

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

March 8, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:45 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

March 9, 2022

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

ABSENT: None.

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

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Royster, to modify the agenda for this evening's meeting; Council has the opportunity to purchase a used file cabinet for the borough office at a price that is significantly lower than purchasing a new cabinet. Council will now consider a motion to do so under New Business. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Hoover, seconded by Lilac, to appoint Brandon Sauter to Council. Motion was unanimous. Mayor Perry administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Sauter. Mr. Hoover congratulated Mr. Sauter and welcomed him to Chalfant Council.

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

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

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

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

MAYOR

Mayor Perry advised that there were 169 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 21 911 calls in February. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 5 - Ordinance violations
- 4 - Domestic
- 2 - Routine calls for information

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022
PAGE TWO

2 - Suspicious activities

SOLICITOR

No report.

Mr. Hoover noted that a resident has proposed a landlord-tenant ordinance from another municipality that addresses nuisance issues. Mr. Hoover explained that he would like to put the ordinance up for consideration and will send it to Sol. Evashavik for review. Sol. Evashavik explained that if it is similar to the three-strike ordinances enacted by other municipalities that have been previously discussed by Council, it has already been ruled unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court. Mr. Hoover advised that the ordinance uses different language from the three-strike ordinances and he'd like Sol. Evashavik and Council to please read and consider it.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood explained that she does not have a report this month, but that she does have two motions to make.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to pay the borough credit card invoice of \$93.76. Of this invoice, \$64.99 is for an external hard drive for the borough website and \$28.77 is for the purchase of Mr. Lilac's and Ms. Fennell's nameplates. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to transfer \$6,000 from the General Fund Money Market account to the General Fund Checking to cover the cost of the March invoices. The motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Lilac read a detailed list of the active code enforcement cases in Chalfant, including the open citations/private criminal complaints currently before the magistrate. Mr. Lilac noted that there have been 23 total citations filed with the magistrate; two have been adjudicated, one was withdrawn, four have been scheduled and 16 are awaiting a hearing date.

There were no questions from Council.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Hoover said that hopefully the salt season is almost over for the DPW and we won't have any more significant snowfalls; he noted that he is looking forward to spring. Mr. Hoover advised that Duquesne Light removed a tree that fell on Lynnwood Ave.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Royster advised that there were two incidents reported by the VFC in February. Mr. Royster read a detailed summary of the calls and provided the number of VFC members attending. Mr. Royster advised that there would be a Crime Watch meeting on March 15 at the Community Center and that the VFC would be hosting a stuffed cabbage dinner fundraiser on March 19 at the Community Center from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that the Port-a-John will be delivered to the park in April.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Fullwood, to sign the 2022 rental agreement with Mr. John for Chalfant Serviceman's Memorial Park. The first invoice is in the amount of \$183.00 and includes a \$40.00 charge for delivery and a \$15.00 charge for staking the unit down. The monthly invoice will be \$128.00.

Mr. Lilac explained that the Woodland Hills Athletic Association has requested the water be turned on at the park. Mr. Lilac advised that he will wait until April to turn the water on to mitigate the risk of pipes freezing. Mr. Lilac noted that the signs in right field broke so he zip-tied them. Mr. Lilac also said that it has come to his attention that people are using the ballfield as an off-leash dog park. Dogs are not permitted in the park and certainly are not allowed off-leash. Mr. Lilac encouraged residents to call the police if they observe dogs at the park.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022
PAGE FOUR

WHEMS

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

Mr. Royster advised that he attended the board meeting for WHEMS and they mentioned that they would like to use the garage at the PSB on a rotating basis. Mr. Royster noted that WHEMS has an upcoming meeting with Wilkins Township to propose an emergency services tax like the one that has been enacted in Chalfant. Mr. Royster also stated that WHEMS recently purchased a new vehicle. Mr. Hoover reiterated that Chalfant residents should not be billed by WHEMS for services; membership is included in the taxes and all Chalfant residents are members of WHEMS. Mr. Hoover explained that recently, the borough was made aware of an accidental billing and advised that if any resident receives an invoice from WHEMS, to please reach out to them or to the borough to have the charge reversed.

CRIME WATCH

Mr. Swinney stated that a Crime Watch meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, at 6:30 at the Community Center. Mr. Swinney asked if Council could post the event on the Facebook information page. Mr. Hoover agreed and asked if Mr. Swinney would like a Savvy Citizen notification sent as well? Mr. Swinney said yes and noted that he's hoping for a good turnout and that all residents are welcome.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue requested two posts regarding tax due dates for the borough and school district be approved for the Facebook information page. Ms. Donahue also requested a Savvy Citizen alert regarding the borough tax reminder. Council said they are happy to approve the notifications. Mr. Hoover also noted that Forest Hills has decided to eliminate the SwiftReach information system for crime alerts. Forest Hills recently joined Savvy Citizen and plans to use that platform to distribute crime alerts to residents.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., stated that she had several questions for the Mayor and Council. Ms. Bouvier addressed Mayor Perry and stated that she believes the borough is on the decline and cited the boarded window at a rental property at 312 Shadeland Ave. Ms. Bouvier said that she was taken aback by Sol. Evashavik's remarks at the previous month's meeting when he explained that the borough has limited control over landlords. Ms. Bouvier believes that it is only a matter of time before Chalfant turns into Turtle Creek or East Pittsburgh. Ms. Bouvier then directed her attention to Mr. Lilac and asked why the swings were not taken down at the park; she said that she specifically suggested months ago that they should be taken down. Mr. Lilac said the winter was overall mild and that he observed the park in use throughout the winter. He noted that the blue swings that are rusted are the old swings from before the park rehabilitation and will likely need to be replaced at some point anyway. Ms. Bouvier stated that maybe next year they will be removed for the winter. Ms. Bouvier asked if Council should change the current rules to allow dogs at the park, she doesn't believe the police should be bothered with such matters. Mr. Lilac said that they could maybe consider allowing them to be leashed on the track but that dogs should not be in the playground or ballfield and that he personally believes dogs should not be permitted in the park at all. Ms. Bouvier asked if there were liability issues with dogs at the park? Sol. Evashavik advised that because they are not permitted, there is not a liability issue with the borough. Ms. Bouvier then asked Ms. Fullwood what she meant when made a remark last month about the checking account being in the red in her first month as Treasurer. Ms. Fullwood clarified that she was just making a joke and that the checkbook wasn't actually overdrawn; when the bank balances are read during the meetings, the general fund checking balance includes the accounts payable for that month, meaning that the checks for the invoices have not been mailed out yet, but if they were to be mailed out without making a transfer to cover the costs, the account would be overdrawn. That is why any time a negative balance is read, a motion to transfer money from the General Fund Money Market account to the General Fund Checking account is made by Council. Ms. Bouvier explained that she picked up a bag of trash at the Parkway Steps and asked if there would be a Redd Up Day in the borough. Mr. Lilac said a borough clean-up day will be considered by Council. Ms. Bouvier asked about the Jubilee Tree at the park. Mr. Lilac explained that it is still in the process of being replaced; he cut the tree down but still needs to dig the stump out of the ground. Mayor Perry reiterated that if residents see something, to say something. If residents aren't comfortable calling the police, they can speak with him or Mr. Hoover and they will address the issue with Police Chief Williams.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022
PAGE SIX

Mike Donahue, 110 Greenfield Ave., asked Mayor Perry why the police weren't called when someone blocked the alley off of Chalfant St. with a box. Mr. Hoover stated that the police were called for that issue.

Mark Swinney, 127 West St., addressed Council concerning cars parked on the sidewalk on West St. He said that he believes the police should be more cognizant of the issue. Mr. Swinney also complained about garbage around the Parkway Steps area; he stated that there are beer cans littering the ground near the Connors memorial tree. Mr. Swinney believes the police should address the issue. Mr. Swinney also complained about the borough garbage collection; he stated that not all the garbage is being collected and that bags are strewn about and left in garbage cans.

Ms. Bouvier asked about the cameras at the park? Mr. Hoover advised that the park cameras are down; the technology has unfortunately become obsolete. The borough has obtained a few quotes for a new camera system but they are tens of thousands of dollars and there is not currently room for them in the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to advertise the results of the 2020 Municipal Audit and Financial Report, which was delayed last year when the former municipal auditor passed away. Motion was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Last month Council passed Resolution 567 requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the rehabilitation of the Chalfant Community Center. Per Municipal Engineer Robert Zischkau, the local share amount for the project needs to be ratified. Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to ratify the amount of the borough's share from \$25,000 to \$30,000 for the project. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Royster, to pay the PA State Association of Borough's invoice of \$50.00 for Ms. Fennell's attendance at the Ethics Act for Elected and Appointed Officials online course. The motion was unanimous.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022
PAGE SEVEN

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to purchase a used file cabinet for the borough office at a cost of \$250.00. The motion was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Sauter, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

