

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

March 9, 2021

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

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

ABSENT: None.

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:32 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

March 10, 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 Baburich, seconded by Royster, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion was unanimous.

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

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

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

MAYOR

There were 159 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 23, 911 calls in February. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 5- Domestic
- 2- Med unit assists
- 2- False alarms
- 2- Mutual aid requests

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Mr. Lilac asked if Mayor Perry felt the number 911 calls were high last month? Mayor Perry said no, he believes it's right in line with the average range of calls. Mayor Perry explained that if he feels like there's a trend, he'll let Council know. Mayor Perry added that he's glad when residents call 911 to report issues in the borough.

SOLICITOR

Sol. Evashavik had no report but noted that the state is now permitting mobile delivery devices, which are essentially delivery robots. Chalfant should be given a 30 day notice if mobile delivery devices will be used in the borough. A discussion regarding mobile delivery devices ensued between Council and Sol. Evashavik.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Pustorino advised that the website has been updated and will now read easier on mobile devices. Dr. Pustorino explained that the PSAB advised that it is possible for residents to pull old versions of the website from their history; if residents are seeing old content and no updates to the website, please clear cookies and that should revert the website to the up-to-date version.

Dr. Pustorino advised that the WPJWA moratorium on water shut-offs is ending on March 31st. Information regarding the moratorium ending is up on the borough website.

The WHSD is attempting to resume in-person schooling on 3/29 with a hybrid schedule. Vaccinations for teachers are planned in the coming weeks and will hopefully curb community spread of COVID-19. Information regarding the WHSD return to in-person schooling will be posted to the website and on Facebook.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Fullwood, to transfer \$27,000 from the General Fund Money Market account to the General Fund Checking. Motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCE

Ms. Baburich advised that there were three occupancy inspections in February; all passed inspection.

There were 13 new cases opened between 2/1/21 and 2/28/21.

- 1- Brighton St.
- 2- Elizabeth Ave.

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- 2- Greenfield Ave.
- 2- Greensburg Pike
- 1- Highland Ave.
- 1- Lynnwood Ave.
- 2- North Ave.
- 2- Pin Oak Ct.

There were three cases closed during that period.

Mr. Hoover explained that Code Enforcement has suggested a disruptive conduct ordinance in light of some recent complaints in the borough. The ordinance would require information regarding disruptive conduct be shared between the police and code enforcement; code enforcement would then notify property owners/landlords of the issues occurring at their properties. After three instances of disruptive conduct, these ordinances usually require the landlords evict their tenants but Mr. Hoover explained that these types of ordinances are regularly challenged in court and are found to be unconstitutional. Mr. Hoover asked Sol. Evashavik if there would be an issue for the police and code enforcement to share information without such an ordinance in place. Sol. Evashavik advised that there would be no problem with the police and code enforcement working together to identify nuisance properties. Mayor Perry agreed and advised he will discuss the issue with Chief Williams. Mr. Hoover asked if Council had any concerns and there were none.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

No report.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Lilac, to accept Independent Enterprises' bid for the CD 46 Brighton St. Reconstruction in the amount of \$20,480. The project will be covered entirely by the \$25,000 CDBG grant; there is no local match requirement. Motion was unanimous.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Ms. Fullwood advised that bids for the Highland Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs were received on March 2nd at the Community Center. Two bids were received; one from State Pipe Services, Inc. and another from Soli Construction, Inc. The low bidder was State Pipe Services. Borough

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Engineer, Robert Zischkau, is familiar with State Pipe Services and has recommended Council accept their low bid.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Syska, to accept State Pipe Services, Inc.'s bid of \$29,775 for the Highland Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs. Motion was unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster advised that there were three calls to the Chalfant VFC in February. He read the dates, a detailed narrative of each call, and the number of members attending.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that he found lights for the pavilion at the park to replace the ones that were vandalized.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Baburich, to purchase a two pack of outdoor security lights from Home Depot at a cost of \$232.89. Motion was unanimous.

Mr. Lilac advised the Port-a-John will be back in the park in April. The first invoice will be \$181 for the monthly fee and installation and then \$126/month thereafter.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Royster, to accept the initial fee of \$181 and the monthly fee of \$126 for the Port-a-John from April to November. Motion was unanimous.

Mr. Lilac advised that he knows of more residents interested in the "slow down" signs that Ms. Fullwood has provided to residents. Mr. Lilac also noted that more people are using the park now that the weather is improving; he suggested purchasing signs for the park that state social distancing is required to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Pustorino, to purchase signs for the park not exceeding \$20. Motion was unanimous.

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WHEMS

Mr. Royster advised there were eight calls to WHEMS in February. He read the date, location and outcome of each incident. Mr. Royster explained a resident was recently invoiced for a call to WHEMS. Ambulance services are now covered by the designated WHEMS tax; no resident should be billed for services. Mr. Hoover explained that if you are a resident and are billed by WHEMS, please let them know and they will take care of the issue. If they fail to resolve the issue, let the borough know and we will take care of it.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$19.25 from the General Fund MM Account to the WHEMS MM Account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in February. Motion was unanimous.

CRIME WATCH

No report.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue thanked Dr. Pustorino for posting the tax updates to the website. Ms. Donahue explained she's had quite a few tax bills returned by the post office. Residents are responsible for letting the borough tax collector and Allegheny County know of any address or mortgage changes; even if the wrong address is on file, it is the resident's responsibility to pay their taxes. Bills going to the wrong mortgage holders will result in a delinquent account. Ms. Donahue advised that if any resident doesn't receive their tax bill, to please call her. She has also reached out to some residents that she was able to find phone numbers for in the borough database. Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Donahue for her efforts to contact residents.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Carol Donahue, 110 Greenfield Ave. addressed Mr. Lilac and explained that there are several potholes on the track in the park near the basketball court. Mr. Lilac and Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Donahue and said they would address the issue. Ms. Donahue also noted that she saw a woman with her dog just outside of the gate to the park and when she informed the woman that dogs were not permitted in the park, the woman told her to call the police. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Lilac reiterated that dogs are not allowed in Chalfant Servicemen's Memorial Park and thanked Ms. Donahue for letting them know.

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OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Perry stated that the garbage is out too early at either 831 or 833 Greensburg Pike. This is an ongoing problem at the corner of Greensburg Pike and Chalfant St. Mayor Perry said that he hopes code enforcement is aware of the issue and will cite the property owner. Refuse collection in Chalfant is Friday morning and garbage should not be placed at the curb more than 24 hours before the scheduled collection. Ms. Fullwood asked if it is possible to obtain permission to put garbage out early? Mr. Hoover said residents could call Swissvale to request a special pick-up or hire their own haulers.

Code enforcement recognizes that occasionally situations arise where garbage needs to be placed at the curb ahead of collection; generally code enforcement will only issue notices of violation to repeat or habitual offenders.

Mayor Perry advised that he reached out to Chief Williams regarding the small motor repair shop at 200 West St. Council has received complaints about off road vehicles, such as dirtbikes, operating illegally on the streets in Chalfant. A discussion occurred between Mayor and Council regarding current code enforcement issues ensued with Council and the Mayor agreeing that addressing problems and following through is essential in keeping Chalfant a pleasant and safe community. Mayor Perry encouraged all residents to say something if they see something.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Lilac, to issue a RE tax refund per Tax Collector, Carol Donahue, to SJ Group, LLC, for 943 Greensburg Pike in the amount of \$391.62. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Baburich, seconded by Lilac, to appoint Mark C. Turnley, CPA, as Chalfant's Municipal Auditor and to accept his proposal for 2020 through 2022 at a cost of \$4,000 per year, totalling \$12,000 over the next three years. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Baburich, to temporarily suspend the issuance of solicitation permits and all related activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council believes a temporary suspension is in the interest of the general health, safety and welfare of all borough residents. Ms. Schwoegl did a roll call and the motion was unanimous.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Syska, seconded by Fullwood, to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

