

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

June 7, 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 9:10 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

June 8, 2022

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

ABSENT: Sol. Evashavik, Mr. Sauter

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 from the last regular meeting. The motion was unanimous.

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

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

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

MAYOR

Mayor Perry advised that there were 170 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 35 911 calls in May. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 3- Traffic stops
- 4 - Med unit assists
- 2 - Animal complaints
- 2 - Neighbor disputes
- 2- Landlord/tenant disputes
- 2- Suspicious activites
- 2- Moving traffic complaints

There were no questions from Council.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Hoover advised that Council and Sol. Evashavik are still working on the ordinance regulating the registration of non-owner occupied units. Council is expected to make a motion to advertise the ordinance next month.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood explained that she does not have anything to report this month, but that she does have one motion to make.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Hillen, to transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund Money Market account to the General Fund Checking to cover the cost of the June invoices. The motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

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 10 cases were closed in May.

There were no questions from Council.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Hoover advised that several stop signs have been replaced; new signs for the park were ordered and installed by the DPW including a large “no dogs” sign and a sign stating that the park closes at dusk. Mr. Hoover explained that the DPW plans to repaint the yellow lines in the borough if they are able to get the paint needed for the work; paint is becoming increasingly difficult to get these days. Mr. Lilac mentioned that there is an issue with the road patching that was done in front of his house by Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority. Mr. Hoover advised asking the DPW to call WPJWA regarding the issue.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Ms. Fennell advised that she does not have any new information for Health and Sanitation to report but she that she is excited to provide an update for the Chalfant Community Day to be held on Sunday, August 14, 2022. Ms. Fennell explained that everything is moving along fantastically. She expects it to be a fun, fun day. So far, three bands and two food trucks are

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booked for the event, along with other food vendors that plan to set up tables. The Roll Up food truck is expected to be selling tacos, burritos, and french fries with cheese. Jerry from Tugboats is expected to set up a booth and sell hot sausage. Dosa Cupcakes will have a vendor table for desserts. Ms. Fennell explained that she also booked a face painter and balloon artist for the event. Ms. Fennell is still looking for monetary donations and for people to donate raffle baskets for the silent auction. Nancy and Friends is going to donate a gift card for salon services. The bands include Trip Lotus, a local Indie Rock band of high school students, Jerry DeMaria, and Dallas Marks. Ms. Fennell advised that she is also looking into getting a large tent and chairs for the day. She encouraged residents to bring their own bag chairs to the event as well.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster advised that there was one incident reported by the VFC in May. Mr. Royster read a detailed narrative of the call with the date, location, and the number of members attending.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that there isn't much new information to report. Hooper Roofing will hopefully get started next week on the roof replacement at the Public Safety Building. Mr. Lilac advised that Hooper Roofing is still working to get all of the needed materials for the project. Mr. Lilac added that the park is in great shape and the roof of the Community Center has been draining well.

WHEMS

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

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$584.80 from the General Fund Money Market account to the Designated WHEMS account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in May. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Royster explained that there have still been reported issues with the company providing the billing for WHEMS. If any resident is charged for services, please contact the billing company that issued the invoice and request a refund. Please let the borough know of the issue.

CRIME WATCH

Mr. Swinney advised that he canceled the Crime Watch meeting at the beginning of June because he emailed Chief Williams and requested that a police officer attend the meeting but did not get a response. Mr. Swinney explained that he provided his email and cell number; the fact that he did

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not receive a response from the chief bugged him. Mr. Hoover explained that Officer Petrie did not receive his request until the day of the meeting and that he did show up to the meeting but found that it had been canceled without notice. Mr. Swinney said he would find a date that works for Officer Petrie and reschedule. Mr. Hoover advised that the request should have gone through Council or Mayor Perry and that the police would like a list of the questions that Crime Watch has ahead of the next meeting so they can be prepared to answer their questions. Mr. Swinney said that he does not need to go through Council or Mayor Perry to call the police chief. Officer Petrie was in attendance and discussed the issue with Mr. Swinney; Mr. Swinney stated that he would get the questions ahead of time and that he understands that the police aren't able to provide information on ongoing investigations. Mr. Swinney and Officer Petrie discussed possible dates for the next Crime Watch meeting and tentatively agreed on the evening of June 30, 2022. A discussion regarding multiple incidents ensued between Officer Petrie, residents in attendance, and Council. Mr. Hoover then asked why Mr. Swinney posted to a Facebook Friends and Family page about the park cameras; Mr. Hoover called the decision to do so extremely poor judgment, especially as the head of the Crime Watch. Mr. Swinney disagreed with Mr. Hoover and stated that cameras aren't a crime deterrent. An argument regarding the cameras ensued between Council and Mr. Swinney; Council agreed that Mr. Swinney should not have made the post online and that the Crime Watch meeting should not have been canceled at the last minute without any notice to the community.

TAX COLLECTOR

No report.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Carol Donahue, 110 Greenfield Ave., said that she heard that there had been a burglary on West St. and asked what happened? Mr. Hoover explained that there was a theft from a business. Mr. Hoover stated that the weather is warming up and with it, the borough usually sees an increase in crime. Mr. Hoover advised there had been some recent vandalism at the park, as well as an incident there where a van with several young men in it was loitering at the park and making park patrons uncomfortable. Mr. Hoover noted that the incident was handled first by Ms. Hillen and then the police; the van was pulled over in Forest Hills after leaving Chalfant and the matter was addressed. Ms. Donahue explained that she no longer walks at the park and is afraid at certain times of the day there. Mr. Hoover said that Ms. Donahue should not be afraid to walk in the park and suggested taking her cell phone with her when she is there. A discussion of the van incident and park safety ensued between Council and residents in attendance.

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Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., asked Mayor Perry why he didn't report on the van incident in his monthly report? Mayor Perry explained that it was included in his report but was an isolated incident, as was the burglary on West St. He explained that his report focuses mostly on recurrent incidents. Mayor Perry explained that ongoing investigations are not public information and if residents have specific questions, please call him and he will do his best to provide answers. Ms. Libell stated that she understands the incidents were isolated situations and that it sounds like the incidents have been handled well by both Ms. Hillen and the police. Ms. Libell then asked Mr. Royster what the VFC made in last month's hoagie fundraiser. Mr. Royster advised that the VFC made \$731.71 in profit. Ms. Libell asked Ms. Fennell if she would be making fliers for Community Day? Ms. Fennell said yes, signs and fliers will be posted for Community Day; she also plans on requesting that Star Media publish the information on the billboard on Ardmore Blvd. Star Media has agreed to advertise community events for free. Ms. Libell asked Mr. Swinney who else is on the Crime Watch committee? Mr. Swinney said he is looking for committee members, he is the only Crime Watch committee member at this time.

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., asked Mayor Perry about the suspicious incidents in his report. Mayor Perry advised that one incident was the van at the park that has already been discussed and another was an incident on North Ave. where a man was seen getting in and out of cars. Ms. Bouvier asked Mr. Royster how much the Chalfant VFC brings in with resident donations? Mr. Royster explained that the VFC has not provided that information but he can try to find out the answer to her question. Mr. Hoover explained that in his experience, volunteer fire companies receive donations from about 25% of residents in a community and the average donation is usually around \$45. Mr. Hoover stated that he's sure Ms. Wroblewski would be happy to let Ms. Bouvier know the exact amount. Ms. Bouvier then asked Mr. Lilac for an update on the camera upgrade at the park. Mr. Lilac explained that the borough has received several quotes and they are all between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Mr. Hoover added that Council will not move forward with upgrading the park cameras until they receive funding or get an estimate that isn't outrageous. There are buildings that need new roofs and maintenance work; there isn't room in the budget for a \$30,000 camera system. Mr. Hoover added that the old cameras are over 10 years old and the technology is obsolete. A discussion ensued between Council and residents regarding the cameras. Ms. Donahue asked if there was a way to get information to residents that do not use social media or to check in on the elderly as Ms. Fennell had previously suggested. Mr. Hoover said that he previously suggested that the Crime Watch looks at setting something up for elderly residents. The Forest Hills police are eliminating the Swiftreach system and are replacing it with Savvy Citizen but have provided the option of robocalls for residents that have called the police station and requested the service.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hoover advised that the Tri-COG Land Bank has sent notice of proposed property disposition with an objection deadline of July 24, 2022, for 211 Wilkins Ave. The TCLB intends to market 211 Wilkins to an owner-occupant or a developer committed to selling the property to an owner-occupant. If no qualifying applications for such use are received within 90 days of when the property is available for sale, the TCLB will consider other applicants. Motion by Lilac, seconded by Fennell, to waive the 60-day objection period for 211 Wilkins Avenue. If all relevant taxing jurisdictions agree to the disposition, the disposition process may be expedited. The motion was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Hillen, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

