

## **BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION**

**July 11, 2023.**

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

ABSENT: Mr. Sauter

The work session began at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 9:00 p.m.

## **BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING**

**July 12, 2023**

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

ABSENT: Ms. Hillen

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

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

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

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

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

## **MAYOR**

There were 166 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 25, 911 calls in June. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 2 - Missing juveniles
- 2 - Parking complaints
- 2 - Suspicious incidents
- 3 - Domestic
- 4 - Ordinance violations

There were no questions from Council

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### **SOLICITOR**

Sol. Evashavik advised that the assessment ratio for Allegheny County property taxes is expected to decrease further from the current ratio of 63.53 percent, possibly resulting in less borough tax revenue. Municipalities should be aware of this when preparing their 2024 budgets.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

No report.

### **PERMITS AND ORDINANCES**

Ms. Fullwood advised that one building permit was issued in June. Four new code enforcement cases opened in June and five closed. There were 14 cases continued.

Ms. Fullwood advised that there were two occupancy permits issued for sales/transfers.

Mr. Hoover noted that Governor Shapiro has appointed Lisa Caulfield as magistrate for District Court 05-2-08 until voters elect a magistrate in November. Mr. Hoover hopes that with a stable magistrate in place, code issues in the borough will be easier to address.

### **ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Sauter noted progress in the borough and asked residents to let him know of any issues.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to pay the TCVCOG invoice in the amount of \$48,948.75 for local share of the CD 47 Reconstruction of the 200 and 300 blocks of Lynnwood Avenue which was previously approved at the December 14, 2022 Council meeting. This project has now been approved by Liquid Fuels to be paid from the Highway Aid Account. A bank transfer will be made in December. The motion was unanimous.

### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

Ms. Fennell noted that she has nothing to report from Health and Sanitation but planning for Community Day is going well. Community Day is going to be terrific this year. The Community Day Committee has received a \$100 donation from Owen Lilac, a \$100 donation from Carol Fennell, which was used to pay the bounce house deposit, a \$100 donation from Evaskavik Law, and a \$25 donation from Churchill Vision Works. The total of donations as of the June deposits

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is \$1,800. Mr. Royster recently submitted a \$200 donation and the Wilkins Elks is expected to give a \$200 donation as well. These donations will appear with the July deposits at the August meeting. Ms. Fennell said that the Wilkins Elks also graciously donated posters for this year's Community Day which will be distributed to be posted in the community.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Royster advised that there were no calls to the Chalfant VFC in June.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to pay the invoice in the amount of \$1,400.00 from Mears, Smith, Houser, and Boyle, attorneys at law, for legal services pertaining to the Chalfant VFC merger.

### **WHEMS**

Mr. Royster advised there were three calls to WHEMS in June. He read the date and outcome of each incident.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Fullwood, to transfer \$578.64 from the General Fund MM Account to the WHEMS Account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in June. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Royster advised that WHEMS director, Frank Mastendrea, attended the Council work session on Tuesday to address the invoices that some residents have received from Eastern Area EMS when WHEMS was not available to take the call. Mr. Mastendrea has pledged to resolve the issue and honor the promise that no Chalfant residents will be responsible for EMS invoices under the agreement with the borough.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY**

No report. Mr. Lilac noted that the park is looking good. Mr. Hoover said that Mr. Lilac did a nice job painting the refreshment stand.

### **CRIME WATCH**

Ms. Bouvier said the CW is interested in purchasing signs for the park but was advised that the signs must state "sponsored by Crime Watch" which will require a custom sign order and drive up cost. Mr. Hoover said CW can purchase stickers to place on the sign, which will be less expensive than paying for a custom sign. Ms. Bouvier advised that there is no date set for the

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next meeting but she would love to schedule either Lisa or Tom Caulfield to address residents. Ms. Bouvier said she attended a Forest Hills Council meeting and discovered that Forest Hills no longer has a Crime Watch. Ms. Bouvier advised she would be reaching out to Pitcarin's Crime Watch. Ms. Bouvier then discussed several recent matters with Council, including a dispute between one of her neighbors and their landlord, an issue of zoning, a vandalized car that has been parked in the borough, and the cut wood that was recently left by the tree service hired by Duquesne Light Company to trim trees along the power lines. Mr. Hoover advised that Code Enforcement will not be citing property owners for the wood left on their properties.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Ms. Donahue advised that Woodland Hills School District taxes were mailed on July 1st. If any residents did not receive their tax bill, please give Ms. Donahue a call. Ms. Donahue noted that there was a slight reduction of .5 mill for WHSD taxes for 2023.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Luanne Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., asked for an update on the street sweeper. Mr. Sauter said he would ask the DPW. Ms. Bouvier described an email she recently received from a former resident who was critical of the borough. Mr. Hoover said that he disagreed with the former resident's email; the criticism is ignorant and people like that part of the problem, they sell their properties fast and cheap to out-of-state LLCs and companies that do the bare minimum of upkeep for rental properties. Mr. Hoover advised that he has no patience for people who don't live here and do nothing to help or be part of the community. Ms. Bouvier asked Mr. Lilac for an update on purchasing cameras for the park. Mr. Lilac said the borough is still waiting to hear from Senator Costa regarding a grant.

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., asked about an incident at the park the previous month and if the issue had been resolved by the police. Mayor Perry advised that he and Mr. Hoover recently had a meeting with Chief Williams and he reviewed the incident report. All 911 calls were addressed by the Forest Hills Police, and at 8:30 pm, party-goers were asked to vacate the park. Mayor Perry advised there were two groups of people at the park that day and the group that had paid for a pavilion rental permit were not the same people that were causing an issue. A discussion regarding police response and mutual aid ensued between Council and residents attending the meeting.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hoover advised that 211 Wilkins Avenue was acquired by the Tri-COG Land Bank and then sold to Fortuna LLC. The house was built in the 1930s and was one of the original houses in the borough. It is located in an R1 (single family) zoned district but it is a duplex with two units. Mr. Hoover advised the house has existed as two units for quite some time and the borough is unable to prove whether it was divided into two units before or after the district was zoned as R1. Because Chalfant's zoning map was changed a few times and because the borough is unable to determine when the house was split into a duplex, the borough will not be challenging the zoning and will allow the house to remain a two-family duplex in an R1 zoned district.

Because of recent issues at the Chalfant Servicemen's Memorial Park, Council reviewed the park rules and regulations at the work session on Tuesday evening. Mr. Hoover advised that the park rules are pretty solid, but Council has decided to update the rules from 'no open flames' to specifically state that 'no grills are permitted in the park.' Mr. Hoover noted that Crock Pots, and George-Forman-type grills, etc. are still allowed. Both property owners and residents pay taxes to the borough and are thereby entitled to rent the pavilion at the park; non-residents/non-property-owners must have a borough sponsor who plans to be present for the entirety of the event for pavilion rentals. Mr. Hoover noted that Council has decided to change the rental procedure for the park; Borough Secretary Stephanie Schwoegl will be responsible for issuing pavilion rental permits through the borough office. All of Council will be notified when a rental is to occur and Mr. Lilac will be the designated contact for any issues at the park. The police will continue to be in charge of monitoring the park and enforcing the rules. Mr. Hoover advised residents to allow the police to do their jobs, and to not insert themselves into situations at the park. Rental Coordinator, Leonard Wroblewski, will continue to be the contact for Community Center rentals.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to limit pavilion rentals to 50 people and to require a rental permit for any gatherings over 10 people. The motion was unanimous.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary Council President