

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

**June 8, 2021**

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Dr. Pustorino, Mss Baburich, Fullwood, Messrs. Hoover, Syska, Royster, Lilac

ABSENT: None.

The work session began at 7:05 pm and ended at 8:55 pm.

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

**June 9, 2021**

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Dr. Pustorino, Mss. Baburich, Fullwood, Messrs. Hoover, Syska, Royster, Lilac, Solicitor Evashavik.

ABSENT: None.

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

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

Motion by Baburich, seconded by Royster, to approve the bank balances as read. Motion was unanimous.

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

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

Mr. Hoover noted the return to in-person meetings, which was properly advertised, and asked that all attending follow CDC's face mask guidelines.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor Perry presented the 2021 Good Neighbor Award to Derrick Royster. Mayor Perry advised that Mr. Royster has been a good neighbor to the community of Chalfant for many years, always taking the time to help out others. Mr. Royster's dedication to his community has not gone unnoticed; in fact, he was appointed to Council when a vacancy occurred in 2019. Mayor Perry explained that since joining Council, Mr. Royster has done a very capable job. Mayor Perry congratulated Mr. Royster and thanked him for being a good neighbor. Mr. Royster thanked Mayor Perry for the award and said that everyone in the room is just as deserving of the award as he is. Mr. Royster said that he's been a resident for 13 or 14 years and has come to love Chalfant; that Chalfant reminds Mr. Royster of where he comes from and he is proud and honored to serve his community.

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Mayor Perry advised that there were 180 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 31, 911 calls in May. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 5- Disturbances
- 4- Suspicious activities
- 3- Harassment calls
- 2- Accident reports
- 2- Domestic violence
- 2- Alarm calls

Mayor Perry explained that there is an ongoing nuisance situation between neighbors in apartments at 243 North Avenue. The police have been called to the address repeatedly for childish neighbor disputes and back-and-forths. If it continues, the landlord and the tenants involved will be cited. Mayor Perry encouraged everyone to continue to call 911 for any concerns in the borough but noted that childish, nuisance behavior will not be tolerated.

Mayor Perry had a plaque made to commemorate the life of Gerry Evashavik, Sol. Evashavik's father. Gerry Evashavik formerly represented Council as their solicitor as Sol. Evashavik does now. Mayor Perry noted how proud Gerry Evashavik was of his children, Sol. Evashavik being the youngest. The plaque with his obituary will be hung in a prominent place in the Chalfant Community Center in remembrance. Sol. Evashavik thanked Mayor Perry and Council and stated that it is sincerely appreciated.

### **SOLICITOR**

No report.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Pustorino advised that Chalfant's website, which is hosted by the PA State Association of Boroughs, has updates ongoing which has resulted in some technology issues. Dr. Pustorino explained that if residents are accessing the website on older devices, the website indexes out content. Asking residents to update their technology is not feasible so Dr. Pustorino advised that she will continue to work with the PSAB on the issue.

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Dr. Pustorino advised that the Braddock Library has installed a story-walk at Chalfant Servicemen's Memorial Park; a children's book's pages were unbound, laminated and posted around the track at the park for an interactive experience aimed at increasing literacy. The Braddock Library will continue to host story-walks throughout the summer in Chalfant and other community parks. Dr. Pustorino advised residents that if they notice any vandalism or issues with the story-walk, to please let the borough know so the library can be notified.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$45,000 from the General Fund Money Market account to the General Fund Checking. Motion was unanimous

### **PERMITS AND ORDINANCE**

Ms. Baburich advised that work on the CodeNforce reporting system continues. The CodeNforce team is working with Chalfant to develop comprehensive, system-generated code enforcement reports each month.

Ms. Baburich read a detailed list of new cases opened in May, 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.

### **ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Syska advised that a collapsed storm drain on Lynnwood has been repaired, the yellow line has been repainted across from the VFC and a handicapped sign has been removed from 115 Parkway at the owner's request. Mr. Syska also advised that Duquesne Light has been notified concerning the sidewalk collapse at the pole in front of the Mayor's house but there has been no resolution to the issue as of yet.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Lilac, to pay the Duquesne Light invoice in the amount of \$1,526.00 for the installation of LED streetlights on Elizabeth Ave. and Wilkins Ave. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Fullwood, to advertise Ordinance 437 updating the weight limits of the streets and alleys in Chalfant; West St. will be changed to 20 tons to allow for access into and out of the former Westinghouse site. All other municipal streets and alleys will remain at five tons, excepting local deliveries, refuse vehicles and emergency services. Motion was unanimous.

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**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

Ms. Fullwood advised that the sewer repairs to Highland Ave. have begun using the pipe burst method. Ms. Fullwood asked residents for their patience while the work is being completed.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Royster advised that there were four incidents reported by the VFC in May. Mr. Royster explained that a report was not provided so he does not know the details of each call.

**PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Mr. Lilac advised that the DPW has been shortanded for the last couple of months but that they are beginning to catch up on work and that the park is looking nice. Mr. Lilac is working to obtain bids for trimming the trees at the park along Elizabeth Ave. and Chalfant St. The deposit for the removal of the tree on Highland Ave. on borough property has been paid and work will hopefully begin at the end of June.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Baburich, to accept the two-year Comcast contract of \$99.99/month plus surcharges and fees and an installation fee of \$99.95 for wifi service at the Chalfant Community Center. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Pustorino, to purchase a modem and router for the Community Center in the amounts of \$79.99 for the modem and \$49.99 for the router. Motion was unanimous. Ms Fullwood asked if the wifi information will be given to residents renting the Community Center. Mr. Hoover advised that yes, it would be provided if it is requested.

**WHEMS**

Mr. Royster advised there were 11 calls to WHEMS in May. He read the date, location and outcome of each incident.

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Motion by Royster, seconded by Syska, to transfer \$631.25 from the General Fund MM Account to the WHEMS MM Account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in May. Motion was unanimous

### **CRIME WATCH**

Mark Swinney explained that he had no report at this time but noted that he did receive the updated resident camera network list for 2021 from Ms. Schwoegl.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Ms. Donahue advised that she would like to speak to Sol. Evashavik after the meeting regarding updating a resolution for the collection of tax certification fees.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A resident that did not identify himself asked Mayor Perry who they are supposed to call for safety concerns if not the police? Mayor Perry explained that he wants everyone to call 911 if there is a concern; the issue at 243 North Ave. that he noted at the beginning of the meeting exceeds the reasonable number of calls to the police for that particular situation and has crossed into nuisance territory. The resident then stated that he is handicapped and has had issues with parking in the borough; all of the handicapped parking spots were full on Election Day and young people that do not appear to be disabled frequently park in the handicapped spots at the park. The resident also complained of speeding on the Greensburg Pike, a hit and run incident, and his neighbors' noise level. Mayor Perry advised that he would follow up with Forest Hills Police Chief Williams regarding the speeding and parking complaints and reiterated that residents should call 911 for any situation they feel is necessary. A discussion between the resident and council regarding his various complaints ensued, with Council explaining that there is a noise ordinance in place and that residents should call 911 for any excessive noise occurring past 10 p.m.

Carol Fennel, 1012 Pin Oak Ct., asked Ms. Baburich what the cases were that she was referring to during her report? Ms. Baburich explained that the cases are ordinance violations addressed by Code Enforcement. Ms. Fennel explained that her neighbors put trash out a day early during holiday weeks where collection is delayed by one day; critters occasionally get into the trash and create a mess. Ms. Fennel asked if anything could be done?

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Mr. Hoover explained that he hopes residents are able to follow the collection schedule but noted that occasionally people forget with holiday collections. If the problem continues, Council might ask Code Enforcement to address the situation. Ms. Fennel asked if a path from Pin Oak Ct. to the park could be weed whacked; the knotweed has grown to a point that makes the path unnavigable. Ms. Fennel also complained about trees “in various stages of falling down” near the park and her property. Sol. Evashavik advised that the responsibility would fall on the property owner and that the borough will have to consult borough maps and Municipal Engineer, Robert Zischkau, regarding the situation. Council thanked Ms. Fennel for her comments.

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., asked when there would be a date set for the Highland Ave. sanitary sewer repair. Mr. Hoover explained that there are no repairs slated for Ms. Bouvier’s end of Highland. Mr. Hoover advised that if Ms. Bouvier is speaking about the storm inlet repair, the storm inlet on her end of Highland may or may not be included in the storm inlet rehabilitation this year; storm inlets will be assessed by Mr. Zischkau for priority and bids will be obtained. Ms. Bouvier complained that on Election Day, the grass at the Community Center was tall and remarked that it was pretty sad to see it like that during the election; when the grass was eventually cut, it wasn’t bagged. Mr. Lilac explained that the DPW was prioritizing the park maintenance while they were short-handed. Ms. Bouvier then asked about the Jubilee Tree at the park and when it would be replaced? Dr. Pustorino explained that the Jubilee Tree was an Oak tree that became diseased and died. It will need to be removed before it can be replaced. Mr. Hoover said the project had been on hold due to COVID-19 but will be addressed. A discussion about the Jubilee Tree and also about the tree set for removal on Highland Ave. ensued between Council and residents.

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., said that it is good to be back at the Community Center for meetings and she is happy to see everyone healthy. Ms. Libell then stated that Peoples Gas recently completed a pipeline replacement project in the borough and did a terrible job with the restoration that created messes in residents’ front yards. Ms. Libell then asked what Council’s plan is for the time capsule? Mr. Hoover explained that it will go back on the pedestal empty and all of the mementos that had been included in the capsule will remain on display at the Community Center.

Mark Swinney, 127 West St., asked Ms. Schwoegl if she has received anything from the county regarding Chalfant’s Hazard Mitigation Plan? Ms. Schwoegl advised that no, she had not received anything and Mr. Hoover stated as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Chalfant, anything regarding the mitigation plan should come through Mr. Swinney.

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Mr. Swinney complained of a recent incident at Chalfant park where kids or teenagers were behaving in an arrogant and ignorant manner. Mr. Swinney advised that he called 911 but then decided to leave. Mr. Swinney asked what business is interested in the old Westinghouse site located in Chalfant and Forest Hills at the end of West St. Mr. Hoover explained that a truck driving academy is interested in moving into the vacant space. Mr. Swinney then stated his opposition to the truck driving school citing increased traffic. Mr. Hoover explained that there will not be a constant flow of truck traffic from the academy and that West St. has always been zoned for industrial use and is already used by tractor trailers for deliveries to businesses on the street.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Pustorino advised that the Tri-COG Land Bank has sent Notice of Intent to Acquire 211 Wilkins Ave. Mr. Hoover explained that the Land Bank recently did a walk through at the property and determined it could be rehabilitated and placed back on the tax roll. Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Fullwood, to approve TCLB's Notice of Intent to Acquire 211 Wilkins Ave. and to agree to waive all tax and municipal claims upon the TCLB's acquisition of the property. A discussion regarding the Land Bank and the properties they have already acquired at 105-109 Lynnwood Ave. and 224 Highland Ave. ensued between residents and Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

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

