

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

December 13, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Mss. Fullwood, Hillen, Fennell, Messrs. Hoover, Sauter, Royster, Lilac.

ABSENT: None.

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:45 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

December 14, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Mss. Fullwood, Hillen, Fennell, Messrs. Hoover, Sauter, Royster, Lilac, Sol. Evashavik

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

Motion by Royster, seconded by Sauter, to approve payment of the monthly bills after being properly countersigned. The motion was unanimous.

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

MAYOR

There were 173 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 25, 911 calls in November. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 3 - Mental health calls
- 3- Parking complaints
- 3- Suspicious persons
- 2 - Med unit assists
- 2 - Domestic
- 2 - Suspicious activities

Mayor Perry noted the increase in mental health calls in November. He explained that fortunately, none of the calls ended in injury or issue, they just required a police response.

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Mayor Perry expressed displeasure about the road reconstruction that occurred on Greensburg Pike and the fact that the roadway was left in deplorable conditions for weeks. He advised he has filed a claim with Felino Construction after having to replace two tires on his vehicle and suggested that anyone else with a similar experience do so as well. Mayor Perry also suggested that residents watch out for their neighbor's deliveries and packages. Thefts of deliveries are common this time of year.

SOLICITOR

Sol. Evashavik advised that he reviewed the tax levy ordinance that the borough uses each year and it functions well; it does not need to be replaced or updated.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood advised that she is still looking for resident volunteers to assist with the Newsletter. While many residents are now using Savvy Citizen to receive borough news updates, it would be nice to still publish a newsletter for those residents that are not on social media.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac to pay the PA State Association of Borough's Unemployment Compensation Solvency Fee of \$34.04 for 2023. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Hillen, to pay the Citizen Bank borough credit card invoice of \$403.61. Of that amount, \$180 is for postage and \$223.61 is for the draft inducer/exhaust vent for the furnace at the Community Center. That purchase was previously approved at the October 12th meeting.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that no building permits were issued in November. There were six temporary Certificates of Occupancy issued in November.

Ms. Hillen read a detailed street-by-street list of active code enforcement cases, including the open citations/private criminal complaints currently before the magistrate. Ms. Hillen advised that three new cases were opened in November, three cases were closed, and 38 cases were continued.

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Motion by Hillen, seconded by Sauter, sign the 2023 Code Enforcement Agreement with Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments. The cost of service for 2023 will be \$28,954. The motion was unanimous.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Sauter advised that he does not have a report but he does have two motions; he noted the DPW has been doing a great job upkeep the roads so far this winter.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Hillen, to transfer the 2022 street lighting costs from the Highway Aid Account/Liquid Fuel Account to the General Fund Checking. The total street lighting cost through November 2022 is \$10,529.74; we are still waiting for the December invoice. The total amount transferred will be ratified at the January meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fullwood, to ratify the amount of the bid approved at the November meeting for the CD 47 Reconstruction of the 200 and 300 block of Lynnwood Avenue. El Grande Industries, Inc.'s low bid was \$73,448.75 which is \$50 less than what was reported in November. The total grant funding available is \$31,500; the local share of \$41,948.75 will be paid from the Highway Aid/Liquid Fuel account in 2023. The motion was unanimous.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Ms. Fennell advised that she has been seeking volunteers and/or suggestions for the Community Day Planning Committee. To date, she has not received any input and no new volunteers have signed up to help the committee. Ms. Fennell said that now is the time to step up and speak up, please do not wait until a couple of weeks before the event to start making suggestions.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$11,558 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the 2022 sewer expenses. This includes sewer and consent decree-related fees from Municipal Engineer, Robert Zischkau, fifty percent of Ms. Fennell's salary, and twenty percent of Ms. Schwoegl's salary. The motion was unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster advised that the Chalfant VFC did not provide a report for November.

WHEMS

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

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac wished everyone happy holidays and advised that the backflow testing at the Public Safety Building and Community Center is now complete. The Duquesne Light LED lighting upgrade project will begin tomorrow and will take a few days. Mr. Lilac said he is glad the borough is participating in the program because it is a great deal. Mr. Hoover agreed and stated that he looks forward to significant cost savings.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Sauter, to reimburse Jeanette Kochman of 829 Greensburg Pike, for tree trimming on borough property in the 800 block of Greensburg Pike in the amount of \$1,200.00. Ms. Kochman had Carl's Tree Service trim and remove dead branches that were hanging over the street and creating a hazard to pedestrians and motorists. The motion was unanimous.

CRIME WATCH

Ms. Bouvier reported that membership in Chalfant's Nextdoor Crime Watch Group continues to increase. The next Crime Watch meeting will be held in the spring. Ms. Bouvier has reached out to Hoffman Kennels to schedule a presentation but has not heard back yet. Ms. Bouvier asked Mr. Sauter where the new Crime Watch signs are. Mr. Sauter explained that the DPW has been busy with leaf collection and has not had a chance to hang the signs yet. Ms. Bouvier discussed her plan to clean up the borough and asked about the beer cans littered near the Parkway Steps. Council noted that Code Officer, JD Lombardi, has been working to clean up the area. Council will see if the DPW can assist in the removal of the cans. Ms. Bouvier then gave a Crime Watch update and said the primary resident concerns are still speeding and motorists running stop signs.

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Ms. Bouvier asked if the borough could send letters to residents that have been observed speeding or running stop signs. Mayor Perry advised that this matter should be handled by the police, not the municipality. There would be no real enforcement behind the letter as code violations are handled differently than traffic and criminal violations. The appropriate measure in this instance is to report the incident to 911. Mayor Perry explained that if the police receive a report of speeding or motorists running stop signs and the caller provides a license plate number and vehicle description, the police will issue a warning to that motorist. Ms. Bouvier then asked Ms. Fennell if she has done anything since the last meeting for the Welcome Committee. Ms. Fennell explained that she is not aware of any new residents. A discussion regarding occupancy permits and the Annual Reports of Occupancy ensued between Council and Ms. Bouvier. Ms. Bouvier asked Council if she could request information from the Annual Reports of Occupancy regarding elderly residents. Sol. Evashavik advised that the information on those reports is confidential and that the borough would not provide that information to Crime Watch; however, Ms. Bouvier can ask residents to volunteer that information to Crime Watch directly if they wish to be part of an outreach network for elderly residents. Ms. Bouvier asked for an update on the dog situation at 203 Greenfield Ave. Mr. Hoover explained that the matter is being handled by the court; citations have been issued and a bench warrant for the property owner was recently issued as well. Ms. Bouvier asked if she could post information online regarding the property. Sol. Evashavik advised that any information posted from Crime Watch should be first-hand knowledge and factually accurate.

TAX COLLECTOR

No report.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., stated that many residents were not aware that Swissvale decided to change the holiday garbage collection schedule for Thanksgiving and as result, missed the collection. Mr. Hoover explained that the borough posted it on the Facebook page, Savvy Citizen, and the front page of the website. Forest Hills ended the Swiftreach program and switched to Savvy Citizen so robocalls are no longer an option. If residents reach out to the borough and let us know that they do not have a computer, the borough will make an effort to call them directly. Mr. Hoover also reminded residents that they do not need a computer to access Savvy Citizen, they can sign up for text alerts on their cell phones.

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., asked Mr. Lilac if he was going to take the swings down at the park for the winter and stated that she always had the swings taken down when she was on

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Council. Mr. Lilac said he would consider it, but that the winter has been mild thus far and he has observed kids at the park on a regular basis. Ms. Fennell agreed that she sees kids at the park every day. Mr. Lilac said he would discuss the matter with Council and they would make a decision. Ms. Bouvier said that she has a neighbor that would like to be on Council. Mr. Hoover advised that the person would need to run for a seat and be elected. Ms. Bouvier then asked if the number of Council members would be reduced. Sol. Evashavik advised that that isn't a function of Council; a private citizen would need to file a petition with the court and the court would need to approve the measure. Ms. Bouvier said that the Story Walk at the park was beginning to get damaged. Mr. Hoover said that Ms. Williams at the Braddock Carnegie Library will handle it. Ms. Bouvier asked if Council would schedule a clean-up day for April. Mr. Hoover explained that part of the problem is that there is often still snow on the ground in April but that Council will discuss a clean-up day for 2023.

Lauren Sivak, 328 Elizabeth Ave., explained that she is attending this meeting to follow up on the incident she brought before Council at the meeting last month. She stated that she observed the individual she has been complaining about being arrested for a domestic incident. Ms. Sivak explained that the individual is still parking his vehicle overnight on borough property. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Sauter discussed the situation and agreed that they would order and post more 'no parking' signs so the area is clearly marked as 'no parking from dusk until dawn.' A discussion about the incident and parking issues ensued between Ms. Sivak and Council. Ms. Sivak then explained that she caught a man prowling around her car on November 16th. She confronted the man, chased him, and called 911. When the police responded, Ms. Sivak stated that the officer sat in his car for several minutes while the man hid in the tree line. Ms. Sivak expressed frustration at the police's response and said she never got an update from them regarding the situation. A discussion ensued between Ms. Sivak and Council regarding thefts from vehicles. Council acknowledged that it is a problem in all of the surrounding municipalities and stressed the importance of reporting these incidents to 911 and keeping car doors locked. Mayor Perry advised that he will follow up with Chief Williams and ask him to personally respond to Ms. Sivak. Ms. Bouvier asked about drug activity in the borough and said neighbors are reporting incidents to the DEA because they do not trust the Forest Hills Police to effectively address the situation. Mr. Hoover advised that any suspected drug activity should be reported to the Forest Hills Police.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hoover opened a public hearing for Ordinance 440; the 2023 Budget and Tax Levy. Mr. Hoover advised the budget for next year is in really good shape and there is no tax increase for 2023. There were no questions and the hearing was closed.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to pass Ordinance 440, the 2023 Budget and Tax Levy. The 2023 Budget and Tax Levy ordinance has been advertised and was available for inspection at the borough office. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Hoover wished everyone happy holidays and a happy New Year!

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Hillen, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. The motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

