

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

July 8, 2025

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

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:23 p.m.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

July 9, 2025

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Mss. Fullwood, Hillen, Sivak, 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 Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to amend the agenda to reflect the attendance of the WHSD Superintendent, Dr. Joe Maluchnik, and WHSD School Board Member, Mike Belmonte.

Dr. Maluchnik introduced himself, detailing his background and experience. He acknowledged room for improvement within the school district and said he wants to be held accountable, to be accessible, and to devote time to students, families, and the community. Dr. Maluchnik said he would like to recruit charter school students back to the public schools and that charter students are falling behind. Dr. Maluchnik encouraged residents to reach out if there's anything that they need and thanked Council for giving him time to address the community. Mr. Hoover thanked Dr. Maluchnik for attending.

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

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

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, 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 180 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department in June. The majority of the 911 calls were:

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- 3- Parking complaints
- 3- Hazardous conditions
- 2- EMS calls
- 2- Civil disputes

There were no questions from Council.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

No report.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that seven cases were opened in June, one case was closed, and 77 cases were continued. There are 45 citations currently at the magistrate.

There were three initial occupancy inspections, and two Certificates of Occupancy were issued, one with violations.

There was one building permit issued and one building permit pending commercial review. There were three dumpster permits issued. There were no solicitation permits issued; there are currently no ongoing solicitation permits.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Sauter advised the 2025 Street Improvements paving has been mostly completed. There was a water main break on Wilkins Ave. right after it was paved. The water company will restore the road. There is still some overgrowth and other issues that need to be addressed; Mr. Sauter will provide a list to the DPW. If residents are aware of any other issues, please let Mr. Sauter know.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND WHEMS

Motion by Royster, seconded by Hillen to transfer \$83.38 from the GFMM account to the WHEMS MM account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in June. The motion was unanimous.

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Mr. Royster advised that there were three calls to WHEMS in June. He read the street, date, and outcomes of each call.

Mr. Royster advised that there were two calls to the Forest Hills VFC in June. He read the street and nature of each call.

ALCOSAN

No report.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Sivak, to pay the Signs by Tomorrow invoice in the amount of \$2,300.00 for two high-density urethane “Welcome to Chalfant” signs at a total cost of \$2,300.00. This expense was discussed and approved by Council at the June meeting.

CRIME WATCH

Ms. Bouvier advised she sent her confidential CW report to Council and Mayor Perry. Ms. Bouvier thanked Mr. Lilac for posted the CW sign at Brighton and John St. Ms. Bouvier explained that she hopes to hold a fall CW meeting with the Assistant DA, Julie Capone, and Tom and Lisa Caulfield. Ms. Bouvier said the Parkway Steps look terrible and that the borough should contract someone to take care of it. Residents use the steps to get down to and from the bus stop and she’s received complaints. Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Bouvier for her report.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue advised that the WHSD tax bills have been mailed. If anyone did not receive their bill, please reach out to Ms. Donahue. The discount period ends at the end of August.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Paul Ohodnicki, Highland Avenue, stated that he’s lived in the borough for 65 years. He’s previously served on Chalfant Council as well. Mr. Ohodnicki explained that he’s no retired and intends to become more involved in the community. He agreed with Ms. Bouvier that the Parkway Steps are in need of maintenance. Mr. Ohodnicki detailed several other complaints,

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including overgrowth along North Avenue and buildup behind the barriers, which he says are both safety concerns.

Michael Pearce, 201 Wilkins, read the following statement, which he provided to Borough Manager, Stephanie Schwoegl, in writing following the meeting: I am here as a resident of this borough. I feel it is important that the council to know that a certain council member is breaking the law. We have laws for a reason. Probably everyone here owns and drives a vehicle. You pay every year to get your vehicle inspected. You do it for safety and because it is the law. Pennsylvania vehicle code 75 section 4703 states that it is illegal to drive an uninspected vehicle. Again, this is a STATE LAW, not some borough ordinance. A council member feels that he is above the law. He consistently drives a vehicle that is out of inspection. This is not just out by a month or two. I personally had a vehicle that was out of inspection by 2 months. Forest Hills Police issued me a ticket. This councilman's vehicle is out of inspection since September of 2021. That is 3 years and 10 months. When I notified the incompetent Forest Hills Police, they responded and gave him a pass. This councilman used his position as a council member to avoid getting any tickets. That is pure corruption. This individual is running for Mayor. I think out of respect for the reputation of our borough that he needs to resign from council and withdraw from the mayoral race. We can't have a council member nor mayor flaunting his power to avoid laws. If he does not resign, I will proceed with another lawsuit against this borough for discrimination. You can't cite a resident but give council members a pass because they are on Council.

Joanne Bissell, 244 Highland Ave., said that there was really good communication and clean up with the recent road work and thanked Council. Ms. Bissell said there's a picnic bench in the basketball courts and that the borough needs to avoid an environment that creates bad choices. Ms. Bissell said there are broken bleachers at the park that should be removed. She also stated that she feels there's an area around the refreshment stand that is a safety concern for residents walking the track in the mornings and the evenings; she would like to see mirrors put up so walkers can see around behind the refreshment stand.

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., thanked Ms. Sivak for cleaning the Community Center for her rental and stated that her daughter walked into the building and noted how fresh and clean it was. Ms. Libell said, though, that there was some confusion about getting the keys to the center for her rental. She said that with so many people involved in the process, it was confusing who the point of contact was. Mr. Hoover agreed and said that as of last night, rental coordination for both the park pavilion and Community Center has been shifted to Health and Community Engagement, and Ms. Sivak will be taking on the responsibility moving forward. Ms. Libell asked about Ms. Gallagher's overgrown property on Lynnwood. Mr. Hoover stated that the borough is actively looking for a landscaper to take on some additional work, including Ms.

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Gallagher's yard if the bank won't take responsibility. He explained that many landscapers don't even want to get involved with the Parkway Steps due to the large amount of poison ivy.

Luanne Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., stated that she agrees with Ms. Bissell about the park and thinks the basketball hoops should be removed. She would like to see the park revamped for residents instead of people who don't live in the borough. Mr. Hoover stated to please call the police if residents observe illegal activity and advised the borough has very good cameras in place at the park.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS.

A condemnation hearing was held last month for 117 West St. It is held that the subject property at 117 West Street constitutes a fire, health, and safety hazard, is in violation of Chalfant Borough Ordinances, and is a public nuisance. It is not structurally sound, and it is not economically feasible to rehabilitate it. It is found that the only practical way to abate the nuisance is to raze the structure. Based upon all of the evidence presented at the hearing, Borough Council hereby declares the subject property to be a public nuisance and orders that the nuisance be abated by razing the building and the costs of razing and all attendant proceedings be liened. Motion by Hillen, seconded by Lilac, to approve the adjudication for 117 West St. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fullwood, to issue a refund to Jacqueline Vinning in the amount of \$23.05 for the overpayment of borough RE tax on 239 North Ave, per Tax Collector, Carol Donahue. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sivak, seconded by Sauter, to upgrade the Public Safety Building alarm system from radio technology to cellular technology at a cost of \$660.00. Of that amount, \$350.00 is for the equipment upgrade and \$310.00 is for service fees and labor. The alarm system had been increasingly malfunctioning, and after multiple service calls to resolve the issue, Security Systems of America determined the radio equipment was failing. The motion was unanimous.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

None.

