

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

**November 2, 2022**

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

ABSENT: Mr. Lilac.

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:15 pm.

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

**November 9, 2022**

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

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

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

## **MAYOR**

There were 178 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 30, 911 calls in October. The majority of the 911 calls were:

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- 3 - Animal complaints
- 2 - Alarm calls
- 2 - Domestic
- 2 - Welfare checks
- 2 - Neighbor disputes
- 2 - PFA's filed

There were no questions from Council.

### **SOLICITOR**

Sol. Evashavik advised that Act 74 went into effect in September which has amended the Pennsylvania Fireworks Law. The amended statute allows municipalities greater authority in regulating fireworks. Sol. Evashavik detailed the amendment which includes allowing municipalities to establish an application and permitting process. Dense municipalities, where local officials determine the use of consumer fireworks is prohibited by the 150-foot clearance from any buildings or vehicles rule, are now able to adopt an ordinance specifically prohibiting the use of consumer fireworks. Sol. Evashavik said to let him know if there were any questions regarding Act 74, or if Council would like to make changes to the ordinances currently in place. Mr. Hoover encouraged Council to talk to residents to gauge public opinion before making a decision to amend borough ordinances.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

No report.

### **PERMITS AND ORDINANCES**

Ms. Hillen advised that one building permit was issued in October. There was one Certificate of Occupancy issued in October.

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 four new cases were opened in October. Code Enforcement Officer, JD Lombardi was in attendance; he explained that his door is open to residents and he is looking forward to working with the community to resolve issues in the borough. Mr. Hoover thanked Mr. Lombardi and welcomed him.

### **ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Sauter advised that leaf collection will take place on November 21st with a rain date of November 22nd. Mr. Sauter asked residents to pile their leaves close to the street, not in the street, and to please not park on the street if possible during leaf collection. Ms. Hillen asked if there would be a second collection if necessary. Mr. Hoover advised yes, there will be a second collection if it is necessary and if weather permits. Ms. Fennell asked if there would be leaf

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collection in the alley behind Elizabeth Ave. Mr. Hoover explained that the DPW does not collect leaves in the alleys, the alleys are too narrow for the machine.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to pass Concurring Resolution 571, formally requesting CDBG funding in the amount of \$35,000 from Allegheny County Economic Development for the reconstruction of the 100 block of Fairview Avenue. The total project cost is estimated at \$38,000. The motion was unanimous,

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Royster, to approve the low bid from El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$73,498.75 for the CD 47 Reconstruction of the 200 and 300 blocks of Lynnwood Avenue. The total grant funding available is \$31,500; the local share of \$41,998.75 will be paid from the Liquid Fuel/Highway Aid account. The motion was unanimous.

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

No report but Ms. Fennell explained that she received complaints regarding refuse collection; several houses were missed on Lynnwood Ave. Mr. Hoover explained that Swissvale has been having employee issues. He advised residents to call them directly if their garbage is not collected and they will come back and collect it.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Royster advised that the Chalfant VFC will close in 2023. More details, including the date of closure, are not available at this time, but he will keep the public updated.

**PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Hillen, to pay Capricious, LLC's invoice for the remaining balance of \$894.00 for targeting goat grazing at the Parkway Steps. The motion was unanimous. Council discussed the targeted goat grazing, agreeing that the goats did a great job clearing the area. Council plans to reach out again next year for a quote for the other side of the Parkway Steps.

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Mr. Lilac advised that the borough is still waiting to hear back regarding a start date for the lighting upgrade project at the Public Safety Building and Community Center.

**WHEMS**

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

**CRIME WATCH**

Ms. Bouvier reported that over 30 residents attended the October Crime Watch meeting and she thanked Mayor Perry and members of Council for attending the meeting. The biggest concerns that residents brought before Crime Watch were speeding, failure to stop at stop signs, and dog-related issues. Ms. Bouvier said that Crime Watch is still in the process of establishing a Welcome Committee; she explained that members of the Welcome Committee, including herself, have been reaching out to new residents. Ms. Bouvier advised that when she stopped by 312 Shadeland Ave. to welcome the new residents, a dog was off-leash at the property and it startled her. Mr. Hoover advised that dog complaints are a police and animal control matter and to please report any issues to both agencies. Ms. Bouvier thanked Council for having the Crime Watch sign on West St. moved to a more visible location. There are two new signs that Ms. Bouvier is hoping the DPW will post; she gave them to Mr. Sauter. The next Crime Watch meeting is scheduled for December 13th. Officer Petri has been given a list of Crime Watch meeting dates and will do his best to attend.

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Ms. Donahue stated that she is happy to report that four properties were removed from the delinquent list. Penalty letters have been mailed; December 31st is the last day before delinquency.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., stated that Swissvale missed her garbage collection so she called them to let them know. They came back and collected all of her garbage. Ms. Libell added that they actually carried her garbage from her porch for her and apologized for the error. Ms. Libell said that residents just need to let them know if their trash was missed and have a little patience; Swissvale will send workers out to rectify the situation.

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Yassir McKee, 224 Highland Ave., thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. McKee explained that he wanted to discuss a comment that was made by another resident at the last meeting and in a phone call to the borough. Mr. McKee asked what happened between the phone call and the meeting. Mr. Hoover explained that a resident made offensive remarks about other residents. Mr. Hoover said the remarks were ignorant and that he does not blame Mr. McKee for being upset about the situation. Mr. McKee stated that he was hoping to hear a recording of the initial phone call that was referenced in the meeting minutes but was told by Borough Secretary, Stephanie Schwoegl, that phone calls are not recorded. Mr. Hoover said that that is correct, while the minutes are taken at the council meetings, the borough does not use recording devices for either phone calls or public meetings. Mr. McKee said that while he understands that he is responsible for code violations at his property, he felt threatened by the publishing of his address and the hateful comments that were made. Mr. McKee said that information could be used to harm him or his family and asked what could be done to prevent such hate. Mr. McKee advised that he already filed a police report. Mr. Hoover explained that Council has reevaluated the publishing of potentially harmful comments by residents in the meeting minutes and going forward, such comments will be redacted before they are published on the borough's webpage. Council agreed that they do not endorse or condone such comments as the one that was made at a council meeting and the borough does not discriminate against any residents. The comment that was included in the minutes has now been redacted in the publicly published version and no longer appears on the borough website. Mr. McKee thanked Council but explained that he wishes there had been a stronger response when the comment was initially made. Mr. McKee then asked Council if there are any restrictions on residents' ethnicity, religious affiliation, age, gender, etc. Mr. Hoover said that no there was not. Mr. McKee then asked if there was any restriction on a third-generation immigrant purchasing property in the borough. Mr. Hoover said no. Mr. McKee explained that he just wanted to be sure, he then made some suggestions to the borough, including establishing an online form to submit complaints and maintaining voice recordings of all phone calls. Mr. Hoover thanked Mr. McKee and advised that Council would take his suggestions under consideration.

Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., explained that she still plans to conduct a borough clean up but is waiting for the leaves to be collected so litter is more visible. She will let Mr. Sauter know when the clean up will occur so the DPW can collect the garbage after it has been bagged.

Lauren Sivak, 328 Elizabeth Ave., told Council that she needed to call the police seven times since Halloween for the same issue. A resident or has been parking his car on park property and sleeping there. Ms. Sivak says the man wakes her up nightly by yelling, swearing, slamming car doors and causing a disturbance. Ms. Sivak said that multiple officers have responded when she

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calls, but they just brush it off; she is getting frustrated and doesn't feel safe. Ms. Sivak said the police told her the man is receiving help and that it is a mental health matter. One officer asked her if she thinks she owns the park. Ms. Sivak asked why the man is allowed to sleep in his car on borough property and why no one is taking it seriously? Mr. Hoover advised that Council is taking the situation seriously and that the car should not be parked there from sunset to sunrise. Mr. Hoover explained that the police have discretion for all police matters but Council is keeping a close eye on the situation. A discussion ensued between Council and residents regarding the situation. Mr. Hoover reiterated that Council will be watching the situation closely. Mr. Hoover advised to keep calling 911 and reporting any issues as they occur.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to advertise Ordinance 440, the 2023 Budget and Tax Levy. The budget will be available for inspection at the borough office, there will not be a tax increase in 2023. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Hillen, seconded by Fennell to advertise the 2022 Council caucus meeting and regular meeting dates. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to make a \$100.00 contribution to the 2022 Allegheny County Boroughs Association's 2022 beneficiary, Presents from Police. Donations will be presented to Presents from Police at the ACBA General Membership Meeting on December 1, 2022. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Sauter, to issue a tax refund in the amount of \$184.68 to the Tri-COG Land Bank for 224 Highland Avenue per the agreement with the Tri-COG Land Bank. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Fennell, to accept the resignation of Eileen Wroblewski as Borough Crossing Guard and Rental Coordinator, effective at the end of December, 2022. The motion was unanimous.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fennell, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. The motion was unanimous

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

