

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

December 7, 2021

PRESENT: Dr. Pustorino, Mss. Baburich (via ZOOM), Fullwood, Messrs. Perry, Hoover, Syska, Royster, Lilac.

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:30 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

December 8, 2021

PRESENT: Dr. Pustorino, Mss. Baburich (via ZOOM), Fullwood, Messrs. Perry, Hoover, Syska, Royster, Lilac, Sol. Evashavik

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hoover called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Fullwood, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Baburich, to approve the bank balances as read. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Syska, to approve payment of the bills for the month after being properly countersigned. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Baburich, seconded by Pustorino, to approve the Tax Collection report as read. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Hoover asked that all attending follow CDC's face mask guidelines.

MAYOR

Mayor Perry advised that there were 171 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 25, 911 calls in October. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 4- Domestic
- 4- Suspicious activities
- 3- Suspicious persons
- 3- Thefts from vehicles
- 2- Neighbor disputes
- 2- Traffic stops

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2021
PAGE TWO

Mayor Perry thanked Mr. Lilac for being Council's secret Santa and extended his thoughts and prayers to Ms. Baburich. Mayor Perry also explained that he wants to reach out to Dr. Pustorino and Mr. Syska to thank them for their dedicated service to their community.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Pustorino read an update from the Woodland Hills School District regarding the termination of district superintendent James Harris. The board voted 8-1 to release Mr. Harris from his contract, effective 12/17/21.

Dr. Pustorino explained that she and her family are moving from the district and she will be resigning from Council, effective 1/1/22. Dr. Pustorino read an excerpt from the letter she wrote to the WHSD School Board concerning the district's continued decline in rankings and recent negative publicity; Dr. Pustorino urged the board to recognize that too many families are opting to move because they believe the diminishing performance of the district will impact their child's educational opportunities. Mr. Hoover thanked Dr. Pustorino for her service and stated that he will miss her council.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCE

Ms. Baburich advised that one dumpster permit was issued in November.

Ms. Baburich read a detailed list of the active code enforcement cases in Chalfant, including a street-by-street account of new cases opened in November, total cases currently open in the borough, the number of cases where the compliance window has expired, the number of opened cases inside the compliance window, and the total cases closed. Ms. Baburich explained that there are currently 17 open citations/private criminal complaints resulting from code violations and she read a street-by-street account. There were three occupancy permits issued in November.

There were no questions from Council.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Syska advised that the DPW completed the leaf collection last week. Mr. Syska explained that the final LED street light from the 2021 replacements has been installed.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$11,214.30 from the Highland Aid Account to the General Fund Checking. This is the total cost of street lighting for 2021 and will be paid with Liquid Fuels funds. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Hoover thanked Mr. Syska for his service and noted that this was the second or third time Mr. Syska has served Chalfant in some capacity.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

No report.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Pustorino, to pay Urban Construction, LLC's invoice in the amount of \$5,000 for the storm inlet rehabilitation in the vicinity of 252 Highland Avenue and Chalfant St. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Syska, to transfer \$5,000 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the cost of Urban Construction, LLC's invoice.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Pustorino, to transfer \$20,199 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the cost of the 2021 sewer expenses including sewer and consent decree-related fees from Municipal Engineer, Robert Zischkau, fifty percent of Ms. Fullwood's salary and twenty percent of Ms. Schwoegl's salary. The motion was unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster thanked Dr. Pustorino and Mr. Syska for their service and council, noting that they have taught him a lot about municipal government. Mr. Syska said that if Dr. Pustorino decides to service her new community, she will be an asset; they would be lucky to have her.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 8, 2021

PAGE FOUR

Mr. Royster advised that there was one incident reported by the VFC in November. Mr. Royster read a detailed summary of the calls and provided the number of VFC members attending.

Mr. Royster explained that the Chalfant VFC made a total profit of \$755.34 from their recent stuffed cabbage dinner fundraiser on 11/13/21.

Mr. Royster advised that the VFC is urging residents to check that the Chalfant VFC is listed with their homeowner's insurance, not East Pittsburgh. Mr. Royster noted that this affects their Relief Association funding.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that backflow testing at the Public Safety Building and Community Center has been ischeduled. Mr. Lilac also advised that he's planning to remove the swings at the park for winter but that pleasant weather is in the forecast so the swings won't be removed until after Christmas.

WHEMS

Mr. Royster advised there were six calls to WHEMS in November. He read the date, location, and outcome of each incident.

CRIME WATCH

Mark Swinney addressed Council, stating that in light of recent activity in the borough, the Crime Watch plans to start holding meetings again. Mr. Swinney explained that previously the Crime Watch was not meeting due to COVID-19 and a lack of resident interest. There are now rising concerns related to car theft, property damage, and possible drug activity. Mr. Swinney also complained of a lack of police response to multiple recent incidents. Mr. Swinney plans to schedule a meeting for January and will reach out to Rental Coordinator, Eileen Wroblewski, for access to the Community Center.

TAX COLLECTOR

No report.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 8, 2021

PAGE FIVE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Jamie Bernstein, 314 Elizabeth Avenue, addressed Council regarding multiple issues. Ms. Bernstein's first complaint was the crime issue that Mr. Swinney discussed. Ms. Bernstein said that a couple of years ago, she caught someone trying to do something to her car. Ms. Bernstein believes it is best to circulate information on social media so residents are aware of issues in the borough. Mr. Hoover disagreed and stated that residents should go through the appropriate channels of reporting incidents to the borough and to the police; that posting information online can actually interfere with ongoing police investigations and alert criminals to investigations. A discussion ensued between Council and residents attending the meeting regarding what is appropriate to post online. Ms. Bernstein's second complaint was regarding Hoffman Kennels. Ms. Bernstein stated that she is a huge animal rights person and everything that she has heard about Hoffman Kennels is negative. Ms. Bernstein claimed that she read online that Pit Bulls are euthanized without cause. Ms. Bernstein said she does not want Hoffman Kennels taking over animal control in her neighborhood and that she has signed a petition; she asked why Sable Kennels was not asked to provide a bid to the borough. Mr. Hoover explained that Hoffman Kennels has been providing animal control in Chalfant for twenty years without a single resident complaint. Secretary Stephanie Schwoegl advised that she personally reached out to Sable Kennels ahead of 2020's contract renewal with Hoffman for a quote, but that Sable Kennels failed to provide one.

Jennifer Blumer, 204 Elizabeth Avenue, complained of the recent car thefts and break-ins and stated that the street lighting outside of her house is inadequate. Ms. Blumer asked Mayor Perry how he comes up with his report? Mayor Perry explained that he receives a detailed list of all police activities from Chief Williams. Mayor Perry also explained that he is not entirely happy about the police response and that he and Council President Hoover plan to meet with Chief Williams regarding the matter. Mayor Perry does not want residents to be afraid in their own community. Mayor Perry also noted the borough's strict dog ordinance and stated that dog owners must have control of their animals at all times; Mayor Perry also explained that it is against borough ordinance for dogs to do their business on any property other than their own. Ms. Blumer stated that she feels as though Chalfant is still a safe neighborhood but that she is disgusted by the recent vehicle-related crime and would like to see the police being more proactive. A discussion regarding the recent crime ensued between Council and residents.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 8, 2021

PAGE SIX

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Avenue, stated that maybe Sable Kennels is interested in providing a quote now for 2022. Mr. Hoover stated that Chalfant has already signed a contract with Hoffman Kennels for 2022 and that Council has been happy with the service that Hoffman Kennels provides; he reiterated that there have never been any resident complaints related to an incident in the borough with Hoffman Kennels. Ms. Bernstein stated that Council should get quotes for service every year. Solicitor Evashavik advised that Council is not required to bid out professional services on a yearly basis. Ms. Bernstein said that Council should terminate their contract with Hoffman Kennels. Sol. Evashavik explained that if Council did this, the borough would be responsible for the cost of the contract unless Hoffman was in breach of the contract. Carol Fennell, 1012 Pin Oak Ct., stated that contracts were made to be broken. A discussion ensued between residents; the meeting began to get out of control with several residents talking to each other and over each other. Mr. Hoover called the meeting to order and ended the citizen participation portion of the meeting. Mr. Hoover urged residents to call the police regarding any illegal activity.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Lilac, to pass Ordinance 438, The 2022 Budget and Tax Levy. The 2022 Budget has been properly advertised and was available for inspection at the borough office. There is no tax increase for 2022. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Fullwood, to issue a real estate refund, per Tax Collector, Carol Donahue, to Brands Capital Corp. (Pgh Holdings, LLC) in the amount of \$290.44 for a change of order/exoneration for 220 Highland Avenue. The motion was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Pustornio, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

