

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

May 9, 2023.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Perry.

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:34 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 2023

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

ABSENT: Mayor Perry, Mr. Sauter

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR

No report.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Evasvik advised that he is working on a draft agreement between Forest Hills and Chalfant for fire service.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood advised that she is currently working on the Newsletter for the second half of 2023 and is hoping to mail it out around the second week of June. If anyone has content to submit, please Ms. Fullwood said to please do so by the end of May.

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Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Hillen, to pay the borough's Citizen Bank credit card invoice in the amount of \$104.93 for the borough's 2023 Zoom Pro Membership renewal. Council previously approved this purchase at the March meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$70,000 from the GF MM Account to the GF Checking to cover the cost of the May invoices. The motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that no dumpster permits were issued in April. One building permit was issued. There were three Certificates of Occupancy issued in April.

Ms. Hillen read a detailed street-by-street list of active code enforcement cases, including the open citations/private criminal complaints before the magistrate. Ms. Hillen advised that six cases were closed in April.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

No report.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Royster, to pay the Urban Construction Services, LLC invoice in the amount of \$1,800 for the lamp hole replacement at 243 Lynnwood Avenue. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Hillen, to transfer \$1,800 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the lamp hole replacement expense. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Fullwood, to pass Resolution 571 authorizing the execution of the transfer agreement and related documents and instruments and the transfer to Alcosan of certain sewer system assets. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Lilac, to contribute \$1,000 from the borough's miscellaneous 'other services and charges' budget line to the 2023 Community Day Fund. To date, the Community Day Committee has received \$275 in donations for the 2023 Community Day, including a \$250 donation from Lisa Caulfield and a \$25 donation from Churchill Haus. With the addition of the borough's donation, the 2023 Community Day fund will contain \$1,275. The motion was unanimous.

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Ms. Fennell noted that more donations have been received since the April deposits and will be listed at the June meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

WHEMS

Mr. Royster advised there were seven calls to WHEMS in April. He read the date and outcome of each incident.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$6,651.80 from the General Fund MM Account to the WHEMS Account. This was the amount of WHEMS tax collected in April. The motion was unanimous.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac advised that the benches are back at the park from winter storage and that he's been working with the DPW to ready the park for summer. Mr. Lilac explained that the fence near the basketball court required an emergency repair.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Fennell, to pay Precision Fencing to make an emergency repair to the fence near the basketball court at Chalfant Servicemen's Memorial Park at a cost of \$650.

The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Lilac advised that Council member Diane Hillen paid the Classic Landscaping invoice for the removal of a dead pine tree at the Armed Services Memorial on North Ave. Council previously approved the tree's removal at the April meeting.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Royster, to ratify the cost of the tree's removal and reimburse Ms. Hillen in the amount of \$450. The motion was unanimous.

CRIME WATCH

Ms. Bouvier explained that the Crime Watch is reconsidering the Welcome Committee and is wondering if the Crime Watch could mail out welcome packets to new property owners instead of knocking on doors. Mr. Hoover said yes, the CW can mail welcome packets.

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Ms. Bouvier advised that an Allegheny County Sheriff will be attending the May 23rd CW meeting at the Chalfant Community Center at 7 p.m. Ms. Bouvier is asking residents and members of Council to please RSVP for the event because she is planning on serving refreshments. Ms. Bouvier has been calling CW members to remind them of the meeting to ensure a good turnout. Ms. Bouvier explained that she was disappointed with the attendance at the last CW meetings, especially since she has offered to drive residents to and from the meeting but no one called to request a ride. A discussion regarding membership and attendance ensued between Ms. Bouvier and Council; Ms. Bouvier said that she may transition the CW to a smaller network and communicate with members via email instead of posting information to social media. Ms. Bouvier thanked Ms. Hillen and Ms. Fennell for cleaning up and placing flowers at the Armed Services Memorial on North Avenue. Ms. Bouvier then said that CW and Council have decided not to reschedule Redd Up Day which was previously canceled due to inclement weather. Both Ms. Bouvier and Mr. Lilac agreed that the borough is in good shape and a borough-wide clean-up is not necessary at this time. Ms. Bouvier expressed concern that the street light at the Parkway Steps is still not functioning. Mr. Hoover explained that the light is on a climber pole and Council believes it is owned by the borough. The borough is still waiting to hear back from Duquesne Light about whether they will service the pole for a fee, or if there is an electrician or contractor they would recommend for the job. Ms. Bouvier explained that some residents have told her that they feel the park is not safe, kids from different areas get into arguments with each other, and there are still issues with people parking in the handicapped parking spots. Ms. Bouvier said that she feels the police should see issues and address them; that she shouldn't have to call the police for this sort of issue. Mr. Hoover said that if anyone notices that sort of behavior, to call the police. Mr. Hoover also noted that the police have been trying to practice community-oriented policing and have recently stopped to play basketball with kids at the park. They do not want to discourage park use but are trying to curb problematic behavior, including foul language.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue advised that the discount tax payment period went well and one habitually delinquent property was removed from the delinquency list. Ms. Donahue advised that the face value period will end on June 30th.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

A Chalfant resident, Justice Rose, addressed Council and requested that she be able to use the Community Center on a monthly basis free of charge for her local non-profit based around healing and connection. Ms. Rose explained that she lost her sister to gun violence and is the mother of five children; she thinks it is important to give kids something to do and somewhere to go. Mr. Hoover asked Ms. Rose to attend the next caucus meeting to present her ideas to Council.

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., said that the ladies did a tremendous job at the Armed Services Memorial and thanked Mr. Hoover for putting up the new flags. Ms. Libell said that she agreed that the CW Welcome Committee should mail welcome packets instead of knocking on residents' doors and she recounted a couple of instances where she tried to introduce herself to new neighbors and was not well received. Ms. Libell then said some of the apartments near her are listed for rent as Section 8 and she is wondering what that means exactly. Brooke Burchette Williams, a Democratic candidate for Allegheny County Magisterial District Judge, was in attendance and explained Section 8 housing to Ms. Libell. Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Williams for her thorough explanation.

Brooke Burchette Williams addressed Council and residents in attendance and advised that the Primary Election is next week on May 16th. She is running for district magistrate; she wants to help people in the community get support and provide a space for people to be heard. Ms. Burchette Williams explained that she is a wife, mother, and member of the Churchill Council. She is certified by the Supreme Court to be a magistrate.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hoover explained that Representative Abigail Salisbury is holding a town hall on May 18th regarding available grants and to gauge communities' needs. Mr. Hoover encouraged all members of Council to attend. Mr. Hoover noted that Chalfant was awarded an LSA grant in the amount of \$200,000 for renovations to the Community Center, including a new roof. Mr. Hoover advised that Borough Engineer, Robert Zischkau, would be starting work on that project soon and that it is possible that the borough will have to move a council meeting while the building is under construction.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Lilac, to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. The motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President