

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

January 11, 2022

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, both the work session and regular meeting were conducted via remote audio and video conference service, Zoom.

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

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:25 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Hoover acknowledged the passing of Councilwoman Joanne Baburich, saying he is still working to process her death. He asked all attending to keep Ms. Baburich in their prayers.

MAYOR

Mayor Perry advised that there were 175 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 35, 911 calls in December. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 6 - Suspicious activities
- 5 - Domestic violence
- 2 - Alarm calls
- 2 - Parking complaints
- 2 - Welfare checks
- 2 - Animal problems

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2 - 911 hang-ups

Mayor Perry acknowledged the passing of Ms. Baburich.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Evashavik advised that he reviewed an ordinance from East Mckeesport regarding nuisance properties and disorderly behavior that was provided as an example by Code Enforcement. Sol. Evashavik advised that he believes the ordinance is already covered by the existing crime code, Title 18. He cautioned that some aspects of disorderly tenant ordinances have been challenged and thrown out by the Commonwealth of PA. He advised discussing the matter with the police chief; his professional opinion is that such an ordinance is not needed. Mr. Hoover explained that Council is looking for solutions; that there is one rental property in the borough that is currently creating a nuisance situation with over 60 calls to the police for issues at the property. The responsible party has been cited but the situation continues to be ongoing. Sol. Evashavik explained that Council's options are unfortunately limited.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood explained that she does not have a report this month, but that she does have two motions to make.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to purchase an external hard drive at a cost of \$64.99 for the purpose of backing up the borough website. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to pay the borough credit card invoice of \$154.35. This includes a \$4.45 charge for postage to mail the Alocsan Consent Decree and a \$149.90 charge for the borough's annual Zoom renewal. Motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCE

Ms. Lilac read a detailed list of the active code enforcement cases in Chalfant, including the open citations/private criminal complaints currently before the magistrate; Mr. Lilac noted that there were eight certificates of occupancy issued in December.

There were no questions from Council.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

No report.

Mr. Hoover advised that all is well with roads and the DPW.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

No report.

Mr. Hoover welcomed Ms. Fennell to Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster advised that there was no report from the Chalfant VFC for December. Mr. Royster explained that the VFC now has tentative dates for their 2022 fundraisers but advised these dates are subject to change. Right now the VFC is planning two cabbage dinner fundraisers, which will be take-out only at the Community Center, on March 19 and November 12. There are three hoagie sales planned; April 20, June 25, and September 24 at the corner of North Avenue and Rossmore St. The 2022 Car Cruise with Forest Hills is planned for the last weekend in July.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that he has no report but that he called Mr. John and left a message about the Port-a-Potty that is still at the park. Mr. Lilac isn't sure why it has not been removed yet, but that the borough is not being charged for it in the winter.

WHEMS

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

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$24.45 from the GF Money Market Account to the WHEMS Money Market Account. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Fullwood, to transfer \$11,610.56 from the WHEMS MM account to the GF MM Account. This was the total amount of WHEMS Tax collected in 2021. Motion was unanimous.

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Mr. Royster acknowledged the passing of Ms. Baburich and stated may God rest her soul.

CRIME WATCH

Mark Swinney addressed Council, stating that a Crime Watch meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm at the Community Center. Mr. Swinney plans to put up signage and requested the information go out on the Chalfant Facebook page. Mr. Hoover advised that the Rental Coordinator, Ms. Wroblewski, would open the Community Center for the meeting. Mr. Swinney advised that Carol Donahue would be leaving the Crime Watch due to the time commitment and thanked Ms. Donahue for her work with the Crime Watch, noting that he really appreciates what she's done for the organization.

TAX COLLECTOR

No report.

Ms. Donahue advised that she did not leave the Crime Watch because of the time commitment. Ms. Donahue feels that as a four-year elected official, being on Crime Watch is a conflict of interest. She thanked Mr. Swinney for his words.

ANIMAL CONTROL STATEMENT

Mr. Hoover provided the following statement regarding animal control in the borough, with Mayor Perry noting his full support and agreement:

First, I would like to thank those residents who challenged the professional quality of the services that Chalfant receives through contracts. Namely in this case our dog officer, Hoffman Kennels. I think it is important that a thorough review of the services should be completed from time to time. Sometimes we base our services upon cost only. We do not qualify that the service we receive is of the professional quality that our residents deserve. My review of Hoffman Kennels is as follows:

Top-rated kennel facility in the state. Works with no less than five no-kill shelters or adoption agencies to place animals that are picked up. Does not "kill" dogs, which is a direct statement from the state dog warden; only euthanizes when the shelters will not accept dogs that are too dangerous or aggressive for adoption. Uses a tranquilizer dart gun to catch dangerous dogs. Much less stress on the animal than the use of a snare. Tranquilizer darts are used by the state for this reason. Follows the laws and procedures put forth by the state with the use of citation and

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court orders, meaning citations are used to change the behavior and responsibility of the owner. Over the 20 years of service to the borough of Chalfant, has always been responsive and has always followed up on complaints and citations to having dogs declared dangerous, forcing the

owner to take responsible measures under the state law. Hoffman Kennels has the facility and the workforce to handle all complaints.

My review of Sable Kennels is as follows:

Works with multiple no-kill shelters. Will not issue citations! This does not even come close to the definition of a dog officer. No enforcement of laws. Has had their license revoked in the past. Multiple issues with the state concerning kennel conditions. Not responsive to complaints and does not follow up. Multiple complaints about the service response. Does not have the facility or the workforce to handle complaints.

Sable kennel at any cost saving is NOT capable or willing to provide the service that the residents of Chalfant deserve. Citations and enforcement are key to changing the behavior of dog owners. Whether it's failure to license, provide proper tags, or control dangerous behavior where dogs attack people or other dogs.

The public and social media lynching of Hoffman Kennels has been nothing but lies and outrageous claims. The residents of Chalfant deserve professional services and nothing less. Hoffman Kennels has provided that service and will continue to provide that service.

Chad Hoover
Chalfant Borough Council, President

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Jamie Bernstein, 314 Elizabeth Avenue, addressed Council regarding Mr. Hoover's statement. Ms. Bernstein stated that it did not change her opinion of Hoffman Kennel and that they would have to agree to disagree. She thanked Mr. Hoover and stated that she appreciated his time. Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Bernstein for her comments.

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OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to advertise that, due to the severe uptick in COVID-19 cases, all regularly scheduled and advertised meetings of the Chalfant Borough Council will be conducted via remote audio and video conference services (ZOOM) until further notice. This advertisement already appeared in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette on Sunday, January 9, 2022 and a notice was sent via Savvy Citizen on January 6, 2022.

Log-in information can be found at chalfantborough-pa.org or by calling the borough office at 412-823-6500. Motion was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hoover read Dr. Pustorino resignation letter, effective January 1, 2022.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Fullwood, to accept Dr. Pustorino's resignation from Council. Motion was unanimous. Mr. Hoover noted that he hates to see her go and Mr. Lilac agreed.

Mr. Hoover addressed Mr. Swinney, explaining that Chalfant is looking for a volunteer to take over the responsibilities of the Newsletter. Mr. Hoover also advised that Crime Watch may be interested in considering a "Senior Check-in Network" at the suggestion of Ms. Fennell. Mr. Hoover said it would be good to have a list of seniors that would like to participate. Volunteers could check in with participating seniors and help keep track of residents and their needs. Mr. Hoover also noted that Chalfant uses the Savvy Citizen alert system. The system could be great for keeping residents up to date with borough information, but at this time, there are only around 30 residents from Chalfant enrolled in Savvy Citizen. A discussion about creating a Senior Check-in Network ensued between Mr. Swinney and members of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

