a schedule in the next few weeks.
- Mayor Harding asks if anything has been heard about the traffic signals at Main and Afton. Mr. Beach hopes to hear in the next week or two.
- Mr. Berry asks about Yardley Walk. A preliminary punch list has been given to Lenar and hoping for a final punch list in August/September.
- Ms. Brady raises the issue of slowing traffic on Breece Drive. Lots of children play there. She asks about speedbumps which are problematic for the snow plows. Perhaps rubber speedbumps could be done.

Council Vice President

n/a

Council President

In July the Borough was given notice that the application for several elevations were denied. The denial can be appealed. Susan Mazatelli says it is good to attempt an appeal. No reason was given for the denial. On the other hand Tom Hughes from PEMA discouraged an appeal because small projects don't get a lot of attention when appealed. Appeal cost the Borough \$750.

Mr. Marshall is inclined to move forward with the appeal but would like to gain consensus from Council. Mr. Berry suggests that we both appeal and plan to reapply in the next round.

Jim McGrath – His is one of the 12 homes being considered for elevation at 93 N. Delaware. He recommends staying vigilant in pursuit of the full grant and continue to improve tax base in the community.

Consensus is granted to appeal and reapply.

Council Committees

Community Outreach-Ms. Thompson

The Parks and Rec committee asks that the latch on the tot lot be fixed with funds from the general fund. It has been broken for some time. Ms. Thompson seeks approval to order the latch be fixed from the general fund in an amount not to exceed \$150.

Consensus is granted.

General Government-Ms. Thompson

A resident reported that the Borough website was not secure. FC Creative fixed the issue.

Community & Economic Development – Mr. Berry

There is a meeting next Tuesday, 7/23.

Liaison Report - Mr. Berry

- The Reading Ave committee has met and discussed next steps. They are open to collaboration with other entities.
- The Planning Commission has met and they approved recommendations regarding the amended ordinances. They will present their formal proposal regarding the ordinance to Council in the next few weeks.

Public Safety – Mr. Brady

Next meeting is 8/6.

Public Works-Mr. Ross

n/a

EAC – Mr. Ross

n/a

Bill List (Time stamp: 8:10 pm)

Ms. Thompson moves to approve the bills list dated 7/16/19, which is seconded by Mr. Berry. Motion passes.

Correspondence (Time stamp: 8:10 pm)

A letter regarding the Elcon project was received from Mr. Michael Ruttle which was printed and made available for all to read. A copy is attached to these minutes. Mr. Ruttle's opinion is consistent with the Council's position.

Public Comment (Time stamp: 8:11 pm)

Jim McGrath , 93 N. Delaware. Mr. McGrath appreciates the speed notifications posted entering the Borough. He would like to see more, particularly on Delaware Avenue close to the Yardley Inn.

Chief Kelly responded that the Borough has two of these units and they are moved around every 3-4 weeks. Ms. Brady comments that speed signs will be discussed again by public safety.

Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College

Ms. Perlmutter addressed Council regarding follow up to the 6/18 meeting. She provided a list of items which were addressed by Ms. Johnson but which Ms. Perlmutter felt were answered inadequately. She requests additional feedback on these items. Also Ms. Perlmutter addressed the complaint about poison ivy on her property and the response of the code enforcement officer. She requests that the code enforcement officer be more diligent about enforcing the codes uniformly across all residents.

Kim Prickett, 20 W. College

Ms. Prickett responded to Ms. Perlmutter's comments noting that she believes Ms. Perlmutter has staged her complaints in an effort to make Ms. Prickett look guilty. Ms. Perlmutter responded that the police need to investigate this situation and look at the evidence that she has collected on the issues in question.

Mr. Marshall addressed Ms. Perlmutter and Ms. Prickett advising them to try to work out their issues outside of Council meetings as this isn't the correct forum for them to address their issues with one another.

Certificates of Appropriateness (Time Stamp: 8:30 pm)

19-12 169-171 South Main Street (porch repair and column replacement)

Mr. Berry moves to approve certificate of appropriateness 19-12 for 169 and 171 S. Main Street for porch repair and column replacement as submitted to HARB, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.

19-13 70 South Main Street (Demo)

Mr. Berry moves to approve certificate of appropriateness 19-13 for 70 S. Main Street with HARB's recommendation and withdraw the demolition permit as requested by the applicant, the barn will now install Timberline Shingles as recommended by HARB and agreed upon by applicant which Ms. Brady seconds. Motion passes.

Old Business (Time Stamp: 8:32 pm)

1. Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement.....Ms. Brady
Ms. Brady moves the Yardley Borough adopt the modifications outlined in the amended collective bargaining agreement, which Ms. Thompson seconds. Motion passes.

New Business (Time Stamp: 8:33 pm)

1. First Draft of the 2020 Budget.....Ms. Thompson
A draft version of the budget is attached to the meeting materials. This is just a read through. Ms. Johnson presented the new budget format, highlighting that each fund now has its own budget rather than combining all the funds together. This makes tracking income and expenses much easier. The total numbers overall are reflected on first couple of pages of the budget. Mr. Berry suggested that planning for wage increases should be a budget line item rather than be reactive.

Mr. Thompson motions to adjourn at 8:40, which Mr. Berry seconded.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean